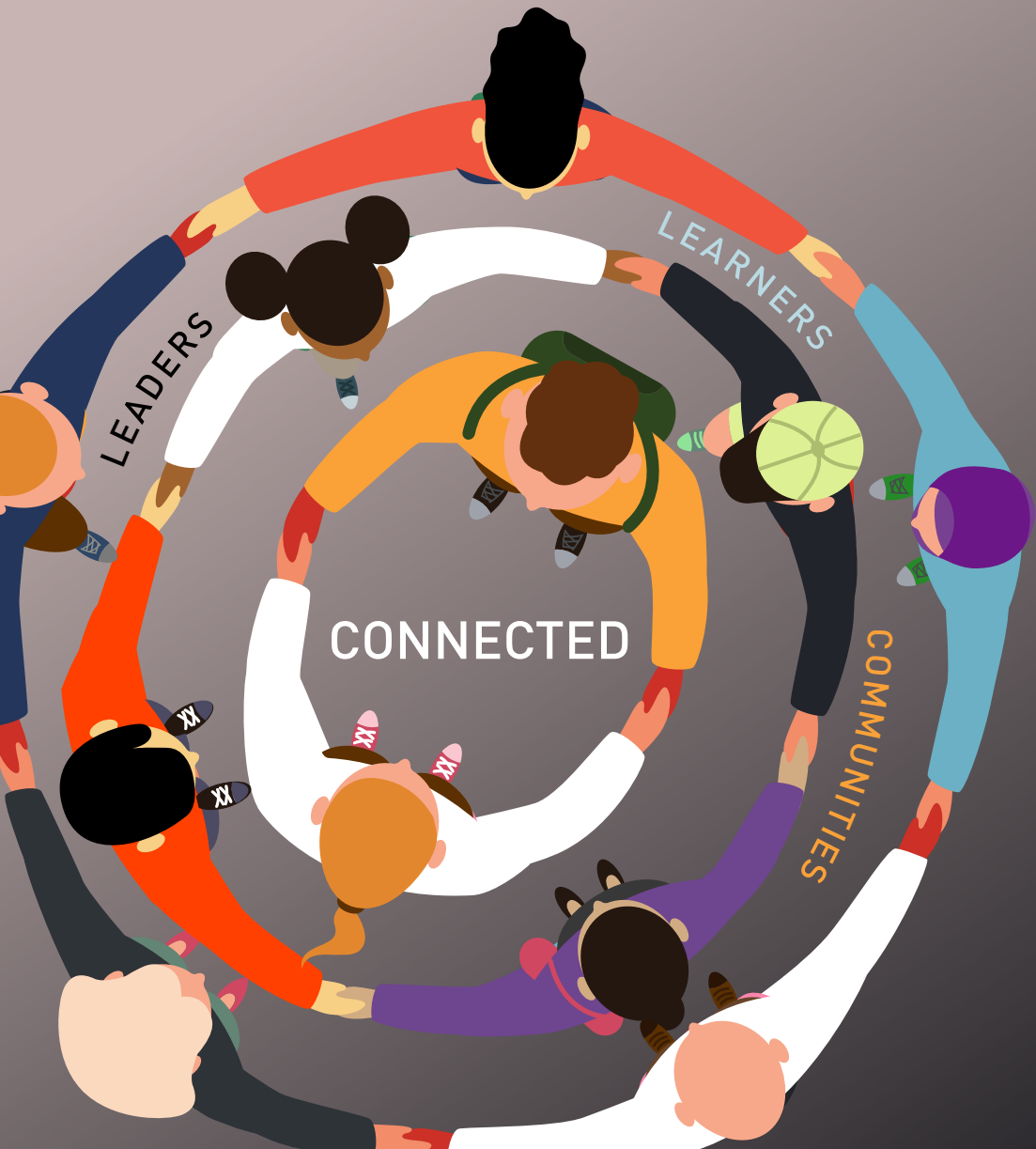




Queensland Secondary Principals' Association Conference

22 - 24 May 2024
Hilton Hotel Brisbane



CONFERENCE CHARITY 2024



Born from a desire to make a tangible difference in communities facing adversity, Connecting Communities Australia (CCA) began during the relentless drought in Western Queensland in 2018.

Our founder, Glenn Price, connected with communities and ran support programs that breathed hope into the hearts of those feeling the impacts. These programs were about more than just infrastructure; they were about uplifting spirits, providing financial support, and fostering resilience. The overwhelmingly positive response from these communities ignited the creation of CCA.

Since then, our story has evolved, encompassing programs across rural and regional Australia, adapting to the challenges of bushfires, and forging connections with First Nation communities.

We are a testament to the power of dedicated volunteers and community-driven change. Our commitment remains unwavering as we work alongside communities to rebuild, reconnect and create a brighter future based on resilience, equality and connection.

Connecting Communities Australia will have a table at the Conference. Make sure you go and say hi to Glenn and his team.

Please donate to this great cause over the 3 days of the Conference. Information will be available on the Conference App and website. You can donate also from the QR Code below.

Donate now by using QR code below or click on the following link

<https://connectingcommunitiesaustralia.com.au/donate/>



THE QUEENSLAND SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION (QSPA)

QSPA is the peak professional association for State secondary school Principals, Deputy Principals and Heads of Department in Queensland. QSPA provides professional support, advocacy, professional development, and services to its membership. With over 900 members, across more than 96% of secondary schools, QSPA is the respected and trusted voice of Queensland secondary school leaders.

