free to flourish

01 to 03 OCTOBER 2025

Australian Conference on Lutheran Education

BRISBANE MEANJIN

Lutheran Education AUSTRALIA

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

** Please note this is a draft program outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the organising committee. **

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025		
TIME	**SESSION**	**LOCATION**
7.30am – 8.30am	**Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee**	Main Entrance
8.30am – 9.30am	**Opening** **Welcome to Country**	Great Hall
9.30am – 10.30am	**Opening Worship**	Great Hall
10.30am – 11:15am	**Morning Tea Break** Poster Session from 11.00am – 11.15am	Exhibition Hall
11.15am – 12.15pm	**Keynote Session: Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson - Lutheranism: 5 Centuries, 5 Snapshots** *Chair – Luke Schoff, St Andrews Lutheran College QLD*	Great Hall
12.15pm – 1.15pm	**Keynote Session: Hugh van Cuylenburg, Resilience Project** *Chair – Des Mitchell, Living Waters WA*	Great Hall
1.15pm – 2:15pm	**Lunch** Poster Session from 1.30pm – 2.15pm *Mercer Super Session: Women In Super – Lisa Hewitt from 1.30pm – 1.45pm*	Exhibition Hall
2.15pm – 3.15pm	**Free to Flourish Launch Workshop 1**	Great Hall
3.15pm – 3.45pm	**Afternoon Tea**	Exhibition Hall
3.45pm – 4.45pm	**Free to Flourish Launch Workshop 2**	Great Hall
5.15pm – 7.00pm	**Welcome Reception - Networking and Refreshments**	Exhibition Hall

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2025							
TIME	**SESSION**						**LOCATION**
6.00am – 7.00am	**Walk My Way - Just One Hour, ALWS Staff-led**						The Wheel of Brisbane
8.00am – 8.30am	**Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee**						Main Entrance
8.30am – 9.00am	**Day 2 Worship**						Great Hall
9.00am – 9.30am	**Keynote Session: Dr Shyam Barr - Educate to Self-Regulate** *Chair – Dominic Piacun, St Peters Lutheran College Springfield QLD*						Great Hall
9.30am – 9.45am	**Movement/Brain Break**						Great Hall
	Concurrent Sessions 1						
9.45am – 11.15am	**Mezzanine M1**	**Mezzanine M2**	**Mezzanine M3**	**Mezzanine M4**	**Plaza P1**	**Plaza P2**	**Great Hall**
	CHAIR – Daniel Weller	CHAIR – Bruce Knox	CHAIR – Rachael Vetter	**CHAIR – Lisa Goldsworthy**	**CHAIR – Megan Danslow**	CHAIR – Penny McKenzie	**CHAIR – Thalia Wesselingh**
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Leading Through Questions ***Tim Kotzur*** **St Peters Lutheran College, QLD**	**WORKSHOP (45mins):** Developing Parents as Pedagogical Partners in the Primary Years - Building Flourishing Communities ***Lisa Challenor*** **St Peters Lutheran College, QLD**	**WORKSHOP (90mins):** Resilience in Action: Evidence-Based Strategies for Lasting Wellbeing + 30-minute action planning ***Ryan McMurray*** **The Resilience Project**	**WORKSHOP (90mins):** The Catechism for Evangelism ***Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson***	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Chaplaincy & Faith: Here I Am to Worship; using Free to Flourish to Explore Who We are Called to Be in Christ ***David Folker*** **St John's Lutheran School, QLD**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Unity and Utju: A Tale of Two Communities ***Adam Yeager*** **Unity College, SA**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** 10 Steps to a Safe, Efficient and Cost-Effective Bus Service ***John Mcdiarmid*** **Trinity Lutheran College, QLD**

