

Phil McAuliffe

Founder **HUMANS:CONNECTING**



Translating what we're learning about human connection into practical understanding.

Speaker on human connection, loneliness and relational infrastructure.

www.humansconnecting.org



HUMANS:CONNECTING

about Phil

Phil McAuliffe is the founder of **HUMANS:CONNECTING** and a speaker and author exploring the role of human connection and relational infrastructure in modern life.

His work examines how environments shape interactions - in workplaces, institutions and communities - and how these interactions influence trust, belonging, leadership and social cohesion.

Phil spent 23 years in the Australian Public Service working across social, economic and security policy, as well as international engagement and diplomacy, including diplomatic postings abroad.

After experiencing loneliness in midlife despite a successful career and family life, he shifted his work to understanding the environments that shape human connection.

He contributes to international conversations on loneliness and connection through speaking, writing and policy collaboration.

Event organisers and podcast hosts are welcome to use the biography and images in this document when introducing Phil.



speaking topics

The following topics offer a starting point. Phil regularly shapes talks around the context and questions facing a particular audience.

Human connection and relational infrastructure

How the environments surrounding people shape trust, belonging and cooperation.

Why strategy fails when relational infrastructure fractures

Understanding the unseen relational dynamics that undermine organisational execution.

Leadership in relationally complex systems

Why leadership increasingly requires understanding human connection.

The loneliness of leadership

Exploring the hidden relational pressures leaders experience in modern institutions.

Humanity in the age of Artificial Intelligence

Why strengthening human connection matters more, not less, in an AI-enabled world.

[ALL SPEAKING TOPICS](#)



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what audiences gain

What audiences gain from conversations with Phil

Phil brings a rare combination of lived experience, public policy insight and more than a decade of focused work exploring human connection.

Drawing on a 23-year career in the Australian Public Service across social, economic and security policy, as well as international engagement and diplomacy, Phil approaches human connection as both a deeply human and a systemic issue.

His work integrates emerging research, lived experience and institutional understanding to illuminate the relational dynamics shaping modern life.

Audiences gain a deeper understanding of:

- how environments shape human connection, belonging and trust
- the concept of **relational infrastructure** and why it matters for organisations and institutions
- why loneliness can emerge even in successful lives and high-performing systems
- how leadership, culture and institutional design influence the way people relate to one another
- what strengthening human connection might look like in practice

Phil has a rare ability to translate complex ideas about social connection into language and stories people immediately recognise in their own lives, their workplaces and communities. Audiences leave with both practical insight and renewed confidence that strengthening social connection is possible in the environments they inhabit.

suggested questions

Podcast hosts and moderators are welcome to use the questions below when preparing interviews or conversations with Phil.

- Why are we talking about loneliness so much right now?
- What is relational infrastructure?
- Why do successful people still experience loneliness?
- How do workplaces shape belonging and connection?

contact



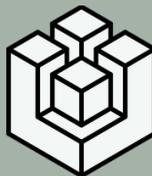
www.linkedin.com/in/phil-mcauliffe



hello@humansconnecting.org



www.humansconnecting.org



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