QSPA directly represents members in policy development by engaging with Government and the Minister of Education, senior officers of the Department of Education, and other peak education bodies. Our extensive cluster structure provides a strong consultative base for the elected Executive and State Council. QSPA provides significant professional development focused on secondary school leadership issues in Queensland.

CONFERENCE COSTS AND REGISTRATION PROCESS

All costs are GST inclusive and payment by schools will be processed as requested through Conference Services or as per options outlined.

For schools registering, 3 or more people, attending for 2 or more days, a 10% discount applies to each attendee. (Discount Code: QSPA3)

Registration Details: <https://www.qspa.org.au/Conference2024.html>

3 DAYS \$900	1 DAY \$350	1 DAY \$400	2 DAYS \$750	DINNER \$95
22-24 May	Wed 22 May	Thu 23 or Fri 24 May	Wed-Thur 22-23 May Wed/Fri 22/24 May Thur-Fri 23-24 May	Awards Presentation Dinner Per Person

HILTON BRISBANE ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has been reserved at the Conference venue, the Hilton Hotel Brisbane.

Visit: [HILTON BRISBANE ACCOMMODATION](#)

Kirsten Ferdinands & Tony McCormack

Conference Co-Chairs



Welcome to the 2024 Queensland Secondary Principals' Association Conference, proudly providing world class leadership, learning, inspiration, and collegiality through our 2024 theme of Connected: Leaders, Learners, Communities. With our sights firmly set on the opportunities ahead for us as leaders, our 2024 conference invites us all to focus on the importance of how connections, and being connected, can provide opportunities and a new set of possibilities for ourselves, our schools, our students, and our communities.

As well as being privileged to welcome our new Minister for Education the Hon. Di Farmer MP, and Senior Officers of the Department, our program of speakers has been crafted to engage, inspire, and create new, or build on already meaningful 'connections'.

Tom Greenwell – co-author of *Waiting for Gonski, How Australia failed its schools* (UNSW Press 2022) and *Choice and Fairness: A Common Framework for all Australian schools* (2023).

Mel Neil – founder and CEO of Mind Insurance. Mel has educated many thousands of individuals in Applied Emotional Intelligence, focusing on leading others to an understanding of human flourishing.

Dr Catherine Ball – a scientific futurist working across global projects where emerging technologies meet humanitarian, education and environmental needs. We welcome Catherine back one year on to provide a 2024 update and how AI and global disruption is influencing the work we do.

Mary Coverdale – A future focused educator & leader working with The Learner First to create a values-based culture within a framework that promotes deep learning.

Adam Voight – a real leader who walks the talk and former Principal in some of Australia's most challenging locations. Adam is a leader & speaker who has genuinely 'been there and done that'.

Dr Michael Carr Gregg & Brigitte Johnson – Michael, one of Australia's highest profile psychologists, and specialists in adolescents and mental health teams up with Brigitte, Principal Coach and Owner of Momentum First to coach leaders and teams in optimising potential

Dr Tahnee Bridson – best known for her work to reduce stigma, improve help-seeking and promote mental wellbeing and founder of Hand-n-Hand Peer Support Inc.

Daniel Murray - blends the worlds of organisational strategy, behavioural economics, and strategic empathy to support even the most analytical thinkers to engage in the world of empathic leadership.

Catherine Keenan - co-founder of the Sydney Story Factory, dedicated to nurturing the creative potential of marginalized young Australians.

Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM– our Friday lunch speaker was a 2021 International Day of People with Disability ambassador. Dinesh is a doctor, lawyer, disability advocate, and researcher.

Building on the last couple of years' overwhelmingly positive feedback, our Wednesday program once again features a dedicated middle leaders focus featuring updates and insights from State Schooling personnel, and key leaders from around the state to inspire and provide useful workshops supporting our work in schools, as well as the return of our popular timetabling sessions.

Thank you, QSPA members, for your continued interest and support of our 2024 Conference; and a special thank you to our Business Partners for your ongoing commitment to QSPA. We look forward to connecting with you across our 2024 Conference and hope that you find the three days professionally and personally rewarding.



Mark Breckenridge

President
Queensland Secondary
Principals' Association

Mark Breckenridge is President of the Queensland Secondary Principals' Association taking up the position in January 2018. He was re-elected for a second term commencing in 2022.

Mark has more than thirty years of experience as Principal across a diverse range of schools from small one-teacher schools, P-10 rural through to regional and metropolitan high schools with large student enrolments.

During this wide-ranging career Mark has developed an appreciation for the complexities inherent in all schools, regardless of location or size. School leaders are the critical component in school success; addressing issues of complexity, building and sustaining relationships that help enable a culture of continuous improvement. As a Principal Mark sought to ensure that his schools were a place where community matters. He believes strongly in the value of partnerships across the community-with families, business and industry and the wider community.

From his earliest years as a Principal Mark has actively engaged in building professional and collegial networks with his fellow school leaders. These networks have been an important element in Mark's leadership journey and are a central focus of his work now as QSPA President.



Chris Capra

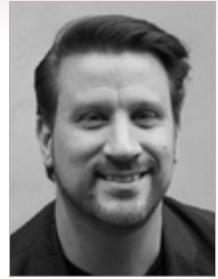
Department of Education
School Supervisor

Chris has been a principal for 28 years with the Department of Education including service in some of our smallest and largest schools across the state. Chris has worked in primary, secondary and P-12 schools from Port Douglas and Kuranda District SC P-12 in the far north to Palm Beach Currumbin SHS in the south.

Chris has spent time as an Assistant Regional Director and Curriculum, Teaching & Learning Auditor.

Dave Faulkner

EC by Go1
Master of Ceremonies



Dave has worked in K-12 education for over two decades as a teacher, principal, system leader and thought leader. His education leadership journey began when he became a principal at age 24, with further principal tenures at primary and secondary schools over the next decade as well as a three-year period as a Regional Director. As the co-founder of EC Premium (ec.inc) - the world's largest K-12 online professional learning library - he is at the forefront of staff and school improvement and speaks on the world's largest education stages on this theme (including BETT, ASCD and EduTech). Dave is the co-author of the K-12 books Dream Team (ASCD) and Edupreneur (Wiley) and has led PL programs for state and national governments and organisations across the globe.

Glenn Solomons

EC by Go1
Master of Ceremonies



Glenn brings a decade of secondary school leadership and high school teaching experience to the EC team in his role as a lead facilitator and learning designer. During his time in schools, he has driven school improvements through implementing innovative strategies and techniques around effective feedback, learning objectives and positive behaviour frameworks, just to name a few. Glenn has also designed ground-breaking Game Arts and Game Design programs and initiatives with the Academy of Interactive Entertainment for multiple schools. As a lead facilitator and leadership consultant with EC by Go1, Glenn supports thousands of teachers and leaders each year by designing and delivering cutting-edge curriculum, professional learning and programs to build their leadership capacity. As a program lead with EC by Go1, he has created PL programs for clients, including the Academy (VIC), the Professional Learning Institute (TAS), schools across NSW and Microsoft. He is currently studying for his Master of Education at Australian Catholic University.



Steve Francis

Educator & CEO

Steve Francis is an expert in the complexities of school leadership. As well as having been the Principal of several Queensland schools from a one-teacher school through to a large metropolitan school, he was Principal of an international school in Hong Kong. He understands the challenges and demands of being a school leader.

To support busy school leadership teams to get clear and aligned, Steve developed School Leadership Sprints. Steve completed his Masters in School Leadership focusing on stress in schools. This led him to develop the Happy School program. Almost 700 schools subscribe to receive Steve's weekly articles and use them to improve staff well-being. This year he launched his Early Career Teacher Well-being program.

For the past five years Steve has been recognised by Educator magazine as one of the top 50 most influential educators in Australia. Steve works with leading educators across Australia and New Zealand to help them reach their potential and optimise their schools. Steve is passionate about keeping things simple and helping leaders get work – life satisfaction.

At our 2024 Conference, Steve will be delivering a keynote titled "Optimal Leadership" The key role of leaders in schools is to optimise their school. Successful leaders achieve this by utilising ALL available resources to maximise the benefit for their students. However, we don't start with a clean slate and an unlimited budget. We have to work with what we've got and work towards what we want.



Kylie Lipscombe

University of Wollongong

Kylie Lipscombe is an Associate Professor in educational leadership at the University of Wollongong. She is an Australian researcher, educator, and presenter with nearly 25 years' experience in schools, school systems and universities.

Kylie has contributed to international, national, and state educational initiatives and policy in middle leadership, leadership development, and teacher collaboration and has authored numerous books, book chapters, journal articles and government reports.

Currently she is on the advisory board to the Australian Institute for Teaching & School Leadership (AITSL) development of The Professional Standards for Middle Leaders in QLD and served as the former NSW President and Deputy President of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL).

At our 2024 Conference, Kylie will be delivering a keynote titled “Mastering the Middle” to explore middle leadership as both significant to school improvement, teacher capacity, and student learning, and complicated based on the dual role of teaching and leading. This session will explore the complexity, conditions, and connections of middle leadership and the implications and suggested practices for systems and schools to enable middle leaders to flourish.



Julie Rowe

Vice President Representative
QSPA Executive

Julie Rowe has over twenty-seven years' experience in education both in Australia and overseas. During her career, she has worked as a teacher in four countries; advised government organisations on best practice around career and leadership development and shared her passion for timetabling and resource management across the state.

Her passion lies in supporting beginning leaders in developing the skills and attributes that make an efficient, supportive, and valued member of a leadership team, as a QSPA Vice-president Julie has managed the portfolios of HR, IT and Infrastructure.

Julie has a genuine goal to make meaningful difference in the schools she works in.

At our 2024 conference, Julie's popular timetabling workshops, focused on the strategic work that underpins effective resource management through timetabling, and the important connections that a well-constructed timetable can enable.



Erica Breen

Director Principal
Health and Wellbeing

Erica Breen is currently leading the work of the department in improving the health and wellbeing of Queensland state school principals and leaders and led the establishment of the Principal Hotline and Conflict Resolution service. Having worked in both the tertiary and state education sectors in multiple roles over the last 20 years.

Erica can draw on her extensive experience as a professional human resource consultant and practitioner within the educational context to help shape how the department can listen to and respond to the stressors and concerns of school leaders and drive the ongoing work that is emerging through the Principal Health and Wellbeing team. Erica holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Business.

At our 2024 Conference, Erica will be part of the Complex Matters team delivering messages regarding the conflict management support services provided by the team, and engaging in some discussion around the connections that the team can make in supporting the wellbeing of leaders.



Wil Farmer

Managing Director
Dale Carnegie

William Farmer, Managing Director of Dale Carnegie Australia, is a distinguished expert in leadership and organisational development. With a career spanning over 30 years, he leverages the renowned principles of Dale Carnegie to foster personal and professional growth. William's primary focus revolves around strategic development, collaborating closely with CEOs and General Managers to propel their organisations forward by harnessing the potential of their people. His recent work has seen him deeply engaged with schools and department heads, including principals across Queensland, offering invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities inherent in educational leadership.

