



free to flourish

01
to
03
OCTOBER
2025

Australian Conference
on Lutheran Education

BRISBANE
MEANJIN



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

** Please note this is a draft program outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the organising committee. **

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2025		
TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
7.30am – 8.30am	Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee	Main Entrance
8.30am – 9.30am	Opening Welcome to Country	Great Hall
9.30am – 10.30am	Opening Worship	Great Hall
10.30am – 11:15am	Morning Tea Break Poster Session from 11.00am – 11.15am	Exhibition Hall
11.15am – 12.15pm	Keynote Session: Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson - Lutheranism: 5 Centuries, 5 Snapshots <i>Chair – Luke Schoff, St Andrews Lutheran College QLD</i>	Great Hall
12.15pm – 1.15pm	Keynote Session: Hugh van Cuylenburg, Resilience Project <i>Chair – Des Mitchell, Living Waters WA</i>	Great Hall
1.15pm – 2:15pm	Lunch Poster Session from 1.30pm – 2.15pm <i>Mercer Super Session: Women In Super – Lisa Hewitt from 1.30pm – 1.45pm</i>	Exhibition Hall
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Free to Flourish Launch Workshop 1	Great Hall
3.15pm – 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea	Exhibition Hall
3.45pm – 4.45pm	Free to Flourish Launch Workshop 2	Great Hall
5.15pm – 7.00pm	Welcome Reception - Networking and Refreshments	Exhibition Hall

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2025							
TIME	SESSION						LOCATION
6.00am – 7.00am	Walk My Way - Just One Hour, ALWS Staff-led						The Wheel of Brisbane
8.00am – 8.30am	Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee						Main Entrance
8.30am – 9.00am	Day 2 Worship						Great Hall
9.00am – 9.30am	Keynote Session: Dr Shyam Barr - Educate to Self-Regulate <i>Chair – Dominic Piacun, St Peters Lutheran College Springfield QLD</i>						Great Hall
9.30am – 9.45am	Movement/Brain Break						Great Hall
	Concurrent Sessions 1						
9.45am – 11.15am	Mezzanine M1	Mezzanine M2	Mezzanine M3	Mezzanine M4	Plaza P1	Plaza P2	Great Hall
	CHAIR – Daniel Weller	CHAIR – Bruce Knox	CHAIR – Rachael Vetter	CHAIR – Lisa Goldsworthy	CHAIR – Megan Danslow	CHAIR – Penny McKenzie	CHAIR – Thalia Wesselingh
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Leading Through Questions Tim Kotzur St Peters Lutheran College, QLD	WORKSHOP (45mins): Developing Parents as Pedagogical Partners in the Primary Years - Building Flourishing Communities Lisa Challenor St Peters Lutheran College, QLD	WORKSHOP (90mins): Resilience in Action: Evidence-Based Strategies for Lasting Wellbeing + 30-minute action planning Ryan McMurray The Resilience Project	WORKSHOP (90mins): The Catechism for Evangelism Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson	PRESENTATION (30mins): Chaplaincy & Faith: Here I Am to Worship; using Free to Flourish to Explore Who We are Called to Be in Christ David Folker St John's Lutheran School, QLD	PRESENTATION (30mins): Unity and Utju: A Tale of Two Communities Adam Yeager Unity College, SA	PRESENTATION (30mins): 10 Steps to a Safe, Efficient and Cost-Effective Bus Service John Mcdiarmid Trinity Lutheran College, QLD

