



Diverse Learners Symposium

How do we create learning environments where every student is empowered to learn, belong and succeed?

Today's classrooms are more diverse than ever, with educators supporting students who bring a wide range of strengths, identities, experiences, abilities and learning needs. At the same time, schools are navigating increasing complexity around neurodiversity, gifted education, twice-exceptional learners, wellbeing, inclusion, engagement, disability support, and equitable access to learning.

The Diverse Learners Symposium brings together educators, school leaders, researchers, therapists and specialists to explore evidence-informed approaches that support learner success while building inclusive school cultures. The symposium focuses on practical strategies, innovative thinking and collaborative approaches that help educators create environments where all students can thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Focus Areas for Submissions

We welcome presentations that address one or more of the following themes:

1. Neurodiversity, Strengths and Learner Agency

An increasing understanding of neurodiversity is transforming the way schools support learners. This strand explores neuroaffirming approaches that recognise and build on student strengths while providing effective support for learning and participation. This strand also explores approaches that support gifted and twice-exceptional learners, recognising the complex intersection of high potential, advanced learning needs and neurodiversity.

Topics may include:

- ✚ ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyscalculia and other neurodivergent profiles
- ✚ Neuroaffirming classroom practice
- ✚ Student voice, self-advocacy and learner agency
- ✚ Executive functioning and self-regulation
- ✚ Personalised learning pathways and strengths-based approaches
- ✚ Gifted, high-potential and twice-exceptional learners
- ✚ Talent development, enrichment and extension programs
- ✚ Identifying and supporting hidden giftedness
- ✚ Inclusive use of technology and assistive tools

2. Wellbeing, Mental Health and Student Engagement

Schools continue to see increasing levels of anxiety, emotional distress and disengagement among children and young people. This strand explores practical approaches that support wellbeing while improving participation and learning outcomes. Topics may include:

- ✚ Anxiety, emotional regulation and wellbeing
- ✚ School refusal and re-engagement strategies
- ✚ Trauma-aware and relationship-based practices
- ✚ Building resilience and protective factors
- ✚ Social and emotional learning
- ✚ Collaboration with families, counsellors and allied health professionals

3. Inclusive Teaching and Learning

Inclusive education begins with effective classroom practice that enables all students to access, participate and succeed in learning. This strand focuses on evidence-based approaches that support diverse learners within everyday teaching. Topics may include:

- ✚ Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- ✚ Differentiation and curriculum access
- ✚ Inclusive assessment strategies
- ✚ Differentiation for gifted and advanced learners
- ✚ Supporting EAL/D learners
- ✚ Culturally responsive teaching
- ✚ Using AI and technology to enhance accessibility and inclusion

4. Behaviour, Belonging and Positive School Cultures

Student behaviour is often a reflection of unmet needs, experiences and learning challenges. This strand explores approaches that foster belonging, engagement and positive relationships throughout the school community.

Topics may include:

- ✚ Positive behaviour support
- ✚ Restorative practices
- ✚ Building safe and inclusive classrooms
- ✚ Supporting students with complex behavioural needs
- ✚ Emotional regulation and co-regulation
- ✚ Creating cultures of belonging and connection

5. Leading Inclusion Across the School

Creating truly inclusive schools requires leadership, collaboration and a shared commitment across the entire community. This strand explores the systems, structures and practices that enable sustainable inclusion.

Topics may include:

- ✚ Whole-school approaches to inclusion
- ✚ Multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)
- ✚ NCCD and reasonable adjustments
- ✚ Learning support models and collaborative practice
- ✚ Inclusion leadership and staff capability building
- ✚ Transition planning, pathways and post-school success

Why It Matters

Inclusion is not simply about supporting individual students—it is about creating learning environments that recognise, value and respond to learner diversity in all its forms. As schools continue to evolve, educators are seeking practical, evidence-informed approaches that improve outcomes while fostering belonging, participation and wellbeing.

The Diverse Learners Symposium provides a platform for sharing innovative practice, research and real-world experience that helps schools move beyond accommodation towards genuinely inclusive education. Whether you are a classroom teacher, school leader, therapist, researcher or specialist practitioner, we invite you to contribute your expertise and help shape the future of inclusive education.

But with opportunity comes responsibility. Submissions should offer:

- ✚ Hands-on, practical demonstrations, audience engagement or take-away resources that educators can adapt in their own context
- ✚ Practical insights or research-based strategies relevant to K-12 educators

Submissions will be accepted based on criteria, relevance to K-12 educators, providing a mix across the various strands and topics.