

Agenda

Welcome and Networking Drinks

Wednesday 16 October 2024

5:00-6:30 pm Venue: The Grace Darling Hotel, 114 Smith St, Collingwood VIC 3066

Summit delegates and presenters are invited to join us for a networking event to kick-off the Australian School Improvement Summit.

Australian School Improvement Summit

Thursday 17 October 2024

Venue: Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002

AGENDA

8:20 am Registration

9:00-9:15 am MC Welcome to the Australian School Improvement Summit
Welcome to Country delivered by Thane Garvey, Wurundjeri Man

THEME: System, school and classroom level practice change – implementation is everything

9:20-9:35 am Convenor's Welcome: Elena Douglas, CEO, Knowledge Society

What's at stake: What effective school improvement could mean for Australian society and economy

Education is the main driver of a nation's economic prosperity, innovation, social creativity and social cohesion. Strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and general knowledge are the fundamentals of a productive workforce, and the best lever we have to reduce disadvantage and improve both Australia's productivity and equity. We know there is a pattern to how high performing schools lift student outcomes, our task now is to find the ways to share and replicate this model nationwide.

9:40-10:20 am Keynote Speech:
 Increasing social mobility through improving educational outcomes: The English reform journey and implications for Australia

The Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb, former UK Minister of State (Minister for School Standards) at the Department of Education and Minister of State, School Standards (2014-2023)

As Minister for State for Schools and Education, Nick Gibb MP led a decade-long, highly successful, reform agenda to improve the performance of English education. The reforms have borne fruit. The Economist newspaper reported that England's schools have been "climbing up the league tables" as a result. In reading, a focus of reform, England has moved to third place in international rankings and in maths, "England's 15-year-olds have risen from 29th in the world in 2009 to 11th in 2022".

Mr Gibb will address one of his areas of sustained focus: improving the quality, rigour and content richness of the English school curriculum to deliver a fairer, more socially mobile society.

Response and thanks

Dr Edward Simons, Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Dr Edward Simons will respond to the Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb, with comments relevant to the Australian and Victorian educational context. Dr Simons will also outline the curriculum, system change and evidence-aligned teaching activity that is underway across the MACS system.

10:20-10:40 am

MORNING TEA BREAK

10:45-11:35 am Discussion Panel:
 The National School Reform Agreement: Is it enough to create the incentives to deliver the change we need?

Panel Chair: Tom Dusevic, Policy Editor, The Australian

Panel Members:

- **Dr David Howes**, Deputy Secretary, Schools and Regional Services, Department of Education, Victoria
 - **Dr Jennifer Buckingham**, Executive Director, Policy and Evidence, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Department of Education, New South Wales
 - **Ross Fox**, Director, Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn
- Strategy matters. Australia has several decades of non-evidence aligned practice to make up for, with no time to lose.

Agenda

The Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (The National Reform Agreement) signals the requirement for the States to ensure evidence-aligned practice in teaching, curriculum and reading instruction. Is this sufficient incentive? What levers do we have to get all of Australia's 9,500 schools improving? How important to the overall reform effort are quality, robust, curriculum resources for teachers? What can we learn from whole system reforms like Catalyst that are four years into their implementation in multiple schools.

11:40-12:30 pm **Headline Session:**
From disengagement to learning-focused: How to create calm and orderly classrooms in every room in your school

Dr Tim McDonald, Classroom Mastery and CEO, the Y WA and Lisa Holt, Principal, Rosebud Secondary College

Australia's leading classroom management expert, Dr Tim McDonald, with special guest, pioneering principal Lisa Holt, Rosebud Secondary College will present on how to create engaged, positive and productive classrooms where learning takes priority.

12:30-1:20 pm

LUNCH

THEME: Equity: Addressing disadvantage and students who fall behind

1:30-2:15 pm **Discussion Panel:**
Disadvantage in Australian education – the most powerful strategies to address this and how to implement them

Panel Chair and Opening Remarks:

Rebecca Urban, Senior Consultant, The Shape Agency

Panel Discussion:

- **Matt Wright**, Education Partner, Deloitte Access Economics Australia
- **Stephanie Exton**, CEO, Mornington Peninsula Foundation and Convenor, No Limits program
- **Stacey Rowe**, Program Lead, Fogarty EDvance program, Knowledge Society

2:20-3:10 pm **Discussion Panel:**
Back on track – Instruction that helps kids who have fallen behind to catch up and thrive in literacy and numeracy

Panel Chair and Opening Remarks:

Trisha Jha, Research Fellow (Education), Centre for Independent Studies

Panel Members:

- **Adam Inder**, Senior Researcher, Australian Education Research Organisation
- **Sarah Asome**, Principal at Bentleigh West Primary School, Victoria
- **Michael Roberts**, Managing Director, Mastery Schools Australia

3:10-3:25 pm

AFTERNOON TEA

3:30-4:00 pm **Headline Session:**
Harnessing the science of learning for school improvement

Dr Nathaniel Swain, School of Education, La Trobe University

Dr Swain will present findings from his book, a collection of case studies of schools that have successfully implemented the science of learning. This session, like Dr Swain's book: *Harnessing the Science of Learning*, will draw together the worlds of classroom practice, school leadership and cognitive science.

4:05-4:35 pm **Discussion Panel:**
The day's big themes and summation

Panel Members: Soon to be announced

4:40 pm

CLOSE OF DAY

End of Summit Drinks

Thursday 17 October 2024

4:50-6:15 pm At the close of day all Australian School Improvement Summit delegates and presenters are invited to stay on for networking drinks to continue the discussion.

Summit Dinner

Thursday 17 October 2024

6:30 pm The dinner will feature **Paul Kelly**, Editor-at-large, The Australian, 'in conversation' with **Ben Carroll**, Deputy Premier of Victoria and Minister for Education and **Nick Gibb**, former Minister of State. Each will speak about the education reform journey.