Through his endeavours, William aims to equip leaders with the necessary skills and mindset to navigate the complexities of leadership with confidence. By emphasising coaching and cultivating environments where individuals are empowered to achieve results collaboratively, he fosters cultures of excellence where everyone can thrive and contribute to organisational success.

At our 2024 Conference, Wil will be delivering a workshop "Coaching for Performance and Non-Performance" designed to empower school principals with the skills and strategies needed to run their schools effectively through coaching and leading others to achieve results through people.



Scott Millar

BOP Industries

Scott Millar is a business leader, keynote speaker, and generational consultant on a mission to help organisations navigate the ever-changing future of work. Launching his business in early high school, Scott has spent the past 10 years working with young professionals and business leaders around the world to explore how technology and innovation are changing the way we live, work, and learn.

As one of Australia's top 30 business leaders under 30 years of age, Queensland's Young Small Business Leader, APAC's Inspiring Youth Leader, two-time TEDx Speaker, and LGBT advocate, Scott is passionate about inspiring others to seize opportunities in their digital world.

A passionate advocate for Generation Z, Scott brings a wealth of expertise on navigating the dynamics of multi-generational workplaces. His globally recognized approach blends research with real-world examples, earning him a reputation as a leading generational consultant. Scott's work focuses on helping organisations foster impactful intergenerational collaborations, empowering teams to thrive in today's innovation economy.

At our 2024 Conference, Scott will be delivering a presentation on "The Power of Young Professionals: The Future of Work". Young people today are preparing for a workforce that is very different from that experienced before. Embracing AI, remote working, social impact and flexible hours, we as educators must understand what our young people need to thrive in the ever-changing future. Scott will unpack the key workforce trends we're noticing for Generation Z and Generation Alpha before, looking at how we can best prepare them.



Chantelle Kohn

The Change Collab
- Founder and Director

Chantelle Kohn is the Founder and Director of The Change Collab, which is dedicated to upskilling leaders, teams, and individuals in their personal and professional development so they can create positive change at home, work, and wider society. She is passionate about helping others develop the mindsets and skills needed to transform our communities and create a better society for all.

Chantelle has over 15 years of global experience in designing and facilitating capability-building programs across the education, non-profit, corporate, and government sectors. She has extensive experience consulting and coaching schools in multiple countries in the creation of whole-school approaches to educating for global competence. Recently, Chantelle collaborated with the Qld Department of Education and CQUniversity to support the creation of resources, including a framework and training modules, designed to build capacity in educating for global competence. She is also a leadership coach for Hone HQ, supporting leaders and teams from organisations across the world in creating inclusive and equitable workplaces.

Chantelle has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education (Secondary) from the University of Queensland and a Masters in International and Community Development from Deakin University. She has further honed her skills through prestigious programs such as Yale's Centre for Emotional Intelligence 'Institute for District and School Leaders' and Anima Leadership's 'Deep Diversity: Leadership Skills for an Inclusive School.'

Collaborating with Chantelle means embracing the continuous journey of learning and unlearning and committing to playing a role in creating a world where everyone can thrive. Beyond her professional pursuits, Chantelle enjoys spending her time dancing and singing her lungs out at live music events, being immersed in books, travelling (35+ countries and counting), and having outdoor adventures with loved ones.

At our 2024 Conference, Chantelle's workshop will delve into the core of global competence to discover its transformative role on education and its profound impact on fostering connected Leaders, Learners, and communities. Participants will gain in-depth insights into the origin, purpose, and components of the Department of Education's Global Competence Framework. In learning how to implement the framework, participants will understand the power of co-agency and explore tangible and immediate actions for nurturing student agency within their school context.



Michael Dezuanni

Queensland University
of Technology

Michael Dezuanni is a professor in the School of Communication at Queensland University of Technology. He is program leader for Digital Inclusion and Participation in the Digital Media Research Centre at QUT and he is a Chief Investigator in the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. Michael's research focuses on how to create better digital futures in home, school and community contexts. He is the author of four books and over 50 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters.



Dr Aleesha Rodriguez

Queensland University
of Technology

Dr Aleesha Rodriguez is a 'tech-sociologist' who explores the ways in which people and technology shape each other. They are a digital media communication and Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholar. Aleesha is currently a Research Fellow at the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child at QUT, exploring public imaginaries about future digital media technologies.

At our 2024 Conference, Michael and Aleesha will be delivering a presentation "Community building with social media in schools". Social media plays an important role in school life, in both positive and problematic ways. In this session researchers from QUT's Digital Media Research Centre and the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child will share research insights and practical suggestions for how to use social media effectively for community building and teaching and learning.



Tom Greenwell

Teacher and Author

Tom Greenwell is the co-author of *Waiting for Gonski, How Australia failed its schools* (UNSW Press 2022) and *Choice and Fairness: A Common Framework for all Australian schools* (2023).

Tom regularly writes about Australian education policy for *Inside Story*, as well as publications such as the *Guardian* and *Australian Financial Review*. He teaches history and politics in the ACT public education system.

At our 2024 Conference, Tom will be presenting on his book “Waiting for Gonski” *How Australia failed its schools*, a book he co-wrote.



Mel Neil

Founder & CEO Mind Insurance

For over 15 years, founder and CEO of Mind Insurance, Mel Neil has facilitated education and application opportunities for individuals and corporations to apply change and realise their full potential.

