



# engage & thrive 25

QASELcon

20 - 22 AUGUST 2025



# Welcome to QASELcon25!

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**On behalf of the organisers of this years QASELcon, we wish you a warm welcome!**

Over the next three days, we present to you a conference packed with information and inspiration. Featuring some truly influential and exciting keynote speakers, this year's program also includes panel discussions, workshops and time to connect and share your experiences. We're excited to share QASELcon25 with you!

## About QASEL

The Queensland Association of Special Education Leaders (QASEL) is the peak professional association for special education leaders across Queensland. QASEL members are Principals, Deputy Principals, Heads of Special Education Services, Heads of Department/Curriculum and other leaders and aspirants, who support students with disability, across all sectors of education in Queensland. Some members are based in special schools, many support students with disability and diverse learners in primary, secondary and early childhood settings.

Our vision | Successful Leaders – Successful Learners

Our commitment | To inspire leaders across the state to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for students with disability.

Our values | Leading: We advocate for equity and we influence for positive change.  
Linking: We collaborate with purpose and support each other's wellbeing.  
Learning: We learn together to build our individual and collective capability.



# Speakers

## Dr Adam Fraser

Dr Adam Fraser is a human performance researcher and consultant who studies how organisations adopt a high performance culture to thrive in this challenging and evolving business landscape.

Adam has a true passion for the research behind his work and has long held partnerships with various Universities throughout Asia Pacific. In fact, he is thought to be the only keynote speaker in the world to have had the impact of his keynote presentation measured in a University study (It improved the behaviour of attendees by 41%).

He has a PhD in Biomedical Science and is the author of four best selling books, including "The Third Space" and "Strive". He is the director of the e-lab, a research company that partners with different universities around the world to solve business challenges.

In the last 10 years he has delivered more than 1500 presentations to over half a million people Globally. Dr Adam has shared the stage with the Dalai Lama, Steve Wozniak (co-founder of Apple), and Sir Ken Robinson (the most watched Ted talk in history).

Adam has recently won several awards including the International Management Academy Award for Best Global Action Research Paper and the APAC Management Consulting Award for Most Influential Wellbeing and Performance Speaker.

## Jordan Nguyen

Dr Jordan Nguyen is a leading Australian engineer, inventor and innovator, committed to improving as many lives as possible, and becoming a driving force behind both human and technological evolution as we move into the future.

An internationally renowned engineer for humanity, Jordan designs life-changing technologies to transform the lives of people with disabilities and the elderly through his role as founder of Psykinetic, a social business committed to bringing positive, sustainable and life-altering change. He also shares his adventures through documentaries across the world. Inspired by human endeavour, Jordan has big ambitions to see our world step consciously and creatively into a better future.

Jordan is a passionate ambassador for STEAM education, adaptable mindsets and big-picture thinking, and holds a degree in Electrical Engineering, First-Class Honours, Diploma in Engineering Practice, and a PhD in Biomedical Engineering (Chancellors List) from the University of Technology Sydney. He has taught university engineering masters students and overseen PhDs in Artificial Intelligence design and Biomedical instrumentation and has supervised many more research students. He believes our young generations are the change-makers of tomorrow and has the potential to create solutions to the world's greatest challenges.



# Speakers

## Leanne Hughes

Leanne Hughes is a keynote speaker, facilitator, and author of The 2-Hour Workshop Blueprint. Named Asia Pacific Learning Professional of the Year, she helps leaders and teams ditch safe thinking, shift momentum fast, and deliver outcomes that stick. Known for pairing strategy with Tropical Courage, she sparks bold ideas and action. Leanne hosts First Time Facilitator and Leanne on Demand, her daily podcast for people ready to stop overthinking and start moving.



## Dr Pete Stebbins

Dr Pete Stebbins, PhD is a workplace psychologist, executive coach & author of the book: "Leading Flourishing Schools." Pete has many years of research and professional practice behind him working extensively in education and health. Pete is the director of the High Performance Schools Program working with a large number of schools to maximise staff and student outcomes.





