

# 2026 AASE National Conference

2 - 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL ESPLANADE DARWIN, NT

(( Beyond Boundaries ))



2026 Conference  
Program

# 26

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## PRE-CONFERENCE SCHOOL VISITS: WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

School Visit – Tour Groups	
	<p>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. This will be a <b>half day</b> program including transport and returning in time for the Welcome Reception.</p> <p>This will be a full day program including transport and returning in time for the Welcome Reception. <b>*Subject to change.</b></p> <p><b>More information regarding the School Visit Tour will become available closer to the Conference. You can express your interest in attending the School Visit Tours when you register for the conference.</b></p>

## CONFERENCE WELCOME RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION

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

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## CONFERENCE PROGRAM: THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2026

7.30 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
8.30 am	Welcome to Delegates and Housekeeping			
8.40 am	Welcome to Country			
8.50 am	<b>Official Conference Opening</b> Hon Jinson Anto Charls, <i>Minister for Disabilities</i>			
9.00 am	<b>Keynote Presentation - You're Already the Expert: How Ethical AI Can Be Built Around What You Know</b> Dr Nici Sweaney - <i>CEO &amp; Founder, Ai Her Way, Senior Fellow for the AI for Developing Countries Forum</i>			
9.45 am	Sponsor Address			
9.50 am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit			
	<b>Room 1</b>	<b>Room 2</b>	<b>Room 3</b>	<b>Room 4</b>
<b>Stream</b>	<b>Innovation in Education</b>	<b>Innovation in Education</b>	<b>Reimagining Pedagogical Practice</b>	
10.20 am – 11.05 am	<b>Bridging Distance: Re-Imagining Distance Education for Autistic Learners</b>  Trish Hoang <i>Autism Queensland, QLD</i>	<b>Communication as Curriculum: Embedding Language Instruction Across Subjects with Structured Visual Supports</b>  Brett Pearson <i>Bullimbal School, NSW</i>  Emma Pearson <i>GS Kidd Memorial School, NSW</i>	<b>Coaching for Inclusion: Strengthening Victorian Government Schools through Specialist Expertise</b>  Sibylle Kczorek and Michelle Galea <i>Department Of Education Victoria, VIC</i>	<b>Invited Speaker Workshop</b>  <b>Your AI Starting Line: How to Prompt, Plan and Build From Here</b>  Dr Nici Sweaney <i>CEO &amp; Founder, Ai Her Way, Senior Fellow for the AI for Developing Countries Forum</i>
11.05 pm	5-minute room change			

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11.10 am – 11.55 am	<b>Implementing Structured Teaching to Maximise Student Engagement.</b>  Pamela Mathieson <i>Northern School for Autism, VIC</i>	<b>Reducing Cognitive Load, Increasing Inclusive Impact: AI in Special Education Leadership</b>  Trudy Graham <i>Leaders Learning Pty, QLD</i>	<b>Understanding Teachers' Work with Students with Disability: Voices from the Teaching and Learning International Survey</b>  A/Prof. Jane Jarvis, Dr. Julie McMillan and Dr. Tim Friedman <i>Australian Council For Educational Research, SA</i>	<b>"Fake It Until You Make It": Virtual Reality as an Immersive Andragogy</b>  Laura Rienks <i>Corinda State High School, QLD</i>
11.55 am	<b>Lunch and Trade Exhibition Visit</b>			
12.55 pm	<b>Plenary Presentation</b> <i>Presenter to be announced</i>			
1.40 pm	<b>AASE National President's Report</b> Dr. Tracey Chamlin - <i>National President, AASE</i>			
1.45 pm	<b>Plenary Presentation</b> <i>Presenter to be announced</i>			
2.30 pm	<b>Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit</b>			
	<b>Room 1</b>	<b>Room 2</b>	<b>Room 3</b>	<b>Room 4</b>
<b>Stream</b>	<b>Innovation in Education</b>	<b>Resilience and Engagement</b>	<b>Reimagining Pedagogical Practice</b>	<b>Reimagining Pedagogical Practice</b>
3.00 pm – 3.45 pm	<b>Building an Inclusive Tomorrow: Co-Teaching as a Systemic Change Strategy</b>  Jacqualine Craigie, Natalie Fernandez and Kaitlyn Crossan <i>Corinda State High School, QLD</i>	<b>Autistic student voice in reasonable adjustments</b>  Delyse Clayden <i>Edith Cowan University, WA</i>	<b>Cultivating Agency: Reimagining Sustainability as a Gateway to Inclusive Pedagogy</b>  Jude Johnson <i>Pedare Christian College, SA</i>	<b>Beyond Generic Planning: Building Secondary Teacher Knowledge for Inclusive Practice</b>  Dr. Michaela Vergano <i>University Of Canberra, ACT</i>
3.45 pm	<b>5-minute room change</b>			

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<p>3.50 pm – 4.35 pm</p>	<p><b>Beyond Paperwork - How Atwell College Is Redesigning Assessment for Every Learner</b></p> <p>Brent Passchier and Denelle Kennedy <i>Atwell College, WA</i></p>	<p><b>Transition Planning, Self-determination, and Choice: Perspectives and Experiences of Students with Developmental Disability</b></p> <p>Dr. Helen Shearing <i>NSW Department of Education and University of New South Wales Sydney, NSW</i></p>	<p><b>Bridging Research and Inclusive Practice: Stories and Conversations as Scaffolds for Autistic Children’s Social Understanding</b></p> <p>A/Prof. Sofia Mavropoulou <i>Queensland University of Technology, QLD</i> A/Prof Kristie Asaro-Saddler <i>State University of New York</i></p>	<p><b>Translating and Implementing Global Practices of Inclusive Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.</b></p> <p>Jenny Kennedy <i>Bulli High School, NSW</i></p>
<p>4.35 pm – 4.40 pm</p>	<p><b>Close of Conference Day 1</b></p>			
<p>6.30 pm</p>	<p><b>Conference Dinner</b></p>			

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## CONFERENCE PROGRAM: FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2026

7.30 am	Conference Registration – Tea and Coffee on Arrival			
8.30 am	Welcome to Day 2 and Recap of Day 1			
8.40 am	<b>Keynote Presentation - Converting Neurodiversity Into Neuro-advantage</b> Andrew Fuller <i>Author, Clinical Psychologist and Family Therapist, Ambassador of Adolescent Success, Ambassador of Lions Wellbeing, Hon. Fellow, Uni of Melbourne</i>			
9.40 am	Sponsor Address			
9.45 am	<b>Des English Memorial Lecture</b> <i>Presenter to be announced</i>			
10.30 am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit			
	<b>Room 1</b>	<b>Room 2</b>	<b>Room 3</b>	<b>Room 4</b>
<b>Stream</b>	<b>Innovation in Education</b>	<b>Reimagining Pedagogical Practice</b>	<b>Reimagining Pedagogical Practice</b>	
11.00 am – 11.45 am	<b>Wilmot Public School: Maximising Student Outcomes in a Complex Learning Community</b>  Vanessa Reasbeck <i>Wilmot Public School, NSW</i>	<b>Student Wellbeing - St Lucy's Road Map from Policy to Practice</b>  Susan Jones and Nikki Alldis <i>St Lucy's School, NSW</i>	<i>Session to be announced.</i>	<b>Invited Speaker Workshop</b>  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	<b>5 Minute Room Change</b>			
11.50 am – 12.35 pm	<b>Working Together for Relational Safety: Partnerships in Inclusive Consent Education</b>  Kim Andreassen <i>Curtin University, WA</i>	<i>Session to be announced.</i>	<b>Great Expectations – Creating Pathways for Students</b>  Tanya Martin and Connie Medley <i>Innisfail State College, QLD</i>	
12.35	Lunch and Trade Exhibition Visit			

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	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
Stream	Resilience and Engagement	Diverse Perspectives	Reimagining Pedagogical Practice	
1.35 pm – 2.20 pm	<b>Beyond Boundaries: Reimagining Wellbeing Through Swimming Programs for Young People with Disability</b>  Dr. Lynette Ellis <i>Catholic Education Diocese Of Cairns, QLD</i>	<b>Health Literacy Education for Students with Intellectual Disability: Students', Teachers', Educational Leaders', and Families' Perspectives</b>  Prof. Iva Strnadova, Julie Loblinzk Refalo OAM and Skie Sarfaraz <i>University of New South Wales Sydney, NSW</i>	<b>Beyond Access: Building Sustainable, Robust AAC Systems Across Two Special Education Schools</b>  Brett Pearson <i>Bullimbal School, NSW</i>  Emma Pearson <i>GS Kidd Memorial School, NSW</i>	<i>Session to be announced.</i>
<b>2.20 pm</b>	<b>5 Minute Room Change</b>			
2.25 pm – 3.10 pm	<b>Cool Kids Anxiety Program in Schools</b>  Dr. Joel Crucitti <i>Catholic Education Northern Territory, NT</i>	<b>Bridging Boundaries: Visual Stories Supporting Post-school Pathways</b>  Clare Jones and Carolyn Roche <i>Right to Work, NSW</i>	<b>Supporting In-Service Educators to Deliver Inclusive Education</b>  Sarah Wood <i>Learning For Life Autism Centre and Monash University, VIC</i>	<i>Session to be announced.</i>
<b>3.10 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition Visit</b>			
3.40 pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b>			
4.25 pm	<b>Sponsor Address &amp; Prize Draw</b>			
4.35 pm	<b>2027 AASE Conference Announcement Announcement of 2027 AASE Research Award</b>			
4.45 pm	<b>Conference 'Wrap Up' &amp; Close</b>			
4.55 pm	<b>Conference Finish</b>			

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