Conference
program

ACER

Research
Conference
2025

Transforming learning systems

Enabling holistic growth for all students

You are **invited**

We are delighted to announce that Research Conference 2025 will be held in Melbourne at the RACV City Club on 6 & 7 February 2025.

Research Conference 2025 – Transforming learning systems, will bring together international experts discussing evidence-based, high-quality approaches to transform educational practice.

The focus of this year's conference is on enabling holistic growth for all students by building sustainable capacity within education systems. The conference will be centred on fostering a shared language, understanding and commitment to continuous improvement in practice.

Research Conference 2025 will provide an opportunity to discuss practical frameworks for the complex nature of system and school improvement. Join us to work towards our shared commitment of building an equitable, resilient and inclusive learning system.

Who attends

The Research Conference 2025 will bring together:

Educational leaders

Systems

Policy makers

Researchers

Educators

Program **overview**

The following themes will be explored in depth through the conference program via the keynotes, panels and breakout sessions:

SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION OVERALL

How systems fundamentally reshape and realign components at all levels of the learning ecosystem to achieve a common vision for students.

Topics:

- Policy and strategic direction setting
- Best practices in leading system transformation
- Effective approaches to stakeholder engagement to enable system transformation
- Considerations in resourcing and infrastructure

CURRICULUM, PEDAGOGY, AND ASSESSMENT

What, when and how students learn and how assessment is used to monitor and enhance learning progress.

Topics:

- Trends in curriculum reform
- Features of impactful curricula
- Balanced assessment systems
- Horizontal and vertical alignment between curriculum, pedagogy and assessment
- Approaches to curriculum, pedagogy and assessment that foster continuity of learning and opportunities over time
- Scalable innovations in curriculum, pedagogy and assessment

LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING

The critical work of school and system leaders and teachers in achieving the system's vision for student outcomes.

Topics:

- Leader and teacher preparation
- Leader and teacher capability building
- Alignment of leader and teacher preparation, capability building and professional growth system frameworks
- School evaluation and improvement
- Working conditions for leaders and teachers
- Impact of leadership and teaching practices on student outcomes
- Leader and teacher contributions to system transformation and innovation

STUDENT SUPPORT AND CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

Broader conditions within which teaching and learning takes place.

Topics:

- Equity and inclusion
- Impactful approaches to fostering positive student behaviour
- Integrated student support services
- Alignment with societal and parental aspirations
- School-community partnerships
- Alignment with broader system initiatives

For the latest program and speaker line up please visit **researchconference.com.au**

Day 1

The following program is provisional in nature and subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

0800	0900	Registration Open
0900	0910	**Welcome to country**
0910	0930	**Conference opening** Lisa Rodgers, *Australian Council for Educational Research*
0930	1030	**Enabling more holistic, growth-oriented, student-centred teaching and learning** Professor Geoff Masters AO, *World-Class Learning Systems*
1030	1100	Morning tea and networking break

1100	1200	**Politicians and education policy: New thinking for whole system transformation** Dr Sheridan Dudley *UNSW*	**Leading complex change across local schooling systems** Professor Toby Greany *University of Nottingham*	**Transforming learning systems: practice, partnerships and possibilities** Professor Pauline Taylor-Guy *Australian Council for Educational Research*

1200	1205	*- Move to main plenary -*
1205	1300	**Panel session: Leading education system transformation in smaller jurisdictions**
1300	1345	Lunch and networking break
1345	1445	**Unleashing Greatness – a strategy for school improvement** Professor David Hopkins, *University of Bolton*
1445	1450	*- Move to concurrent sessions -*

1450	1550	**Coherent and contextualised system-wide approaches to leadership capability building** Dr Kerry Elliott & Julie Murkins *Australian Council for Educational Research*	**Exploring ACER's tools: School improvement tool and teacher practice improvement tool** Dr Fabienne van der Kleij, Professor Pauline Taylor-Guy, & Christina Rogers *Australian Council for Educational Research*	**Engaging First Nations perspectives in developing the Preschool Outcomes Measure** Dr Jane Jarvis, Australian Council for Educational Research & Todd Nelson, Ninti One Limited

1550	1610	Afternoon tea and networking break
1610	1710	**Panel: Driving school-wide change in mathematics education: Harnessing evidence-based practices for informed leadership** Moderator: Dan Cloney, *Australian Council for Educational Research* Leonie Anstey, *Mathematical Association of Victoria* Dianne Liddell, *Mathematical Association of Victoria* Renee Ladner, *Mathematical Association of Victoria* Sarah Pinder, *Derrimut Primary School*
1710	1715	**Day 1 wrap up and close**
1715	1830	Networking function

Day 2

The following program is provisional in nature and subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Organising Committee.

