

SEPLA • CON 2025

Co-hosted with the
2025 ASEPA National Conference
ICC Sydney 21 + 22 July 2025



Call for Conference Abstracts

Abstract Submissions are due by
Monday 31 March 2025

Authors will be advised of the outcome of their submission by
Wednesday, 30 April 2025

Final PowerPoints are due by
Friday, 11 July 2025

Conference Dates
Monday, 21 July and Tuesday 22 July 2025

Convened by:



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SEPLA-CON 2025 and ASEPA National Conference - Call for Conference Abstracts

Invitation to Participate

The **NSW Special Education Principals' and Leaders' Association (SEPLA)** in conjunction with the **Australian Special Education Principals Association (ASEPA)** is excited to invite you to attend **SEPLA-CON 2025** and the **ASEPA National Conference** to be held at the ICC Sydney on Monday, 21 and Tuesday, 22 July 2025.

Our theme for Conference is: **'Innovate. Connect. Inspire.'**

SEPLA-CON 2025 & ASEPA National Conference
Theme: Innovate. Connect. Inspire.
Monday, 21 – Tuesday, 22 July 2025 | ICC Sydney

As we look ahead to SEPLA-CON 2025 and the ASEPA National Conference, we recognise that special education in New South Wales and across Australia continues to evolve in response to a rapidly changing educational landscape. Schools are navigating new policies, pedagogical advancements, and community expectations while remaining focused on the core mission: ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive.

This year's theme – **Innovate. Connect. Inspire.** – reflects our collective commitment to reimagining education, fostering collaboration, and leading with purpose. It is a call to action to embrace change, strengthen relationships, and uplift students and educators alike through innovative practice, meaningful connections, and inspiring leadership.

Innovate

Innovation in special education is not just about new technologies or strategies—it is about rethinking how we create engaging, inclusive learning environments. Schools across NSW are pioneering adaptive teaching methods, personalised learning approaches, and interdisciplinary collaborations that challenge traditional models and enhance student outcomes. Whether through the creative use of digital tools, evidence-based interventions, or reimagined classroom structures, innovation is shaping the future of education. This theme will explore how special educators, leaders, and communities can drive transformative change while maintaining a strong foundation in equity and excellence.

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Connect

Meaningful connections are at the heart of successful special education. The partnerships between students, families, educators, and the wider community are essential in creating environments where all learners feel valued and supported. Schools thrive when collaboration is intentional—whether through stronger professional networks, inclusive school cultures, or joint initiatives that engage external organisations and industry. In 2025, we will focus on how schools can build and sustain these relationships, fostering a sense of belonging and trust that extends beyond the classroom.

Inspire

The work of special educators is deeply inspiring, but sustaining motivation and morale in a complex educational landscape requires ongoing support, leadership, and reflection. This theme celebrates the resilience and dedication of those who champion the needs of students with diverse abilities. By sharing success stories, amplifying student voices, and highlighting the impact of innovative practices, we aim to reaffirm the purpose that drives us all. Through keynotes and workshops, we will explore ways to inspire not only our students but also our colleagues and communities, ensuring that passion for special education remains strong. SEPLA-CON 2025 and the ASEPA National Conference is an opportunity to **innovate boldly, connect deeply, and inspire widely**. We look forward to coming together to shape the future of special education in NSW and beyond.

The Program Committee is also calling for additional abstracts to develop a concurrent stream of workshops or oral presentations designed for schools working specifically with students with behavioural and emotional difficulties and trauma-informed practice.

Presentation Types

The SEPLA-CON 2025 and ASEPA National Conference Organising Committee aims to create a conference program with a mix of the following presentation types:

- Workshops (60 minutes) with interactive component which must be outlined in the abstract submission

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- Oral Presentations (40 minutes)
- Posters (on display over the 2 Conference days)

Workshops

Workshop sessions will be 60 minutes in length. Presenters should aim to make their workshop as interactive and engaging as possible, and details of interactive activities must be outlined in the submission. Please allow time for questions, comments and discussion. Workshop presenters are required to provide a copy of their PowerPoint presentation to the Committee prior to the Conference. Please indicate in your submission if there is a maximum number of delegates who can attend your workshop.

Oral Presentations

Presenters not wishing to include an interactive component to their session can submit an abstract for an oral presentation. Oral presentations will be 40 minutes in length. Oral presenters are required to provide a copy of their PowerPoint presentation to the Committee prior to the Conference.

Posters

Presenters wishing to submit a poster presentation must submit an abstract of up to 400 words. If accepted, the poster must not exceed the size of A0 (1189-841mm) and be brought along to the Conference for display. All accepted posters will be displayed for the duration of the Conference.

Essential Details

The following guidelines apply for the submission of all abstracts:

- All abstracts must be submitted via the online Presentation Portal available from the Conference website
- Abstracts should be no more than **400 words in length**.
- Submissions must include a biography of the presenter of up to 200 words. Submissions not including a biography of the presenter **will not be considered**.
- Abstracts must include the following information:

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- Author(s):** Preferred given name and surname of all authors
- Presenter:** Name of person/s who will present the presentation at the Conference
- Title:** e.g. Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, Prof for all persons listed above
- Position:** Official job title of all presenter/s e.g. **AP Support, Deputy Principal etc**
- Organisation:** The organisation/institution with which the presenter/s are affiliated
- Contact Details:** Phone and email details must be provided for the presenter/s
- Session Title:** This is the title that will be included on the Conference app, Conference website and promotional material for the Conference.
- Stream:** Please indicate the most appropriate strand for your presentation as outlined in the dot points in this document.

- **Abstracts for concurrent presentations** should be submitted by no later than **Monday, 31 March 2025**. Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by no later than **Wednesday, 30 April 2025**. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions.
- The Conference Organisers and/or Committee will communicate only with the 'first author' of a presentation. In the case of co-authored presentations, it will be the responsibility of the 'first author' to pass on to the co-author(s), communications from the editors.
- The Conference Committee reserves the right to conduct a second Call for Abstracts in 2025 if additional abstracts are required.
- If accepted, the primary presenter of the abstract will receive complimentary registration for the day of the presentation.

Please note: All additional presenters of successful abstracts must register to attend the conference for at least the day in which they are scheduled to present. Only the primary author will be offered complimentary registration for the presentation day. Please visit the Conference website for all registration details.

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Further Information

For further information regarding the Conference, please contact:

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For further information regarding the content of the Conference, please contact:

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