	WORKSHOP (45mins): Nurturing Faith in Young People: What We're Learning from High School Students Ruth Powell NCLS Research, NSW	WORKSHOP (45mins): Primary Science: Choose Your Own Adventure. Creating space for student agency via purposeful collaboration through experiment design. Alysha Schneider Luther College, VIC			PRESENTATION (30mins): Stealing Past Watchful Dragons: Practices That Promote Student Flourishing in Australian Faith Based Schools Darren Iselin Christian Schools Australia, ACT	PRESENTATION (60mins): A Compassionate Approach to Regenerative Systems Change Mignon Weckert LENSW	PRESENTATION (30mins): Freedom to Flourish in Challenging Times: The Functional and Positive Value of Systemic Protocols for Inclusion, Participation, and Collaboration in the Management of Inequality and High and Complex (Support) Needs Students and Families in Education from ELC to Year 12. Bower Place, SA
					PRESENTATION (30mins): Doing social justice in Lutheran schools - what, why, how? Tom Brennen Cornerstone College, SA		PRESENTATION (30mins): Our Journey: Developing an Education Blueprint inspire by Free to Flourish Darren Altus & Renae McDonald, Good Shepherd, Angaston, SA
11.15am-11.45am	Morning Tea Poster Session from 11.30am – 11.45am						Exhibition Hall
	Concurrent Sessions 2						
11.45am – 1.15pm	Mezzanine M1	Mezzanine M2	Mezzanine M3	Mezzanine M4	Plaza P1	Plaza P2	Great Hall
	CHAIR – Kate Hofstee WORKSHOP (45mins): Rowing Together: How Metaphor-Driven Narratives Boost Coherence, Engagement and Commitment	Chair: Tayla Corrie WORKSHOP (45mins): Break the educational mould! Be adventurous, purposeful and relational by teaching	CHAIR – Eloise Beveridge WORKSHOP (90mins): Self-regulated learning (SRL): How to promote students' SRL in your classroom and school. Dr Shyam Barr	CHAIR – Joanne Wegener WORKSHOP (90mins): Supporting Students and Staff to Flourish Through Effective Classroom Management Cate Whiting	CHAIR – Fiona McAuliffe PRESENTATION (30mins): Free to Flourish: Compassion, Creation, and Learning - How can art, faith, and education intertwine	CHAIR – Shane Jurecky PRESENTATION (30mins): How to embed First Nations perspectives in schools with compassion and purpose.	CHAIR - Dr Sue Kupke PRESENTATION (30mins): Psychosocial Risks in the Education Sector Sean Redmond Aon Risk Services Australia Limited

	Susan Carter Prince of Peace, QLD	kids what they want to learn and still tick all the educational boxes David Moore Faith Lutheran College Redlands, QLD		Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)	to cultivate compassionate communities? Ruth Ellington St John's Lutheran Kingaroy, QLD	Simon McCormick Australians Together	
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Free to Flourish: Engaging Big Questions in Christianity through Socratic Discussion Julia Wright St Peters Lutheran College, QLD	WORKSHOP (45mins): AI & Cyber Security: Enabling Innovation, Managing Risk, and Building Trust Michael Hodson, LLL			PRESENTATION (30mins): Compassionate Communities: Prioritising Child Safety in Lutheran Schools Morgan Brookes Cornerstone College, SA	PRESENTATION (30 mins) In conversation: religious freedom for faith-based schools landscape Andrew Long ALC Board and Government Relations and Policy Advisor for the National Catholic Education Commission and Vanessa Cheng Executive Officer Australian Association of Christian Schools	PRESENTATION (30mins): Implementing a Compliance Shared Services Model in Lutheran Schools Kerryn Simpfendorfer Cornerstone College, SA and Tyna Newman Encounter Lutheran College SA
					PRESENTATION (30mins): Immersive Technologies for Adventurous and Compassionate Education Catherine Barnes Endeavour College, SA	PRESENTATION (30mins): Lutheran Identity in Lutheran Schools: Is it a Lost Cause? Tim Jarick St Peters Lutheran College, QLD	PRESENTATION (30mins): Blue Fingernails and Platform Shoes - Unlock the power of kindness to unleash a world of service. Jonathan Krause ALWS, SA
1.15pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Poster Session from 1.30pm – 2.00pm <i>Mercer Super Session: Ready for Retirement – Lisa Hewitt from 1.30pm – 1.45pm</i>						Exhibition Hall
	Concurrent Sessions 3						

2.00pm – 3.30pm	Mezzanine M1	Mezzanine M2	Mezzanine M3	Mezzanine M4	Plaza P1	Plaza P2	Great Hall
	CHAIR – Maryann Sword	CHAIR – Vanessa Noonan	CHAIR – Mandi Traacey	CHAIR – Kate Dugdale	CHAIR – Tom Brennan	CHAIR – Morgan Brookes	CHAIR – Kirsty Hansen
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Free to Flourish: A Whole-School Journey of Identity, Growth, and Community Jocelyn Bakker St John's Lutheran Primary School, QLD	WORKSHOP (90mins): How to lead when you don't know where you're going: leadership in a rapidly changing world Tod Bolsinger AE Sloan Leadership	WORKSHOP (90 mins): Looking After Yourself workshop & 21 day wellbeing journals Wellbeing Workshop Ryan McMurray Resilience Project	WORKSHOP (45mins): Gradual release: how explicit instruction builds the foundations for students to connect and apply their learning with increasing independence Dr Toni Delany-Crowe Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)	PRESENTATION (30mins): Thinking at the Forefront: Immanuel College's Cultures of Thinking Journey Martyn Anderson Immanuel College, SA	PRESENTATION (60mins): Nurturing the Next Generation by Leading Aboriginal Education for All Students Kylie Captain Dream Big Education Wellbeing & Consulting	PRESENTATION (30mins): Relationships within small teams: a coaching journey Michelle Thygesen St Peters Lutheran College Springfield, QLD
				WORKSHOP (45mins): Service-Learning in the History Classroom Carly Brooks Faith Lutheran College, Redlands, QLD	PRESENTATION (30mins): Free to Flourish in Worship: Sharing Lutheran Theology Through Song in Contemporary Lutheran Schools Andrea Blakely Faith Lutheran College Plainland, QLD		PRESENTATION (30mins): A Principals Story Matthew Qualischefski Good Shepherd Lutheran College, NT
	WORKSHOP (45mins): Cultivating Compassion: A Practical Approach to Service Learning Jodie Hoff Australian Lutheran World Service, LORDS, QLD and Celia Fielke Australian Lutheran World Service, SA				PRESENTATION (30mins): Stewardship in Action: Transforming the Built Environment to Foster Impactful Learning Karen Hill & Alan Peet St Peters Lutheran College, QLD		PRESENTATION (30mins): Fostering Student and Staff Agency Through the Free to Flourish Initiative at Living Faith OSHC Montahna Lanham-Underwood and Kym Garth

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025		
TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
6.00am – 7.00am	Prayer Session	Prayer Retreat Room
7.00am – 8.00am	Walk My Way - Just One Hour, ALWS Staff-led	The Wheel of Brisbane
8.00am - 8.30am	Prayer Session	Prayer Retreat Room
8.30am – 9.00am	Registration and Arrival Tea & Coffee	Main Entrance
9.00am – 9.50am	Keynote Session: Tod Bolsinger - Leading Through Sabotage: Building Resilience and Strength <i>Chair – Daniel Weller, Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School VIC</i>	Great Hall
9.50am – 10.00am	Movement/Brain Break	Great Hall
10.00am – 10.45am	<u>Christian Studies: The Next Chapter</u> The CS Writing Group includes: • Renee Wehner, Education Leader at Lutheran Education SA, NT, WA • Jodi Blackwell, Assistant Director - Identity and Formation at Lutheran Education QLD • Andrea Muller, Director of Innovative Global Education • David Spike, Pastor for Ministry and Formation at Lutheran Education Vic, NSW, Tas • Sue Kupke, Director of Formation at Lutheran Education Australia	Great Hall
10.45am – 11:15am	Morning Tea Break Poster Session from 11.00am – 11.15am	Exhibition Hall
11.15am – 11.45am	Keynote Session: Graham Catt - 10 things schools tell me – challenges and opportunities for independent schooling. <i>Chair – Dr Tsae Wong, Trinity Lutheran College QLD</i>	Great Hall
11.45am – 12.00pm	Conference Wrap Up - Suzanne Jessen, Lutheran Education Australia	Great Hall
12.00pm – 1.00pm	Closing Worship with Communion	Great Hall

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