

2026 AASE National Conference

2 - 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL ESPLANADE DARWIN, NT

((Beyond Boundaries))



2026 Conference
Program

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PRE-CONFERENCE SCHOOL VISITS: WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

	School Visit – Tour Groups
Departing 8.30 am	School tours will be conducted on Wednesday, 2 September and will include visits to a range of schools including specialist schools for students with intellectual disabilities, inclusive schools and mainstream schools with inclusive programs. Tour 1 – Henbury School and Holy Family Catholic Primary School Tour 2 – SEDA and Namarluk School Tour 3 – Mother Theresa Catholic Primary School, Rosebery Primary School and Forrest Parade School Tour 4 – Namarluk School and Henbury School All Tour <u>must be pre-booked</u> via the registration form. Limited seats available on each tour.
Returning 12.30 pm - 1.00 pm	

CONFERENCE WELCOME RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION

5.00 pm	Conference Registration Open
5.30 pm – 7.30 pm	2026 Welcome Reception Location: Level 1 – Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Esplanade Darwin

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM: THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

7.30 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
Location:	Ballroom			
Emcee:	Neeti Puri			
8.30 am	Welcome to Delegates and Housekeeping Neeti Puri – <i>National Treasurer, AASE</i>			
8.40 am	Acknowledgement of Country <i>Henbury School</i>			
8.50 am	Official Conference Opening The Hon. Jinson Anto Charls MLA - <i>Minister for Disability</i> <i>Delivering remarks on behalf of the Hon. Jo Hersey MLA, Minister for Education & Training</i>			
9.00 am	Keynote Presentation - You're Already the Expert: How Ethical AI Can Be Built Around What You Know Dr Nici Sweaney - <i>CEO & Founder, Ai Her Way, Senior Fellow for the AI for Developing Countries Forum</i>			
9.45 am	Sponsor Address - AssistiveWare Dr David Niemeijer - <i>Founder and CEO, AssistiveWare</i>			
9.50 am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location:	Ballroom A	Ballroom B	Litchfield Room	Reflections Room
Chair:	Sue Frawley	Neeti Puri	Michelle Harwood	Sally Howell
Stream	Innovation in Education	Innovation in Education	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice	
10.20 am – 11.05 am	Bridging Distance: Re-Imagining Distance Education for Autistic Learners Trish Hoang <i>Autism Queensland, QLD</i>	Communication as Curriculum: Embedding Language Instruction Across Subjects with Structured Visual Supports Brett Pearson <i>Bullimbal School, NSW</i>	Coaching for Inclusion: Strengthening Victorian Government Schools through Specialist Expertise Sibylle Kaczorek and Michelle Galea <i>Department Of Education Victoria, VIC</i>	Invited Speaker Workshop Your AI Starting Line: How to Prompt, Plan and Build From Here Dr Nici Sweaney <i>CEO & Founder, Ai Her Way, Senior Fellow for the AI for Developing Countries Forum</i>

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		Emma Pearson <i>GS Kidd Memorial School, NSW</i>		
11.05 am	5-minute room change			
11.10 am – 11.55 am	Implementing Structured Teaching to Maximise Student Engagement. Pamela Mathieson <i>Northern School for Autism, VIC</i>	Reducing Cognitive Load, Increasing Inclusive Impact: AI in Special Education Leadership Trudy Graham <i>Leaders Learning Pty, QLD</i>	Empowering Learner Agency Beyond Boundaries — A Whole-School Commitment to Transformative Practice Isha Chatterjee and Daniel McCauley <i>Errington Special Education Centre, SA</i>	“Fake It Until You Make It”: Virtual Reality as an Immersive Andragogy Laura Rienks <i>Corinda State High School, QLD</i>
11.55 am	Lunch and Trade Exhibition Visit			
Emcee:	Kymberly Louise			
Location:	Ballroom			
12.55 pm	ACARA Presentation: Connecting Whole-school Curriculum Planning and Curriculum Aligned Formative Assessment Part One: Leading Whole-school Curriculum Planning for All Learners Part Two: Designing for Insight: Intentional, Curriculum-aligned Formative Assessment Danielle Cavanagh - <i>Manager, Curriculum Support Resources and Primary Years at the Australian Curriculum</i> , Stuart Burns - <i>Manager, Formative Assessment Resources at the Australian Curriculum, ACARA</i>			
1.40 pm	AASE National President’s Report Dr Tracey Chamlin - <i>National President, AASE</i>			
1.45 pm	Understanding Teachers’ Work with Students with Disability: Voices from the Teaching and Learning International Survey A/Prof Jane Jarvis, <i>Research Director, Australian Council for Educational Research, SA</i>			
2.30 pm	Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location:	Ballroom A	Ballroom B	Litchfield Room	Reflections Room
Chair:	Taryn Timings	Susan Main	Jing Luo	Ruth Evans
Stream	Innovation in Education	Resilience and Engagement	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice
3.00 pm – 3.45 pm	Building an Inclusive Tomorrow: Co-Teaching as a	Autistic student voice in reasonable adjustments	Cultivating Agency: Reimagining Sustainability as a	Beyond Generic Planning: Building Secondary Teacher

