

Great Expectations



2025 AASE National Conference

27-29 August 2025 | Rydges Melbourne, Victoria

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

#aase2025

PRE-CONFERENCE SCHOOL VISITS: WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2025

School Visit – Tour Groups	
	<p>The tour buses will depart from the conference venue, Rydges Melbourne, at 9.00 am, and return by approximately 4.00 pm. Each tour will include visits to approximately 3 schools, grouped geographically to allow for a rich and varied experience.</p> <p>Confirmed participating schools currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashwood School • Emerson School • Furlong School for Deaf Children • Glenallen School • Greythorn Primary School • Jacana Autism School • Monash Special Developmental School • Southern Autistic School • Stella Maris Public School • Sunbury And Macedon Ranges Specialist School • Victorian College for the Deaf • Warringa Park School • Yarrabah School <p>Delegates will not be able to choose the tour they attend, as all tours will offer a similar experience. On the morning of the tours, delegates will simply be placed on buses to meet tour capacity limits. Confirmed attendees will receive individual tour confirmation.</p>

CONFERENCE WELCOME RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION

5.00 pm	Conference Registration Open <i>Location: Rooftop Terrace, Rydges Melbourne</i>
5.30 pm – 7.30 pm	2025 Welcome Reception <i>Location: Rooftop Terrace, Rydges Melbourne</i>



CONFERENCE PROGRAM: THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2025

8.00 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
Location	Centre Stage			
Emcee	Chris Varney - <i>Founder and Chief Enabler, I CAN Network and AASE Patron</i>			
9.00 am	Welcome to Delegates and Housekeeping Helen Hatherly - <i>VIC President, AASE</i> Chris Varney - <i>Founder and Chief Enabler, I CAN Network and AASE Patron</i>			
9.10 am	Welcome to Country Wurundjeri Man Colin Hunter Jnr Jnr			
9.20 am	Official Conference Opening Tony Bates, Acting Secretary, Department of Education Victoria			
9.30 am	AASE National President's Address Tracey Chamlin - <i>National President, AASE</i>			
9.40 am	Keynote Presentation - Leading Aboriginal Education with Passion and Purpose Kylie Captain - <i>Founding Director, Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting</i>			
10.30 am	School Performance Concord School – Bundoora, Victoria			
10.35 am	Platinum Sponsor Address - The University of Melbourne Associate Professor Lisa McKay-Brown - <i>Associate Dean, Diversity and Inclusion, Faculty of Education</i>			
10.40 am	Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location	Centre Stage 1	Centre Stage 2	Meeting Place 1	Meeting Place 2
Chair	<i>Michelle Harwood</i>	<i>Dr. Tracey Chamlin</i>	<i>Penny Round</i>	<i>Karen Overall</i>
Stream	Leadership in Education	Curriculum Design and Delivery	Engagement and Wellbeing	Working in Partnerships
11.10 am – 11.45 am	VERIFY: Enhancing School Leaders' Feedback to Improve Teaching Practices for Students with Disabilities Dr. Susan Main <i>Edith Cowan University Lie</i>	Charting Unique Literacy Journeys in a SSP: Guiding Every Learner to Success Cate Chapman <i>St Dominic's Catholic College, NSW</i>	Supporting comprehensive social emotional learning for students with intellectual disabilities Gillian Andrikos <i>Curtin University, WA</i>	Shifting the gaze to interagency collaboration: Enhancing employment outcomes for students with disabilities A/Prof. Loretta Sheppard <i>Australian Catholic University, VIC</i> Brooke Andrews <i>Onemda Research and Innovation Centre, VIC</i>
5-minute room change				



