

2026 AASE National Conference

2 - 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL ESPLANADE DARWIN, NT

((Beyond Boundaries))



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Important Dates and Deadlines

Call for Abstract Closing on:
Thursday, 19 February 2026

Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by:
Thursday, 26 March 2026

Final Conference Program to be released by:
Thursday, 30 April 2026

Final PowerPoints are due by:
Thursday, 27 August 2026



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Invitation to Participate

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, comprising members of the Australian Association of Special Education, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the **2026 AASE National Conference** to be held at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Esplanade Darwin, NT.

It is proposed that the Conference will open with optional school visits during the day and an evening Welcome Reception on Wednesday, 2 September 2026. The two-day Conference will be held on Thursday, 3 and Friday, 4 September 2026. A social function will be held on the evening of Thursday, 3 September 2026. The conference will also include an industry exhibition, which will be open across the two conference days.

The theme for the 2026 Conference is: '*Beyond Boundaries*'

Beyond Boundaries, our 2026 conference theme, invites educators to explore how they are tackling the unique challenges and opportunities to innovate and support students with additional learning needs. The conference will recognise all aspects of schooling including regional, rural, and remote education. We warmly welcome abstract submissions sharing the breaking down of barriers and moving beyond boundaries—geographical, cultural, educational, or systemic—to innovate and support teaching and learning. Join colleagues from across Australia and beyond to share evidence-informed approaches that are making a difference in diverse educational settings.

The theme of the conference will be represented within the program and presenters should endeavour to address the theme.

The Conference will provide opportunities for educators, academics, community members and key stakeholders to come together to collaborate, share knowledge and learn together.

Abstracts are sought for:

- Practitioner Presentations
- Research on Practice Presentations

Conference Streams

The Conference Organising Committee is seeking submissions related to four key conference streams:

Innovation in Education

- Artificial Intelligence
- Online and blended learning
- Flexible learning
- Use of technologies

Reimagining Pedagogical Practice

- Learning difficulties & Disability specific
- Supporting students with disability in mainstream settings
- From Policy to Practice
- Regional, rural, and remote education

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Resilience and Engagement

- Trauma Responsive Schools
- Student voice
- School/Post-school transition phases
- School refusal/School can't

Diverse Perspectives

- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Paraprofessional partnerships
- Working with families
- Allied Health and Inter-Agency Collaboration

Presentation Types

The Conference Organising Committee aims to create a Conference program with a mix of the following presentation types:

- Practitioner Presentation (strictly 40 minutes + 5 minutes allocated to Q&A)
- Research on Practice Presentation (strictly 40 minutes + 5 minutes allocated to Q&A)

Program Format

The Conference Organising Committee aims to create a Conference program with a mix of the following presentation types:

- Keynote Presentations
- Invited Speaker Workshops
- Practitioner Presentations (concurrent sessions)
- Research on Practice Presentations (concurrent sessions)

Please note: Keynote and Invited Speaker Workshops will not be sought through the Call for Abstracts process. Rather, these sessions will be curated by the Committee.

Abstract Submissions for Concurrent Presentations

The programs and practices described in presentations must be evidence informed and/or research based. Presenters will be allocated a 40 minute session, with an additional 5 minutes for questions and discussion. With your permission, the PowerPoint from these presentations will be made available on the Association website following the Conference.

Research on Practice Presentations

These presentations may report on research projects or research-to-practice reports. Aligned with at least one of the conference streams, the sessions may include description of:

- research examining innovative practices.
- collaborative research partnerships (e.g., schools, early childhood settings, post-school providers, tertiary).

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- impact on student outcomes of a program or practice implemented in a school or other setting.
- action research or practitioner inquiry projects.

Practitioner Presentations

These presentations will provide schools or other groups with the opportunity to illustrate the evidence obtained from the implementation of effective practice or research-informed practices.

Aligned with at least one of the conference streams, the session may include description of:

- evidence informed or innovative practices implemented in schools or other educational settings.
- collaborative partnerships between schools and external organisations (e.g., university, allied health services, community organisations, families).
- impact on student outcomes of a program or practice implemented in a school or other setting.

Abstract Submission Portal

All abstracts are to be submitted online via the Abstract Submission Portal.

Link: <https://gems.eventsair.com/2026-aase-national-conference/2026cfportal>

Essential Details

The following guidelines apply for the submission of abstracts:

- All abstracts must be submitted online via the Abstract Submission Portal.
- Submissions on any topic related to the streams of the Conference will be considered.
- Abstracts should be a maximum of 450 words.
- Submissions must include a biography of the presenter/s of up to 200 words each. Submissions without a presenter biography will not be considered. If there is more than one presenter, please include all presenter biographies in the field provided.
- Abstracts must be submitted by midnight (AEDT) on **Thursday, 19 February 2026**.
- Contributors will be provided with advice of acceptance or rejection of their submission. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions and extend or shorten presentation duration. The timelines for this advice are included on page 1 of this document.
- Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by close of business on **Thursday, 26 March 2026**.

In addition, all abstracts must be accompanied by two learning objectives; these are additional to the 450-word abstract:

Learning Objective 1 should answer the question: What will the audience gain or learn from attending this

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presentation? The focus of your response should be on what the delegates will take away from the session, not what you are presenting. *Please provide at least 1 paragraph.*

Learning Objective 2 should answer the question: How is your presentation relevant to implementation and the theme of 'beyond boundaries', and in what setting? *Please provide at least 1 paragraph.*

Important Information for Presenters

Please note: The presenter/s must register to attend the Conference in-person for at least the day on which they are scheduled to present. If there are other presenters who are attending the Conference to present, they must also register to attend the Conference.

Further Information

For further information regarding **abstracts submission criteria**, please contact:

Neeti Puri

2026 AASE National Conference Co-Chair
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For further information regarding the 2026 AASE National Conference, please contact:

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