

The Art and Urgency of AI: Shaping All Student Futures Full abstract (300 words maximum)

The future of education is inextricably linked to artificial intelligence. Our students are already engaging with AI, a technology that is here to stay and will profoundly shape their future careers and lives. This keynote, "The Art and Urgency of AI: Shaping All Student Futures," will address the critical need for school leaders to embrace AI as a powerful tool for learning rather than a threat to be managed.

Key Focus Areas

This presentation will trace the evolution of AI and its accelerating impact on education, offering a balanced perspective on its potential and challenges. Drawing on extensive work with leadership teams across New Zealand and Australia, I'll share firsthand insights into how schools are currently - and often unintentionally - grappling with AI. The talk will provide concrete, actionable strategies for leaders to:

- **Foster AI Literacy:** Equip all teachers and students with the foundational knowledge and skills to use AI responsibly and effectively as a partner in learning and creativity.
- **Integrate High-Impact Tools:** Showcase a curated selection of proven AI tools that streamline administrative tasks for leaders and enhance teaching and learning, cutting through the noise of an oversaturated market.
- **Cultivate a Forward-Thinking Culture:** Inspire a mindset shift from fear to curiosity, preparing schools to leverage AI to cultivate the skills - such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and adaptability - that will be essential for our students' future careers.

Outcomes for Attendees

Attendees will leave with a renewed sense of confidence and a clear, practical roadmap for integrating AI into their schools. My goal is to empower every leader to take the next steps in their AI journey, ensuring their school is at the forefront of shaping a future where students don't just consume technology, but master it to their advantage.