	WORKSHOP (45mins): Nurturing Faith in Young People: What We're Learning from High School Students ***Ruth Powell*** **NCLS Research, NSW**	**WORKSHOP (45mins):** Primary Science: Choose Your Own Adventure. Creating space for student agency via purposeful collaboration through experiment design. ***Alysha Schneider*** **Luther College, VIC**			**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Stealing Past Watchful Dragons: Practices That Promote Student Flourishing in Australian Faith Based Schools ***Darren Iselin*** **Christian Schools Australia, ACT**	**PRESENTATION (60mins):** A Compassionate Approach to Regenerative Systems Change ***Mignon Weckert*** **LENSW**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Freedom to Flourish in Challenging Times: The Functional and Positive Value of Systemic Protocols for Inclusion, Participation, and Collaboration in the Management of Inequality and High and Complex (Support) Needs Students and Families in Education from ELC to Year 12. **Bower Place, SA**
					PRESENTATION (30mins): Doing social justice in Lutheran schools - what, why, how? ***Tom Brennen*** **Cornerstone College, SA**		**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Our Journey: Developing an Education Blueprint inspire by Free to Flourish ***Darren Altus & Renae McDonald,*** **Good Shepherd, Angaston, SA**
11.15am-11:45am	**Morning Tea** Poster Session from 11.30am – 11.45am						**Exhibition Hall**
	Concurrent Sessions 2						
11.45am – 1.15pm	**Mezzanine M1**	**Mezzanine M2**	**Mezzanine M3**	**Mezzanine M4**	**Plaza P1**	**Plaza P2**	**Great Hall**
	CHAIR – Kate Hofstee	**Chair: Tayla Corrie**	**CHAIR – Eloise Beveridge**	**CHAIR – Joanne Wegener**	**CHAIR – Fiona McAuliffe**	**CHAIR – Shane Jurecky**	**CHAIR - Dr Sue Kupke**
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Rowing Together: How Metaphor-Driven Narratives Boost Coherence, Engagement and Commitment	**WORKSHOP (45mins):** Break the educational mould! Be adventurous, purposeful and relational by teaching	**WORKSHOP (90mins):** Self-regulated learning (SRL): How to promote students' SRL in your classroom and school. **Dr Shyam Barr**	**WORKSHOP (90mins):** Supporting Students and Staff to Flourish Through Effective Classroom Management ***Cate Whiting***	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Free to Flourish: Compassion, Creation, and Learning - How can art, faith, and education intertwine	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** How to embed First Nations perspectives in schools with compassion and purpose.	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Psychosocial Risks in the Education Sector ***Sean Redmond*** **Aon Risk Services Australia Limited**

	Susan Carter **Prince of Peace, QLD**	kids what they want to learn and still tick all the educational boxes ***David Moore*** **Faith Lutheran College Redlands, QLD**		**Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)**	to cultivate compassionate communities? ***Ruth Ellington*** **St John's Lutheran Kingaroy, QLD**	***Simon McCormick*** **Australians Together**	
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Free to Flourish: Engaging Big Questions in Christianity through Socratic Discussion ***Julia Wright*** **St Peters Lutheran College, QLD**	**WORKSHOP (45mins):** AI & Cyber Security: Enabling Innovation, Managing Risk, and Building Trust ***Michael Hodson*****, LLL**			**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Compassionate Communities: Prioritising Child Safety in Lutheran Schools ***Morgan Brookes*** **Cornerstone College, SA**	**PRESENTATION (30 mins)** In conversation: religious freedom for faith-based schools landscape ***Andrew Long*** **ALC Board and Government Relations and Policy Advisor for the National Catholic Education Commission and** ***Vanessa Cheng*** **Executive Officer Australian Association of Christian Schools**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Implementing a Compliance Shared Services Model in Lutheran Schools ***Kerryn Simpfendorfer*** **Cornerstone College, SA and** ***Tyna Newman*** **Encounter Lutheran College SA**
					PRESENTATION (30mins): Immersive Technologies for Adventurous and Compassionate Education ***Catherine Barnes*** **Endeavour College, SA**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Lutheran Identity in Lutheran Schools: Is it a Lost Cause? ***Tim Jarick*** **St Peters Lutheran College, QLD**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Blue Fingernails and Platform Shoes - Unlock the power of kindness to unleash a world of service. ***Jonathan Krause*** **ALWS, SA**
1.15pm – 2:00pm	**Lunch** Poster Session from 1.30pm – 2.00pm *Mercer Super Session: Ready for Retirement – Lisa Hewitt from 1.30pm – 1.45pm*						Exhibition Hall
	Concurrent Sessions 3						

	Mezzanine M1	Mezzanine M2	Mezzanine M3	Mezzanine M4	Plaza P1	Plaza P2	Great Hall
	CHAIR – Maryann Sword	CHAIR – Vanessa Noonan	CHAIR – Mandi Traecey	CHAIR – Kate Dugdale	CHAIR – Tom Brennan	CHAIR – Morgan Brookes	CHAIR – Kirsty Hansen
2.00pm – 3.30pm	**WORKSHOP (45mins):** Free to Flourish: A Whole-School Journey of Identity, Growth, and Community **Jocelyn Bakker St John's Lutheran Primary School, QLD**	**WORKSHOP (90mins):** How to lead when you don't know where you're going: leadership in a rapidly changing world ***Tod Bolsinger*** **AE Sloan Leadership**	**WORKSHOP (90 mins):** Looking After Yourself workshop & 21 day wellbeing journals Wellbeing Workshop ***Ryan McMurray*** **Resilience Project**	**WORKSHOP (45mins):** Gradual release: how explicit instruction builds the foundations for students to connect and apply their learning with increasing independence ***Dr Toni Delany-Crowe*** **Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Thinking at the Forefront: Immanuel College's Cultures of Thinking Journey ***Martyn Anderson*** **Immanuel College, SA**	**PRESENTATION (60mins):** Nurturing the Next Generation by Leading Aboriginal Education for All Students ***Kylie Captain*** **Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Relationships within small teams: a coaching journey **Michelle Thygesen St Peters Lutheran College Springfield, QLD**
				WORKSHOP (45mins): Service-Learning in the History Classroom ***Carly Brooks*** **Faith Lutheran College, Redlands, QLD**	**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Free to Flourish in Worship: Sharing Lutheran Theology Through Song in Contemporary Lutheran Schools ***Andrea Blakely*** **Faith Lutheran College Plainland, QLD**		**PRESENTATION (30mins):** A Principals Story ***Matthew Qualischefski*** **Good Shepherd Lutheran College, NT**
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Cultivating Compassion: A Practical Approach to Service Learning ***Jodie Hoff*** **Australian Lutheran World Service, LORDS, QLD and *Celia Fielke* Australian Lutheran World Service, SA**				**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Stewardship in Action: Transforming the Built Environment to Foster Impactful Learning ***Karen Hill & Alan Peet*** **St Peters Lutheran College, QLD**		**PRESENTATION (30mins):** Fostering Student and Staff Agency Through the Free to Flourish Initiative at Living Faith OSHC ***Montahna Lanham-Underwood and Kym Garth***

							Living Faith OSHC, QLD
	Concurrent Sessions 4						
3.30pm – 4.30pm	**Mezzanine M1** **CHAIR – Matthew Pearce** **WORKSHOP (60mins):** Building an Inclusive Culture at St. Michael's Lutheran Primary: Embracing Neurodiversity and Fostering Flourishing Learners ***Georgia Pope*** **St Michael's, Hahndorf, SA**	**Mezzanine M2** **CHAIR – Kaye Mathwin-Cox** **WORKSHOP (60mins):** Free to Flourish – Cultivating Growth Through St Jakobi's Kitchen Garden Inquiry Program ***Petrea Booth*** **St Jakobi Lutheran School, SA**	**Mezzanine M3** **CHAIR – Stuart Needham** **WORKSHOP (60mins):** Self-regulated learning (SRL): How to promote students' SRL in your classroom and school. ***Dr Shyam Barr***	**Mezzanine M4** **CHAIR – Darrin Schumacher** **WORKSHOP (60mins):** The Promise of Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue ***Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson***	**Plaza P1** **CHAIR – Vanessa Noonan** **PRESENTATION (30mins):** From Curiosity to Faith: Engaging Primary Students in Christian Studies Through Real-World Connections helping them flourish in their faith journey ***Graham Maddren*** **Immanuel Lutheran School Gawler, SA** **PRESENTATION (30mins):** Flourishing in a rapidly changing community: living our mission in a purposeful manner ***Joanne Wegener*** **Good News Lutheran College, VIC**	**Plaza P2** **PANEL MODERATOR - Sue Kupke** **PANEL DISCUSSION (60mins):** A group panel conversation: Stories from Lutheran education communities engaging with Free to Flourish ***Panel Host:*** ***Sue Kupke,* LEA** **Panel Members:** ***Naomi Gibbons,*** **Redeemer Lutheran College, Biloela QLD** ***Greg Fowler*, Faith Lutheran College, Redlands QLD** ***Lisa Goldsworthy,*** **Lutheran School, Alice Springs NT** ***Mignon Weckert,*** **Lutheran Education SA, NT, WA** ***Jodi Blackwell,*** **Lutheran Education QLD**	**Great Hall** **PANEL MODERATOR - David Folker** **PANEL DISCUSSION (60mins):** We are Relational: Candid Conversations on the Couch Exploring Restorative Perspectives Across Lutheran Education ***Panel Host:*** ***David Folker*** **St John's Lutheran School, QLD** ***Panel Members:*** **Ruth Ferguson** **Jon Kotzur** **Sarah Boxall** **Kathleen Gogerly** ***All members from St John's Lutheran School, QLD***
5.00pm – 6.00pm	**Walk My Way - Just One Hour, ALWS Staff-led**						The Wheel of Brisbane
6.30pm – 10.30pm	**Conference Dinner** Plaza Ballroom, Brisbane Convention Centre						

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025		
TIME	**SESSION**	**LOCATION**
6.00am – 7.00am	**Prayer Session**	Prayer Retreat Room
7.00am – 8.00am	**Walk My Way - Just One Hour, ALWS Staff-led**	The Wheel of Brisbane
8.00am - 8.30am	**Prayer Session**	Prayer Retreat Room
8.30am – 9.00am	**Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee**	Main Entrance
9.00am – 9.50am	**Keynote Session: Tod Bolsinger - Leading Through Sabotage: Building Resilience and Strength** *Chair – Daniel Weller, Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School VIC*	Great Hall
9.50am – 10.00am	**Movement/Brain Break**	Great Hall
10.00am – 10.45am	**Christian Studies: The Next Chapter** **The CS Writing Group includes:** • **Renee Wehner, Education Leader at Lutheran Education SA, NT, WA** • **Jodi Blackwell, Assistant Director - Identity and Formation at Lutheran Education QLD** • **Andrea Muller, Director of Innovative Global Education** • **David Spike, Pastor for Ministry and Formation at Lutheran Education Vic, NSW, Tas** • **Sue Kupke, Director of Formation at Lutheran Education Australia**	Great Hall
10.45am – 11:15am	**Morning Tea Break** Poster Session from 11.00am – 11.15am	Exhibition Hall
11.15am – 11.30am	**Keynote Session: Graham Catt - 10 things schools tell me – challenges and opportunities for independent schooling.** *Chair – Dr Tsae Wong, Trinity Lutheran College QLD*	Great Hall
11.30am – 12.00pm	**Conference Wrap Up - Suzanne Jessen, Lutheran Education Australia**	Great Hall
12.00pm – 1.00pm	**Closing Worship with Communion**	Great Hall

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