

Leadership & Strategy Theatre – MELBOURNE ONLY

What does leadership look like in an era of rapid change, increasing complexity and rising expectations?

The Leadership & Strategy Theatre Melbourne is designed for school leaders, system leaders and decision-makers seeking practical insight into the strategic challenges shaping education today.

This dedicated theatre explores the leadership, policy, workforce, culture and governance issues influencing schools, early learning settings and education systems. Presenters will share evidence-informed strategies, lessons learnt and future-focused approaches that help leaders build thriving organisations and deliver improved outcomes for students, staff and communities.

We encourage schools to include students as co-presenters where appropriate. Some of the most valuable leadership insights come directly from learners themselves. Presentations that demonstrate the impact of leadership decisions, school culture initiatives, wellbeing programs, learner agency or student-led innovation through authentic student voice are particularly welcomed.

Focus Areas for Submissions

Strategic Leadership and School Improvement

- ✚ Leading improvement and innovation
- ✚ School strategy and organisational performance
- ✚ Building high-performing teams
- ✚ Change management and transformation
- ✚ Evidence-informed leadership

Workforce, Recruitment and Retention

- ✚ Attracting and retaining talent
- ✚ Leadership succession and pipeline development
- ✚ Staff wellbeing and workforce sustainability
- ✚ Building professional growth cultures
- ✚ Supporting early career educators

Culture, Wellbeing and Belonging

- ✚ Creating positive school culture
- ✚ Psychological safety and trust
- ✚ Staff engagement and retention
- ✚ Student wellbeing leadership
- ✚ Building connected communities
- ✚ Student voice and co-design in school improvement
- ✚ Learner agency and shared leadership
- ✚ Student leadership for positive culture change

Governance, Risk and Policy

- ✚ Regulatory and compliance challenges
- ✚ Governance and accountability
- ✚ Cybersecurity and data protection
- ✚ Managing risk in complex educational environments
- ✚ Policy implementation and system reform

AI, Technology and Strategic Decision Making

- ✚ Leading AI implementation
- ✚ Digital transformation strategies
- ✚ Responsible use of emerging technologies
- ✚ Technology investment and procurement
- ✚ Preparing organisations for future disruption

Community, Partnerships and Reputation

- ✚ Family and community engagement
- ✚ Stakeholder communication
- ✚ Building strategic partnerships
- ✚ Brand, reputation and trust
- ✚ Leading beyond the school gate
- ✚ Student-led community engagement and partnerships
- ✚ Amplifying student voice beyond the school gate

Why It Matters

School leaders are navigating unprecedented complexity while balancing competing priorities, workforce challenges, community expectations and rapidly evolving technology.

The Leadership & Strategy Theatre provides a forum for meaningful conversations about what effective leadership looks like now, and what will be required in the future.

Whether you are a principal, deputy principal, middle leader, business manager, system leader, board member or aspiring leader, we invite you to share practical insights that help shape the future of educational leadership.

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 leaders, providing a mix across the various strands and topics.