In her extensive career, she has educated many thousands of individuals in Applied Emotional Intelligence, focusing on presenting the empirical science and current research to lead others to an understanding and application of human flourishing. Mel's unique approach is driven by a desire to empower people of all backgrounds to make a life-long change that is relevant and sustainable.

Knowing that everyone has the right to flourish, she tailors packages and courses by carefully considering people's unique needs and interests. This allows workshop and course participants to experience long term success, through gaining a thorough understanding of the science of their emotions and human flourishing.

The success of Mel's programs is evident in developing a true understanding and maintaining psychological wellbeing in her participants. Rather than focusing on products, participants learn the science and access relevant tools to effectively utilise the research for their own needs.

Mel sees her role as holding a space where she can teach the science in a practical way to those who can use it to improve the areas of their life that they wish to change. Whether through the award-winning Melbourne Tourism Leadership Program, the Happiness Lab, the Academy, or a program created just for you, learning from Mel will change your life and the lives of those around you.

At our 2024 Conference Mel founder and CEO of Mind Insurance, will speak about opportunities for individuals and teams in Applied Emotional Intelligence, focusing on leading others to an understanding of human flourishing.



Dr Catherine Ball

Futurist and Visioneer

Dr Catherine Ball is an Academic at ANU's School of Cybernetics, bestselling author, futurist and visioneer.

Associate Professor, Dr Catherine Ball is a scientific futurist, speaker, advisor, author, founder, executive producer, executive director and company director working across global projects where emerging technologies meet humanitarian, education and environmental needs. Catherine also likes to create businesses and champion movements, collaborate with peers, and advise game-changers.

At our 2024 Conference, Catherine will present a visioning workshop, guiding participants through a design-based process to leverage AI and digital disruptions to make the most of opportunities for our students and communities.



Mary Coverdale

The Learner First

Mary Coverdale has been a lifelong leader in education who has loved working at all levels of the system in both Victoria and Queensland. She has been future focused and has immersed herself in what it means to educate the whole child in a high performing classroom. A focus on promoting health, positivity and powerful learning have driven her to seek the ways they combine to prepare all students for a good life; particularly with an ability to have strong self-esteem and an ability to contribute to their local and our global communities.

Her work with The Learner First grounds this works in a developmental frame and looks to create a values-based culture within a framework that promotes deep learning. As a teacher, a principal and then as a regional leader, Mary has led this work across schools and clusters and continues to inspire and motivate those she leads to embed this work, with passion, in their schools.

At our 2024 Conference, Mary will deliver a presentation called “Culture, Compassion and Contribution in Leadership Learning – where Vulnerability and Trust combine to build shared Connection”. Using the tools from The Learner First suite, Mary’s expertise lies in translating current and future student needs into practical application inside schools.



Adam Voigt

Principal and thought leader

Adam Voigt is first and foremost a skilled classroom practitioner and highly successful Principal. Earning his first Principalship at the age of 35, Adam has personally led full school turnarounds and also the design and establishment of a brand-new school as its inaugural Principal.

Adam's experience is peppered with lessons and case studies from a career spanning more than a quarter of a century. What Adam doesn't know about making the magic of learning happen in schools ... is possibly not worth knowing.

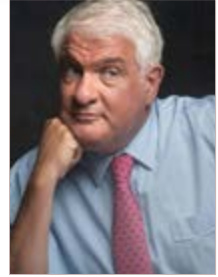
Adam is a real leader who walks the talk. His speaking offerings are filled with stories, messages, tools and hope developed from years of successful School Leadership as a Principal in some of Australia's most challenging locations. Adam is a leader & speaker who has genuinely 'been there and done that'.

Adam is now connecting with leaders and educators locally and internationally with bias for long-term Partnerships that sustain change. His determination to impact and empower all leaders with this message is endless and this shines through each and every presentation.

He has a passion for empowering as many dedicated leaders and educators as possible with the tools, skills and attitudes necessary to build meaningful, productive relationships wherever they are. And for these relationships to be leveraged for a new level of performance and leadership potential.

Adam is now taking his message about schools and leadership to a new level and also providing high quality interactive training for School Leaders and Teachers through Real Schools.

At our 2024 Conference Adam will speak genuinely as a "been there and done that" person who walks the talk as a former Principal in some of Australia's most challenging locations.



Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

Breakfast @ Epiphanies

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is one of Australia's highest profile psychologists, author, broadcaster and specialist in parenting, children, adolescents and mental health. Dr Carr-Gregg currently works in private practice in Melbourne and is the Commonwealth Government representative on the Board of the Australian Children's Television Foundation and is the Consultant Psychologist to Australian Boarding Schools Association.

In 2003 he was one of the founding members of the National Coalition Against Bullying. Dr Carr-Gregg is the author of 17 books on adolescents, mental health and wellbeing and is working on his 18th. He wrote his PhD at the University of NSW on adolescents with cancer and in 1985, and founded the world's first national teenage cancer patients support group, Canteen.

He subsequently moved to NZ where he became a political lobbyist for the New Zealand Cancer Society heading up the Coalition Against Tobacco Advertising and Promotion. Dr Carr-Gregg was the inaugural Director of the NZ Drug Foundation before being appointed Head of Education and Training at the Centre for Adolescent Health at The Royal Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne, where he developed and taught the Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare.

In 2015 he was appointed the Managing Director of the Young and Well Co-operative Research Centre. He developed an interest in the use of technology for building wellbeing in young people.