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	Systemic Change Strategy Jacqueline Craigie, Natalie Fernandez and Kaitlyn Crossan <i>Corinda State High School, QLD</i>	Delyse Clayden <i>Edith Cowan University, WA</i>	Gateway to Inclusive Pedagogy Jude Johnson <i>Pedare Christian College, SA</i>	Knowledge for Inclusive Practice Dr Michaela Vergano <i>University Of Canberra, ACT</i>
3.45 pm	5-minute room change			
3.50 pm – 4.35 pm	Beyond Paperwork - How Atwell College Is Redesigning Assessment for Every Learner Brent Passchier and Denelle Kennedy <i>Atwell College, WA</i>	Transition Planning, Self-determination, and Choice: Perspectives and Experiences of Students with Developmental Disability Dr Helen Shearing <i>NSW Department of Education and University of New South Wales Sydney, NSW</i>	Bridging Research and Inclusive Practice: Stories and Conversations as Scaffolds for Autistic Children's Social Understanding A/Prof Sofia Mavropoulou <i>Queensland University of Technology, QLD</i>	Translating and Implementing Global Practices of Inclusive Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Jenny Kennedy <i>Bulli High School, NSW</i>
4.35 pm	Close of Conference Day 1			
6.30 pm	Conference Dinner			

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM: FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

7.30 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
Emcee:	Kymberly Louise			
8.30 am	Welcome to Day 2 and Recap of Day 1 Kymberly Louise - AASE National Councillor and President AASE SA			
8.40 am	Keynote Presentation - Converting Neurodiversity into Neuro-advantage Andrew Fuller - Author, Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, Ambassador of Adolescent Success, Ambassador of Lions Wellbeing, Hon. Fellow, Uni of Melbourne			
9.50 am	Sponsor Address – McGraw Hill Katie James - Consultant, McGraw Hill			
9.55 am	Des English Memorial Lecture - Carrying the Legacy Forward Virg Hughes - Principal, Namarluk School			
10.30 am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location:	Ballroom A	Ballroom B	Litchfield Room	Reflections Room
Chair:	Taryn Timings	Sally Howell	Neeti Puri	Ruth Evans
Stream	Innovation in Education	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice	
11.00 am – 11.45 am	Willmot Public School: Maximising Student Outcomes in a Complex Learning Community Vanessa Reasbeck <i>Willmot Public School, NSW</i>	Student Wellbeing - St Lucy's Road Map from Policy to Practice Susan Jones and Nikki Alldis <i>St Lucy's School, NSW</i>	Cool Kids Anxiety Program in Schools Dr Joel Crucitti <i>Catholic Education Northern Territory, NT</i>	Invited Speaker Workshop NeuroAdvantage -The Five Pathways to Learning Andrew Fuller <i>Author, Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, Ambassador of Adolescent Success, Ambassador of Lions Wellbeing, Hon. Fellow, Uni of Melbourne</i>
11.45 am	5 Minute Room Change			

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11.50 am – 12.35 pm	Working Together for Relational Safety: Partnerships in Inclusive Consent Education Kim Andreassen <i>Curtin University, WA</i>	Great Expectations – Creating Pathways for Students Tanya Martin and Connie Medley <i>Innisfail State College, QLD</i>	Leveraging Consistent Visuals to Increase Learning Opportunities for All Students Dr David Niemeijer <i>Founder and CEO AssistiveWare</i>	Invited Speaker Workshop Powerful Ways to Improve Student Engagement and Behaviour Andrew Fuller <i>Author, Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, Ambassador of Adolescent Success, Ambassador of Lions Wellbeing, Hon. Fellow, Uni of Melbourne</i>
12.35	Lunch and Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location:	Ballroom A	Ballroom B	Litchfield Room	Reflections Room
Chair:	Sue Frawley	Michaela Vergano	Susan Main	Michelle Harwood
Stream	Resilience and Engagement	Diverse Perspectives	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice
1.35 pm – 2.20 pm	Beyond Boundaries: Reimagining Wellbeing Through Swimming Programs for Young People with Disability Dr Lynette Ellis <i>Catholic Education Diocese Of Cairns, QLD</i>	Health Literacy Education for Students with Intellectual Disability: Students', Teachers', Educational Leaders', and Families' Perspectives Prof Iva Strnadova, Jennifer Hansen, Chia-Roung Chen, Claudia Pantoja Mardones and Skie Sarfaraz <i>University of New South Wales Sydney, NSW</i>	Beyond Access: Building Sustainable, Robust AAC Systems Across Two Special Education Schools Brett Pearson <i>Bullimbal School, NSW</i> Emma Pearson <i>GS Kidd Memorial School, NSW</i>	Supporting In-Service Educators to Deliver Inclusive Education Sarah Wood <i>Learning For Life Autism Centre and Monash University, VIC</i>
2.20 pm	5 Minute Room Change			

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2.25 pm – 3.10 pm	A Conversation with ACARA About the Australian Curriculum			Bridging Boundaries: Visual Stories Supporting Post- school Pathways Clare Jones and Carolyn Roche <i>Right to Work, NSW</i>
	Concurrent Session for Special Schools Danielle Cavanagh <i>Manager, Curriculum Support Resources and Primary Years at the Australian Curriculum , ACARA</i>	Concurrent Session for Foundation to Year 6 Alison von Dietze <i>Curriculum Specialist, Language and EAL/D, ACARA</i>	Concurrent Session for Years 7 to 12 Julie King <i>Senior Manager, Curriculum, ACARA</i>	
3.10 pm	Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit			
Location:	Grand Ballroom			
Emcee:	Kymberly Louise			
3.40 pm	Panel Discussion - Beyond Boundaries - Quality Education for students with Disability Virg Hughes - <i>Principal, Namarluk School</i> Andrew Fuller - <i>Author, Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, Ambassador of Adolescent Success, Ambassador of Lions Wellbeing, Hon. Fellow, Uni of Melbourne</i> Danielle Cavanagh - <i>Manager, Curriculum Support Resources and Primary Years, ACARA</i>			
4.25 pm	2027 AASE Conference Announcement			
4.35 pm	Prize Draw & Conference ‘Wrap Up’			
4.45 pm	Conference Close			

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