

 knowledge society

# Australian School Improvement Summit

Better student outcomes  
every classroom,  
every postcode

17 October 2024  
Catholic Leadership Centre  
**Melbourne**



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Knowledge Society partners with schools and systems to deliver world-class school improvement programs to transform learning and belonging in every classroom.

Knowledge Society and our partners are pleased to present the Australian School Improvement Summit. This one-day event brings together leaders from across the country who are making the science of learning and evidence-based practice real in Australia's school systems and classrooms.

### **The time is now**

A growing movement of education system leaders, policy-makers and teacher educators have built a consensus to realign classroom practice with the evidence. With the National School Reform Agreement embracing this change the challenge now is to develop the right models for implementation and scaling evidence-based practice nationwide.

The Summit will highlight what is required at the system and school level to achieve the Agreement's ambitions for the nation's students for high quality and equitable education for all. Successful school improvement comprises creating calm and orderly classrooms focused on learning, teacher-led, explicit teaching and the development of knowledge-rich curriculum resources for all subject areas. For primary schools a focus on all aspects of literacy development is paramount. Children need to be fluent readers in order to access knowledge within and beyond the classroom and evidence-based approaches to numeracy instruction are required to ensure Australian young people have the knowledge and skills to meet the demands of the knowledge economy.

### **Conference theme:**

**Better student outcomes, every classroom every postcode**

The school is the right focus for reform efforts. We have seen a bottom up movement of individual teachers embrace evidence-based change.

This is a welcomed development, however, whole school approaches led by systems and schools will have far greater impact in the nation's 9,500 schools.

The challenge now is for leaders of systems to create the conditions, scaffolds, tools and resources to support the nation's change agenda.

Australia's 300,000 plus teachers deserve a well designed approach to school improvement. Their leaders need clear guidance and effective support. This will be the best way to lift Australia's educational outcomes.

# Event highlights

## Topics and speakers

The Australian School Improvement Summit will provide an opportunity to hear from national and international leading education experts on a range of topics, including:



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). Mr Gibb will deliver a keynote on England's achievements in school reform and the improvements in outcomes achieved and the strategies employed.



**Dr David Howes** is Deputy Secretary of Schools and Regional Services in Victoria and the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the VCAA.



**Dr Edward Simons**, Executive Director of Education at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools and formerly Director of Strategy, Governance and Digital Technology, Catholic Education of WA.



**Elena Douglas**, CEO and Founder, Knowledge Society and Director Primary Focus.



**Ross Fox**, Executive Director Catholic Education Canberra Goulburn and formerly Executive Director National Commission for Catholics School.

## Other speakers include:



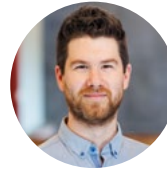
**Dr Jennifer Buckingham**, Executive Director, Policy and Evidence, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Department of Education, NSW.



**Dr Tim McDonald**, CEO The Y WA, co-developer of Classroom Mastery and adviser to Australian Education Research Organisation, and pioneering principal will speak on how to create positive and productive classrooms with Lisa Holt.



**Lisa Holt** Principal of Rosebud Secondary College, will speak on how to create positive and productive classrooms with Tim McDonald.



**Dr Nathaniel Swain**, Senior Lecturer of Learning Sciences at La Trobe University. Author of *Harnessing the Science of Learning*, Classroom Teacher and Founder at Think Forward Educators.



**Matt Wright**, Education Partner, Deloitte Access Economics Australia.



**Stephanie Exton**, CEO, Mornington Peninsula Foundation, No Limits program ending educational disadvantage.

## Summit Dinner Featuring, in conversation:



**Paul Kelly**  
Editor-at-large  
The Australian



**Ben Carroll**  
Deputy Premier of Victoria  
& Minister for Education



**Nick Gibb**  
Former Minister of State

# 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.



## Australian School Improvement Summit Dinner

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, followed by a summit dinner.

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 English Minister of State (Education and School Standards). Each will speak about the education reform journey. Mr Gibb whose time in office in England, while now concluded, has left a lasting legacy of strategies that make education there more equitable, knowledge-rich curriculum, teaching and school leadership. Mr Carroll, early in his time in the portfolio but already having signalled a decisive change in how his government approaches critical issues like reading, curriculum resourcing and evidence-based teaching and learning.



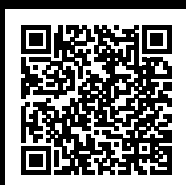
### Who should attend

System leaders, principals, school leadership teams and policy-makers. We are expecting 300 people to attend this event.

### Cost

**Summit** **\$895 +GST**

**Summit package** **\$990 + GST**  
(Summit ticket & dinner)



To register, or for more information,  
visit the conference website:  
[knowledgesociety.com.au](https://knowledgesociety.com.au)

[Register now](#)