At our 2024 Conference, Michael will be co-presenting with Brigitte Johnson their presentation "Breakfast @ Epiphanies".



Brigitte Johnson

Breakfast @ Epiphanies

Brigitte Johnson is an experienced coach, consultant and mentor with a career spanning 26 years in executive management, executive coaching and consulting. She has led large teams and built people and systems capabilities and strategies for many well-known organisations.

Brigitte is an inspiring coach with a strategic focus, as well as an exceptional communicator. She is motivated by empowering and developing others. Brigitte has worked in many private sector and not-for-profit organisations across industries including telecommunications, automotive, aged care, technology, banking and finance, entertainment and publishing.

Brigitte is the Principal Coach and Owner of Momentum First; coaching leaders and teams to optimise their potential and team performance since 2003. Our clients span many industries and disciplines. Brigitte has facilitated coaching programs for senior executives in banking and finance, oil and gas, transport and aged care, and has also designed and delivered multiple coaching and leadership programs for emerging and senior leaders across a range of organisations targeted at unleashing leadership potential and developing leadership capabilities.

Brigitte created online group coaching program Momentum Platinum for executive and entrepreneurial women to master systems for success in their lives and businesses. Author of two best-selling books on personal effectiveness, 2006 and 2009, winning the U.S. Small Business Book awards in 2012. Brigitte is highly motivated to work with individuals and organisations to build their collective leadership and make a positive difference to society.

At our 2024 Conference, Brigitte will be co-presenting with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg their presentation “Breakfast @ Epiphanies”.



Dr Tahnee Bridson

Founder Hand-n-Hand
Peer Support Inc

Dr Tahnee Bridson is best known for her work to reduce stigma, improve help-seeking and promote mental wellbeing as the founder of Hand-n-Hand Peer Support Inc.

Tahnee experienced shame and stigma firsthand when she was diagnosed with anorexia nervosa as a university student. She rose through adversity and defied the odds by graduating top of her class. Her experiences were the inspiration behind Hand-n-Hand - so no one would ever need to go through this alone again.

Tahnee is a psychiatry doctor from a small country town in Far North Queensland. Whilst she initially thought of pursuing a career in dance and music, she had a desire to improve the wellbeing and lives of others that led her down the path of medicine. Growing up in the country was no easy feat. She faced a number of barriers both at home, school and university. Overcoming her own adversities has driven Tahnee to support others from similar backgrounds so they can reach their full potential.

Being a born and bred country girl, she is also an advocate for access to better healthcare in rural and remote areas of Australia. She is passionate about advancing the field of mental health through research and recently combined these two passions when offered a PhD position in Melbourne. More recently, Tahnee has advocated for the wellbeing needs of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic establishing a peer support network that provides free and confidential support to all healthcare workers across Australia and New Zealand.

Tahnee's work was recognized by her home state, and she was selected as the 2022 Queensland Young Australian of the Year.

At our 2024 Conference, Tahnee will present about her well-known work around reducing stigma, improving and help seeking mental wellbeing.



Daniel Murray

Empathy consultant

Daniel Murray blends the worlds of organisational strategy, behavioural economics, and strategic empathy with simplicity and practicality to help even the most analytical thinkers to engage in the world of empathic leadership.

With a degree in Mathematics, an MBA and a long career in strategy and management consulting within Australia's largest Financial Services organisations, Daniel now helps businesses and leaders to drive performance through people, culture and empathy. His company, Empathic Consulting, was born out of Daniel's desire to embed empathic leadership tools in business.

He has seen time and time again that businesses that largely ignore the unique emotional needs of people suffer disloyal customers, higher staff turnover and lower overall performance. Through his presentations, workshops, and consulting services, Daniel empowers leaders to leverage empathy as a capability to cultivate productive teamwork and experience tangible corporate success.

Daniel is renowned for his ability to entertain audiences with engaging stories, practical tools, and relevance that bring to life the often-hidden side of human behaviour.

At our 2024 Conference, Daniel will blend the worlds of organisational strategy, behavioural economics, and strategic empathy to support even the most analytical thinkers to engage in the world of empathic leadership.



Khin Khin Soe

Humanitarian Community Leader

Khin Khin, SOE (She/Her) lives in Gimuy-walubarra Yidinji (Cairns, QLD). An intergeneration Arakanese Australian from Myanmar (Burma), Migrated to Australia from Malaysia with Humanitarian Visa in 2014. Previously, she was studying Bachelor of Nursing, but due to her personal interested from experience helping community people she is currently is studying Bachelor of Social Work at James Cook University. She has graduated with Diploma of Business and Diploma of leadership in Management. She was a finalist for QLD Young Achiever Award for 2023, A QLD Youth Parliament, Multicultural Young Ambassador (MYAN) and Member of Multicultural Young Queensland (MYAN).

She works as a casual Teacher Aide at Trinity Bay State High School and Permanent part time at Cairns Little Seafood Market. She also has her own Driving School helping migrant people with learning to drive at an affordable price.

She volunteers most weekends including Cairns multi-cultural communities, Ironman and her own community advocating young people for version. As she is eager to help others and passionate of making change. Exploration, pursuit and motivation are her framework for success.

She has experience working within her own community a committee leader, youth, multicultural youth, adult and different generation in different variety sector. Helping others is extremely important to her, and regardless of their cultural, traditional, background, status, colour, races treating people with respect and acknowledging, is accords with my values and beliefs and provides me with satisfaction.