11.50 am – 12.25 pm	Leadership in Education: A Focus on Disability and Inclusion at Atwell College Brent Passchier and Denelle Kennedy <i>Atwell College, WA</i>	Bridging the gap: Collaborative care for neurodivergent young people and their families Dr. Siobhan Lamb <i>Developmental Paediatrics, NSW</i>	A Maze of Confusing Letters: PECS, SDG, LMNOP...Making sense of AAC Sophie Kerr <i>Pyramid Educational Consultants of Australia, VIC</i>	NDIS-funded PBS plans for students – how can I make them work for my site? Kymberly Louise <i>Kymberly Louise Behaviour Detective and Flinders University, SA</i>
12.25 pm	Lunch & Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location	Centre Stage 1	Centre Stage 2	Meeting Place 1	Meeting Place 2
Chair	<i>Neeti Puri</i>	<i>Clark Burt</i>	<i>Kimberly Louise</i>	<i>Alana Williams</i>
Stream	Leadership in Education	Curriculum Design and Delivery	Engagement and Wellbeing	Working in Partnerships
1.25 pm – 2.00 pm	Empowering Schools for Equity and Inclusion through Innovative Leadership Practices Maureen Allan, Liz McNaughton and Sara Moppett <i>Waitaha School, NZ</i>	Transforming Literacy Outcomes for Students with Complex Needs: A Diagnostic Approach Gina Hill and Tina Thompson <i>Newcastle Junior School, NSW</i>	Press B to Belong: Using collaborative gaming as a space for neurodiversity-affirming social inclusion A/Prof. Matthew Harrison and Jess Rowlings <i>The University of Melbourne, VIC</i>	Centennial Park School: Pathways Program and Specialised Supports Prof. Therese M Cumming <i>UNSW Sydney and Centennial Park School, NSW</i>
5-minute room change				
2.05 pm – 2.40 pm	Utilising the Science of Learning principles to create whole-school conditions for outstanding results Charlotte Peverett <i>Lake Colac School, VIC</i>	Learning trajectories of early number sense: A step forward for inclusive math classrooms Vanessa Kukiella and Gillianlie Parry <i>The University Of Melbourne, VIC</i>	Understanding the Relationship Between Emotions and Behaviour to Co-design in the Classroom: A Case Study Francisco de Paula <i>The Calmer Approach, NSW</i>	Building Inclusive Pathways: Strengthening Partnerships for Student Success Virginia Sugars, Zoe Mazoletti and Chantelle Cella <i>Cornish College, VIC</i>
2.40 pm	Afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location	Centre Stage			
Emcee	Chris Varney - <i>Founder and Chief Enabler, I CAN Network and AASE Patron</i>			
3.10 pm – 3.50 pm	Keynote Presentation - AI with Heart: Co-Designing Inclusive Intelligence for Every Learner Lee Barrett - <i>Prompt Engineer and AI Advocacy Project Officer, CENet</i>			

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3.50 pm 4.40 pm	Keynote Presentation - Balancing the Shifts -The Acrobatics of Being Change-Ready Dan Aubin - <i>Director, Daring Humans</i>
4.40 pm	Day 1 Close

2025 AASE NATIONAL CONFERENCE DINNER

6.30 pm – 10.30 pm	2025 Conference Dinner <i>Location: Centre Stage Room, Rydges Melbourne</i> 6.30 pm – <i>Pre-dinner drinks</i> 7.00 pm – <i>Guests seated in Ballroom</i>
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CONFERENCE PROGRAM: FRIDAY, 29 AUGUST 2025

8.15 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
Location	Centre Stage			
Emcee	Chris Varney - <i>Founder and Chief Enabler, I CAN Network and AASE Patron</i>			
8.45 am	Welcome to Day 2 and Acknowledgement of Country <i>Chris Varney – AASE Patron & Emcee</i>			
8.55 am	2025 AASE Des English Memorial Lecture Great Expectations – A firm Belief in What's Possible <i>Colin Dobson PSM – Principal, Monash Children's Hospital School</i>			
9.25 am	Keynote Presentation - How the Brain Responds to Stress - Explosive Behaviour and De-escalation <i>Bryan Jeffrey - Director, MOAT Mental Health Services</i>			
10.15 am	School Performance <i>Victorian College for the Deaf – Melbourne, Victoria</i>			
10.20 am	Major Sponsor Address - Department of Education Victoria <i>Deborah Parker - Director, Policy and Programs Branch</i>			
10.25 am	Morning Tea & Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location	Centre Stage 1	Centre Stage 2	Meeting Place 1	Meeting Place 2
Chair	<i>Katherine Lingard-Smith</i>	<i>Clark Burt</i>	<i>Alana Williams</i>	<i>Dr. Tracey Chamlin</i>
Stream	Leadership in Education	Curriculum Design and Delivery	Engagement and Wellbeing	Working in Partnerships
10.55 am – 11.30 am	Developing a Mentally Fit Workforce Kari Sutton <i>Metropolitan North Region Education Qld</i>	TBA	Home-based positive behaviour support- Building parent capacity through Video Self Modelling Anthea Naylor <i>University of Melbourne, VIC</i>	Creating inclusive schools where all students thrive Grant McKell and Sibylle Kaczorek <i>Department Of Education, VIC</i>
5-minute room change				
11.35 am – 12.10 pm	How to Build School Structures, Routines and Supports to Optimise Learning for ALL Students Cameron Peverett <i>President - Principals' Association of Special Schools Victoria</i>	Smart support: Using Generative AI practically to enhance inclusive classrooms Rachael Patrick <i>Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, VIC</i>	"The Road to Gold" Lindy Abernethy and Elizabeth Mason <i>Monash Special Developmental School, VIC</i>	Supporting neurodivergent young people in the classroom Dr. Siobhan Lamb <i>Developmental Paediatrics, NSW</i>

