

MEDIA RELEASE | 15 JULY 2026



The Ethics Centre brings Circle of Chairs to Orange, NSW

The Ethics Centre is bringing its acclaimed *Circle of Chairs* to Orange for the very first time, hosting the immersive philosophy activation at **Orange City Library** on **Thursday 30 July, 5.30pm–7pm**, as part of the library's *Open Doors, Open Books, Open Minds Open Day* program, supported by Joblink Plus.

Circle of Chairs invites members of the public to pull up a seat and take part in facilitated conversations about the ethical questions that shape everyday life – or simply watch as the discussion unfolds before them.

More than 30 years ago, philosopher and Executive Director of The Ethics Centre, Dr Simon Longstaff AO, placed ten chairs in a circle in Sydney's Martin Place, where anyone could stop and discuss ideas with a philosopher. What began as a curiosity soon became a magnet for passers-by hungry for a different kind of conversation – one where they could speak openly, have their ideas challenged without judgement, and explore a topic before making up their mind. Whether it was their most controversial opinions, or what they believed but were too afraid to say – that simple exercise helped to define the character of The Ethics Centre itself, which continues to create safe spaces for difficult and important conversations today.

Now, for the first time, that circle is coming to regional NSW.

Executive Director of The Ethics Centre, Dr Simon Longstaff AO says:

"*Circle of Chairs* demonstrates something easily forgotten: that people still want to reason together,

in good faith, about the things that matter most in their lives. The point is not to win an argument – but to test an idea, to really listen, and perhaps to change one's mind. The ability to do so is the foundation of a civil society, and it's one worth practising, wherever people are willing to do nothing more than take a seat."

Chief Executive officer of Joblink Plus, Emily Roy says:

"The Joblink Plus partnership with The Ethics Centre is grounded in our shared commitment to make ethics part of every day. We're thrilled to give regional communities an opportunity to participate in conversations often reserved for city-based gatherings or online spaces. Joblink Plus is proud to enable access to important discussions where you can really feel part of the conversation, regardless of your postcode."

Central West Libraries Manager, Roslyn Cousins says:

"We are thrilled to co-host this unique event, Circle of Chairs – a first for Orange. Often we look for life's biggest answers in books, but some of the best insights come from face-to-face conversation. No question is too big or too small. We are inviting our community to ask about everything from the ethics of our daily choices to the meaning of living a good life. Bring your questions – let's find the answers together."

Hosted by philosophers from The Ethics Centre, including Dr Simon Longstaff AO and Daniel Finlay, the session is free and open to everyone, no philosophical background required.

This presentation of Circle of Chairs is supported by Joblink Plus.

Event details

- **What:** *Circle of Chairs*, presented by The Ethics Centre
- **Where:** Orange City Library (part of Central West Libraries), Orange, NSW
- **When:** Thursday 30 July, 5.30pm–7pm
- **Cost:** Free, all welcome
- **Tickets:** [Eventbrite link](#)
- Part of Orange City Library's *Open Doors, Open Books, Open Minds Open Day*

The Ethics Centre is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works to bring ethics to the centre of daily life.

Joblink Plus is a for-purpose, community-based organisation connecting people to the dignity and fulfilment made possible through education and meaningful work.

Media contact

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