Dr Catherine Keenan

Journalist and Australian
of the Year Local Hero

Catherine Keenan, a former journalist and literary editor, underwent a transformative career shift in 2012 when she co-founded the Sydney Story Factory, dedicated to nurturing the creative potential of marginalized young Australians. In her role as executive director, Catherine's impact has been profound. Armed with a doctorate in English literature from Oxford University, she has not only raised vital funds but also forged essential partnerships and meticulously trained over 1,200 volunteers.

Her commitment extends beyond the program's walls; Catherine focuses on empowering individuals from Indigenous and non-English speaking backgrounds, ensuring that the Sydney Story Factory becomes an inclusive haven. Despite her academic background, Catherine's passion for language and literature goes beyond the confines of traditional education. Her efforts are instrumental in boosting self-esteem, fostering academic achievement, and influencing life choices for numerous young Australians.

Before her pivotal role at the Sydney Story Factory, Catherine was a respected journalist with The Sydney Morning Herald, specializing in arts writing and serving as a literary editor. In collaboration with Tim McGregor, she co-founded the Story Factory, where her role as executive director has been embraced with warmth and affection since its inception.

Her extraordinary contributions were nationally recognized in 2016 when she was honored as the Australian of the Year Local Hero. Catherine Keenan's journey is not just about education; it's about empowerment, inclusion, and the lasting impact of storytelling on the lives of the youth she touches.

At our 2024 Conference, Catherine will speak about her dedication to nurturing the creative potential of marginalized young Australians by sharing the story of her co-founding of the Sydney Story Factory.



Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM

Founder of Doctors with Disabilities

Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM was the first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland and the second person to graduate medical school with quadriplegia in Australia. Dinesh is a doctor, lawyer, disability advocate, and researcher. Halfway through medical school, he was involved in a motor vehicle accident that caused a cervical spinal cord injury. As a result of his injury and experiences, Dinesh has been an advocate for inclusion.

He is a founding member of Doctors with Disabilities Australia. Dinesh works in the emergency department at the Gold Coast University Hospital. He has completed an Advanced Clerkship in Radiology at the Harvard University and is a senior lecturer at the Griffith University and adjunct research fellow at the Menzies Health Institute of Queensland. He is a research fellow at the Jamieson Trauma Institute. Dinesh is a researcher in spinal cord injury. He is a doctor for the Gold Coast Titans physical disability rugby team. Dinesh is a senior advisor to the Disability Royal Commission. He is an ambassador to the Human Rights Commission's Include ability program.

He was a 2021 International Day of People with Disability ambassador. Dinesh was the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's Junior Doctor of the Year in 2018. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2019. He was the third Australian to be awarded a Henry Viscardi Achievement Award. He was the 2021 Griffith University Young Alumnus of the Year.

He is the author of *Stronger, how losing everything set me free*, published in 2022. Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM is the 2021 Queensland Australian of the Year. In 2023, Dinesh joined the advisory board of healthy life where he uses his experience and skills to provide expert health information and advocate for the health of Australians, and became a John Monash Scholar

At our 2024 Conference, Dinesh will engage us over Friday lunch and speak about his great accomplishments as the very first quadriplegic medical intern in Queensland and the second person to graduate medical school with quadriplegia in Australia.

QSPA 2024 CONFERENCE

EVENT IMPACT ESTIMATE



HILTON BRISBANE



EVENT DETAILS

A 4-day meeting occurring in
May 2024

400 participants



Room block for

365

room nights

3,530

lunch(es),
dinner(s) &
snack(s)



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The estimated impact of your meeting/event is:



ENERGY
USE

51,344

KWHs



WATER
USE

293,433

LITRES



WASTE
PRODUCED*

2,419

KILOGRAMS

*Waste produced only includes landfill general waste and food waste generated from meals. Any waste that is segregated for recycling or for processing at a waste-to-energy facility is not shown.

CARBON EMISSIONS FOR MEETING/EVENT

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

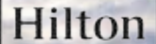
This event's CO₂ emissions are estimated as follows:

21.87 MT OF CO₂e

TOTAL MEETING/EVENT CARBON FOOTPRINT

CARBON EMISSIONS BREAKDOWN





TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE
MEASURED BY *Light* STAY

HLT BRISBANE

Hilton is focused on paving the way towards a net-zero future and remains committed to partnering with its customers to help minimize carbon footprints and redefine sustainable travel. During your next event, leave a positive impression on your guests - and on the planet. Learn more at esg.hilton.com.

HILTON PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE NUMBERS TO DATE*

2.1M+

volunteer hours
logged since 2017

44%

reduction in
carbon emissions
since 2008

2.3M+

bars of soap
donated in 2022

100%

hotels mapped
against environmental
and social risks

\$8M+

awarded in grants to
130 community-based
organizations since 2019

OUR HOTEL IS THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF:



International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

- ISO 9001 – Quality Management certification
- ISO 14001 – Environmental Management certification
- ISO 50001 – Energy Management certification
- Other
- Other
- Other



OUR ENVIRONMENTAL WE SET ANNUAL GOALS TO REDUCE OUR FOOTPRINT:

EFFORTS

Reduce energy use by 0.8% • Reduce water use by 3.6% • Reduce waste by 2.0%

The following sustainability features are in place at our hotel:



**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**

- Energy efficient lighting
- Energy efficient equipment
- Team Members trained on conserving energy



**WATER
CONSERVATION**

- Water efficient showerheads
- Low-flow faucets
- Water efficient landscaping
- Team Members trained on conserving water