5-minute room change				
12.15 pm – 12.50 pm	Concurrent Session with Invited Speaker Leading Daring Conversations Dan Aubin <i>Daring Humans, SA</i>	Utilising XR to Improve Functional Skills among Students on the Autism Spectrum: A Systematic Review Jing Luo <i>Flinders University, SA</i>	Enhancing Early Childhood Inclusion: MTSS Model at North Ryde Community Preschool Jill Hellemans and Analise Vella <i>Learn My Way & North Ryde Community Preschool, NSW</i>	Great expectations: Collaborating to develop an inclusive national assessment and teaching tool for ALL young children Dr. Julie McMillan and A/Prof. Jane Jarvis <i>Australian Council For Educational Research, SA</i>
12.50 pm	Lunch & Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location	Centre Stage 1	Centre Stage 2	Meeting Place 1	
Chair	Michelle Harwood	Kimberly Louise	Penny Round	
Stream	Leadership in Education	Curriculum Design and Delivery	Curriculum Design and Delivery	
1.50 pm – 2.25 pm	Concurrent Session with Invited Speaker AI for All: Practical, Inclusive Use Cases Lee Barrett <i>Cenet, NSW</i>	TapeBlocks: Inclusive and Creative circuit making for students with disabilities A/Prof. Kirsten Ellis <i>Monash University, VIC</i>	Phonemes to Flies Kaitlyn Hawking and Jaye Hines <i>Craigmore High School, SA</i>	
5-minute room change				
Location	Centre Stage 1	Centre Stage 2	Meeting Place 1	
Stream	Engagement and Wellbeing	Curriculum Design and Delivery	Working in Partnerships	
2.30 pm – 3.05 pm	Concurrent Session with Invited Speaker Understanding Mental Illness – for our students, our staff and our loved ones Bryan Jeffrey <i>MOAT Mental Health Services, VIC</i>	Raising the Bar: Redesigning AAC to Improve Access to Reading Instruction Dr. Katherine Proudfoot <i>Aacapella, NSW</i>	Empowering Students Through Vocational Education and Training: Innisfail State College’s Pathway to Success Tanya Martin and Connie Medley <i>Innisfail State College, QLD</i>	
3.05 pm	Afternoon Tea & Trade Exhibition Visit			

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Location	Centre Stage 1	Centre Stage 2	Meeting Place 1
	<i>Karen Overall</i>	<i>Clark Burt</i>	<i>Neeti Puri</i>
Stream	Working in Partnerships	Curriculum Design and Delivery	Engagement and Wellbeing
3.35 pm - 4.10 pm	Collaborative Goal Setting for Disabled Children Leanne Robinson <i>Patricia Avenue School, NZ</i>	Facilitating the development of every student's fullest potential through access to age-equivalent curriculum Emma Trevor <i>Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, QLD</i>	Personalised Learning with IXL – Supporting Diverse Student Needs in a Secondary School Setting Tanya Alderton <i>Mullauna Secondary College, VIC</i>
Reconvene in Centre Stage 1			
4.10 pm – 4.15 pm	2026 AASE Conference Announcement		
4.15 pm	Conference 'wrap up' and Prize Draw		
4.25 pm	Conference Close		

*PROGRAM MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE