

 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:



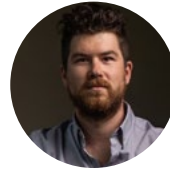
Dr Jennifer Buckingham, Executive Director, Policy and Evidence, Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, Department of Education, NSW.



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.



Agenda

Australian School Improvement Summit

Welcome and Networking Drinks

Wednesday 16 October 2024 at 5:00-6:30 pm

Summit delegates and presenters, Science of Learning Leadership Accelerator alumni and Science of Learning England Study Tour alumni 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

Registration

MC Welcome to the Australian School Improvement Summit

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Convenor's Welcome:

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

Elena Douglas, CEO, Knowledge Society

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.

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 for Schools

As Minister for State for Schools and Education, Nick Gibb MP led a more than decade-long, highly successful, reform agenda to improve the performance of English education. The reforms have borne fruit and, as the Economist newspaper reported, England's schools have been "climbing up the league tables" as a result. Reading instruction improvement, a reform focus, has seen England moving to third place in international rankings and in maths, the Economist reported: "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 curriculum in delivering 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.

MORNING TEA BREAK

Discussion Panel:

The National Reform Agreement: Is it enough to create the incentives to deliver the change we need?

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. 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?

(continued...)

Agenda

Australian School Improvement Summit

(...continued)

The purpose of the session is to engage with what needs to be put in place at system level for Australia's 9,500 schools to effectively implement practice change in every school. What are the best models to get all systems moving classroom practice in the direction that will support the best results for the nation's students? What can we learn from whole system reforms like Catalyst that are four years into their implementation in multiple schools?

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.

LUNCH

THEME: Equity: Addressing disadvantage and students who fall behind

Discussion Panel:

Disadvantage in Australian education – the most powerful strategies to address this and how to implement them

Opening Provocation – What are the most powerful levers we have to address disadvantage?

Sarah Asome, Principal at Bentleigh West Primary School, Victoria

Response and Panel Discussion:

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

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

Elena Douglas, CEO, Knowledge Society

Panel Members:

- **Michael Roberts**, Managing Director, Mastery Schools Australia
- Others soon to be announced

AFTERNOON TEA

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.

Discussion Panel:

The day's big themes and summation

Panel Members – TBC

CLOSE OF DAY

End of Conference Drinks

Thursday 17 October 2024

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

The Australian School Improvement Summit will conclude with a Dinner hosted by Knowledge Society.



Australian School Improvement Conference 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 conference dinner. Details to be confirmed.



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

Register now