0800	0900	Registration Open

0900	1000	**Transforming curriculum, pedagogy and assessment: why the goals of expansive education might just be achievable soon** Professor Bill Lucas, *University of Winchester*

1000	1045	Morning tea and poster showcase

1045	1145	**AI-Enhanced assessment: From theory to evidence-based practice** Professor Therese N. Hopfenbeck *University of Melbourne*	**Integration of essential skills into curriculum: Factors and frameworks for consideration** Dr Claire Scoular, Dr Michelle Lasen, Jonathan Heard & Dr Ian Teo *Australian Council for Educational Research*	**Securing digital equity in Australian education: How to tackle our learning divide** Professor Leslie Loble AM *University of Technology Sydney*

1145	1150	*– Move to main plenary –*

1150	1245	**Panel session: Digital and Artificial Intelligence in education** Panel host: Dr Fabienne van der Kleij, *Australian Council for Educational Research* Leslie Loble AM, *University of Technology Sydney* Tim Friedman, *Australian Council for Educational Research* Anna Dabrowski, *Australian Council for Educational Research* Professor Therese N. Hopfenbeck, *University of Melbourne*

1245	1330	Lunch and networking break

1330	1430	**Title TBC** Dr Tracey Burns, *National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)*

1430	1435	*– Move to concurrent sessions –*

1435	1535	**Enhancing student wellbeing and conditions for learning** Dr Katherine Dix & Julie Murkins *Australian Council for Educational Research*	**Supporting engagement and progress for all students, teachers, and leaders through a coordinated approach to inclusion** Dr Julie McMillan, Greta Rollo, Dr Jane Jarvis & Dr Kathryn Richardson *Australian Council for Educational Research*	**"We are left to fend for ourselves": Understanding new reasons why teachers walk away from the education profession** Dr Anna Dabrowski & Dr Michelle Hsien *Australian Council for Educational Research*

1535	1555	Afternoon tea and networking break
1555	1655	**Panel session: Roadmapping for the future**
1655	1700	**Closing remarks**

Keynote **speakers**

We welcome the following keynote speakers contributing to the 2025 Research Conference program:

Professor Emeritus **David Hopkins** has enjoyed a range of educational roles, among them he has been Chief Adviser to three Secretary of States on School Standards in the UK, Dean of Education at the University of Nottingham, consultant to the OECD and WHO, advisor to some 20 Ministries globally and a secondary school teacher, as well as an Outward Bound Instructor and International Mountain Guide.

David completed his school improvement trilogy with the publication of Exploding the Myths of School Reform; the previous books being School Improvement for Real (2001) and Every School a Great School (2007).

He was recently ranked as the 16th most influential educator in the world by the American based Global Gurus organization. His latest book Unleashing Greatness will be published in Spring 2024.

Bill Lucas is Chair of the Advisory Committee at the Global Institute of Creative Thinking and Professor of Learning and Director of the Centre for Real-World Learning (CRL) at the University of Winchester.

In 2017, Bill was appointed by the OECD as co-chair of the strategy group for the 2021 PISA Test of Creative Thinking. In 2018 he was invited to join the Durham Commission on Creativity in Education as an academic adviser and was subsequently co-author of its first report in 2019. He is also Chair of the Advisory Committee at The Tony Little Centre for Innovation and Research in Learning of Eton College, a member of the LEGO Foundation Advisory Board, and an adviser to Australia's Mitchell Institute.

Tracey Burns is Chief Research Officer at the National Center on Education and the Economy in Washington, DC. Previously she was Chief of Research for the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation at the OECD. She has additionally served as an Expert for UNESCO's Broadband and Future of Education Commissions and is a member of UNESCO Santiago's High Level Technical Council for their Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study.

Tracey's most recent publications include The evolution of evidence informed policy and practice: An international perspective (2023), What Schools for the Future? Leadership for Uncertainty (2022); Trends Shaping Education 2022; Back to the Future of Education: Four OECD Scenarios for Schooling (2020); Education in the Digital Age: Happy and Healthy Children (2020).

Geoff Masters AO is an international adviser on curriculum and assessment redesign. He was previously long-term head of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). He has conducted a number of reviews for governments, including a review of the NSW school curriculum. He led an international study of five high-performing jurisdictions for the US National Center on Education and the Economy (published as Building a World-Class Learning System) and is author of the National School Improvement Tool and Principal Performance Improvement Tool. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2014.

Poster **showcase**

The Research Conference 2025 Showcase provides an ideal platform for presenting research and effective practice in relation to our conference theme, Transforming learning systems: enabling holistic growth for all students.

Posters and multimedia presentations will be on display throughout the conference, giving Showcase presenters the opportunity to discuss their achievements, ideas and developments face-to-face.
Successful submissions will receive complimentary registration for the main conference (excludes travel and accommodation).

Submit a proposal

The Research Conference 2025 program committee will notify you of its decision within 2 weeks of receiving your submission.

All proposals must include the following information:

- Showcase title (maximum 15-words)
- Showcase presenter information: name, title, institution/organisation affiliation, and email address
- Display option: poster (either physical or digital version)
- Abstract: a summary of your research topic, question(s)/aim(s), methods, findings, and conclusions (maximum 350 words)
- Relevance: an outline of how your research topic addresses the selection criteria, and why conference delegates will find it interesting.

If accepted, your abstract will be published in the conference program and a digital copy of your presentation will be included in the Research Conference 2025 proceedings.

Email your submission document e.g. PDF or Word to researchconference@leveragemsolutions.com

Selection criteria

The Research Conference 2025 program committee will focus on the following criteria in reviewing submissions for inclusion in the Showcase:

- Relevance to the Research Conference 2025 theme

Connection to one of the following:

- Rethinking education systems, policies, or practices
- Effective approaches to stakeholder engagement to enable system transformation
- Examples of effective teacher and/ or leader capability building to
- Impact of leadership and teaching practices on student outcomes
- Innovations and/ or alignment in relation to assessment, pedagogy, and curriculum
- Equity and inclusion to enhance student learning outcomes
- Partnerships or system initiatives to enhance student learning outcomes

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