**WASTE
REDUCTION**

- On-site recycling
- Food donation program
- Soap recycling program
- Plastic reduction initiatives
- Paper reduction initiatives

* Environmental performance across all hotels 2008-2022. Improvements in environmental measures during 2022 are partially attributable to the continued reduction in system-wide occupancy as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wednesday 22nd May

OPTIONAL PRE-PROGRAM CHOICES

- 7:30-8:00 Depart for optional bus tour bus departs **8am** sharp to Coorparoo State College
- 8:00-9:00 Pilates/Stretch class with Cooley Health Clinic by the Hilton Pool Level 8
- 8:30-10:00 School tour of Coorparoo Secondary College OR stay and enjoy a Masterclass with Chris Capra on School Resourcing Review
- 9:30-10:00 Travel back to Hilton from school tour

MAIN PROGRAM

- 10:00-10:45 Pastries on arrival – Registration
- 10:45-10:50 Welcome Conference Chairs Kirsten Ferdinands/Tony McCormack – *Grand Ballroom*
- 10:50-10:55 Introduction to our 2024 Charity – Connecting Communities
- 10:55-12:05 Keynote Steve Francis – *Grand Ballroom*
- 12:05-12:10 Gold Partner Presentation: *Compass – Grand Ballroom*
- 12:10-12:15 Gold Partner Presentation: *TAFE QLD – Grand Ballroom*
- 12:15-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:05 Gold Partner Presentation: *TUH – Grand Ballroom*
- 1:05-1:10 Gold Partner Presentation: *Bullyproof Australia – Grand Ballroom*
- 1:10-2:20 Keynote Kylie Lipscombe – *Grand Ballroom*
- 2:20-2:25 Gold Partner Presentation: *MDG Wealth – Grand Ballroom*
- 2:25-2:30 Gold Partner Presentation: *Advanced Life Photography – Grand Ballroom*
- 2:30-3:00 Afternoon Tea
- 3:00-3:40 Breakout Sessions (**Choose one**) including Gold Partner Presentation: *Daymap*
Julie Rowe – *Queen's Room*
Scott Millar – *Grand Ballroom*
Complex Matters team – *Room 81 Level 8*
- 3:50-4:35 Breakout Sessions (**Choose one**) including Gold Partner Presentation: *Atomi*
William Farmer – *Grand Ballroom*
Chantelle Kohn – *Queen's Ballroom*
Michael Dezuanni/Aleesha Rodriguez – *Room 81 Level 8*
- 5:00 *Welcome Reception level 8 Pool Deck*

Thursday 23rd May

7:30-8:00	Registration/Networking
8:30-8:45	Student Entertainment/Student Acknowledgement of Country – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:45-8:50	Welcome Kirsten Ferdinands/Tony McCormack Conference Chairs – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:50-9:00	QSPA President Mark Breckenridge – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:00-9:40	Conversation with a Panel of Senior Officers – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:40-9:50	Platinum Partner Presentation: <i>Readcloud</i> – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:50-10:15	Morning tea
10:15-10:25	Platinum Partner Presentation: <i>QUT</i> – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
10:25-11:35	<i>Keynote Tom Greenwell</i> – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
11:35-11:45	Platinum Partner Presentation: <i>Tynans</i> – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
11:50-12:35	Breakout Session (Choose one) including Gold Partner Presentation: <i>QLD Computers</i>
	Mel Neil – <i>Queen's Room</i>
	Catherine Ball – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
	Mary Coverdale – <i>Room 81 Level 8</i>
12:35-1:20	Lunch
1:20-1:30	Platinum Partner Presentation: <i>Enquiry Tracker</i> – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
1:30-2:40	Keynote Michael Carr Gregg & Brigitte Johnson – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
2:40-2:50	Platinum Partner Presentation: <i>Education Perfect</i> – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
2:50-3:15	Afternoon Tea
3:15-4:00	Breakout Session (Choose one)
	Catherine Ball – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
	Adam Voigt – <i>Queen's Ballroom</i>
	Connection time – take time to invest in connections with your teams, colleagues and our business partners

THURSDAY EVENING PROGRAM

7:00-11:00	QSPA 2024 Conference Dinner & Awards Presentation
	Master of Ceremonies Dave Faulkner
	Pre-dinner drinks from 7pm sponsored by QTU
	Music by Radio Club Band – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>

Friday 24th May

7:30-8:30	Registration/Networking
8:30-8:45	Student Entertainment and welcome to Country – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:45-9:10	The Hon. Di Farmer MP, Minister for Education, and Minister for Youth Justice – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:10-10:20	Keynote Tahnee Bridson – <i>Grand Ballroom</i>
10:20-10:30	Platinum Sponsor Presentation: <i>MSP Photography – Grand Ballroom</i>
10:30-11:00	Morning Tea
11:00-11:45	Breakout Session (Choose One) Daniel Murray – <i>Room 81 Level 8</i> Khin Khin Soe – <i>Queen's Ballroom</i> Connection time – take time to invest in connections with your teams, colleagues and our business partners
11:50-12:35	Breakout Session (Choose One) Catherine Keenan – <i>Room 81 Level 8</i> David Gillespie – <i>Queen's Ballroom</i> Connection time – take time to invest in connections with your teams, colleagues and our business partners
12:35-2:30	QSPA Leadership Bursary Lunch featuring Dr Dinesh Palipana <i>2024 Conference Close</i>

QSPA would like to acknowledge the valued support of our 2024 Business Partners.
Your support has enabled us to deliver a world class Conference program.

PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS

