



# 2025 GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

The Playford Hotel, Adelaide | Friday 20 June 2025

## Tackling the Leadership Crisis

The 2025 AISSA Governance Conference will dive deeper into why fewer educators aspire to leadership and explore strategies to reverse this trend.

Board members will gain practical insights into selecting and nurturing exceptional principals through contemporary appointment processes, strong induction programs, and ongoing mentoring. As the principal's role grows more complex and demanding, the conference will draw on experts from the sector and beyond to showcase innovative approaches that prepare and fully support leaders throughout their careers.

### PROGRAM

8:00am	<b>Registration Opens - Tea and coffee on arrival</b>
8:45am	<b>Welcome to Country</b>
9:00am	<b>Conference Welcome</b> Anne Dunstan, Chief Executive, Association of Independent Schools of South Australia
9:15am	<b>The Principal Shortage: Examining the Research, Understanding the Crisis</b> <i>The shortage of school principals has reached a critical level, with far-reaching implications for education.</i> <i>Delve into key research findings to uncover the root causes of the crisis, including increasing job complexity, rising stress and burnout, governance challenges, and shifting expectations of school leadership.</i> <i>Gain a deeper understanding of the factors driving the leadership shortage and begin to identify ways in which boards can address this issue.</i> <b>Anne Dunstan</b> , Chief Executive, Association of Independent Schools of South Australia <b>Mary Hudson</b> , Senior Educational Consultant, Director Leadership Institute and Centre for Innovation, Association of Independent Schools of South Australia
9:35am	<b>Table discussion and reflection</b>
9:45am	<b>Selecting and nurturing exceptional principals in a decade of disorientation</b> <i>Leading in disorienting times requires critical thinking, creativity, problem solving and the ability to communicate effectively. However, new skills are required to navigate the future.</i> <i>Explore the <u>2025 Skills Horizon</u>, to be prepared for what is ahead and consider the leadership capabilities required for now and in the future.</i> <b>Professor Kai Reimer</b> , Sydney Executive Plus, University of Sydney Business School
10:30am	<b>Morning Tea - Sponsored by Metro Canteens</b>






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<p>11:00am</p>	<p><b>Tippling Point Moments in Board &amp; Principal Dynamics - From Cruise to Crisis</b></p> <p><i>Explore the growing leadership crisis in schools and examine key factors that shape governance dynamics including the tension and opportunities within board-leadership relationships, the power of perspective—how worldview and background influence decision-making—and the impact of stress and conflict on leadership effectiveness will be explored.</i></p> <p><i>Gain insights into fostering productive governance relationships that support strong, sustainable school leadership.</i></p> <p><b>Christina Franklin</b>, Principal Consultant, Advalore Partners</p>
<p>12:30pm</p>	<p><b>Networking Lunch - Sponsored by Metro Canteens</b></p> 
<p>1:15pm</p>	<p><b>Appointment, Retention and Development Strategies for the Principal</b></p> <p><i>Obtain insights into contemporary principal appointment processes, effective induction and mentoring strategies, and approaches to supporting principal wellbeing.</i></p> <p><b>David Wilksch</b>, Principal Growth Director, Lutheran Education SA, NT &amp; WA</p> <p>Panel of school leaders and governors, chaired by <b>Christina Franklin</b></p>
<p>2:15pm</p>	<p><b>Retention and Development Strategies for the Board</b></p> <p><i>Explore effective strategies for retaining and developing leadership talent, including how to assess governance alignment through self-review, and implement tools that foster continuous learning and engagement for long-term success.</i></p> <p>Panel chaired by <b>Christina Franklin</b></p>
<p>3:15pm</p>	<p><b>Vote of Thanks - Anne Dunstan</b></p>
<p>3:30pm</p>	<p><b>Networking Drinks</b></p>
<p>5:00pm</p>	<p><b>Close</b></p>

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