Time	Plaza Terrace				
7:30am	Registration and networking				
8:30am	Shannon Ruska, Welcome to Country   Simone Coogan, Day 1 Welcome				
9:00am	Address & Conference Opening: Hon John-Paul Langbroek, Minister for Education and the Arts				
9:15am	BFX Furniture   Gold Sponsor Message				
9:20am	<b>Keynote: Dr Adam Fraser</b> The Silent Cost – Decoding the impact of Secondary Trauma				
10:45am	Morning tea & trade exhibition   Plaza Terrace Foyer				
	Plaza terrace	P1	P2	P3	P4
11:20am	Dr Adam Fraser <b>Vicarious Resilience - Creating a School Culture that not only Reduces Secondary Trauma but Simultaneously Drives Connection and High Performance</b>	Donna Arulogun <i>Department of Education</i> <b>Engaging diverse learners: building critical phonological skills for word reading</b>	Jessica Claassen Sarah Lockwood <i>Education Futures Institute</i> <b>Leading Learning: Instructional Leadership for Special Education Middle Leaders</b>	Samantha Hind <i>Wynnum State School</i> <b>Esports for Primary School Students with Diverse Behaviours and Needs</b>	Sheldon Boland <i>Caboolture Special School</i> <b>Learning and Moving: Activity Permissive Learning Environments</b>
12:15pm	Dr Adam Fraser <b>Vicarious Resilience - Creating a School Culture that not only Reduces Secondary Trauma but Simultaneously Drives Connection and High Performance</b>	Andrew Zakrzewski <i>Berry Street Education Model</i> <b>Trauma-Aware Strategies in Disability and Inclusive Education</b>	Carly Galvin Amanda Galloway Erin Alderson <i>Currumbin Community Special School</i> <b>Currumbin Community Special School's whole-school approach to Structured Literacy</b>	Joel McCarthy <i>Ormeau Woods SHS</i> <b>PLPs: How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love OneSchool</b>	Fiona Kidziak Michele Griffin <i>Lee Street State Special School</i> <b>From Vision to Action: Setting Professional Goals with Purpose</b>
1:00pm	Lunch & trade exhibition   Plaza Terrace Foyer				

Time	Plaza Terrace
1:45pm	<b>Queensland Teachers' Union</b>   Gold Sponsor Message
1:50pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
2:50pm	<b>Hayley Stevenson, Assistant Director-General   Student Support</b> Keynote Address
3:20pm	<b>President's address: Andrew Thompson</b> Roadmap to Engaging & Thriving
3:45pm	Day 1 Wrap-up and Day 2 Preview
4:00pm	<b>Welcome Reception</b> Sponsored by BFX

Time	Plaza Terrace				
7:30am	Registration and networking				
8:30am	<b>Simone Coogan</b> , Day 2 Welcome				
8:55am	<b>ASEPA President Address: Matt Johnson</b> A National Perspective				
9:30am	<b>Keynote: Jordan Nguyen</b>   ENTER THE FUTURE of Technology and Humanity				
10:45am	<b>Morning tea &amp; trade exhibition</b>   Plaza Terrace Foyer				
	Plaza terrace	P1	P2	P3	P4
11:20am	Jordan Nguyen  Exploring AI, whilst staying human	Kari Sutton  <b>Protective Factors to Beat Burnout</b>	Jeff Souter Statewide Services  <b>Assistive Technology to Support Engagement in Reading</b>	Kayla Hawkins Marnie Fader The Willows State School  <b>Collective Capability Building: the Next Phase</b>	Steve Dowlan Mudgeeraba State Special School  <b>Engaging and Empowering Parents in the Transition to Post-School</b>
12:15pm	Jordan Nguyen  Exploring AI, whilst staying human	Pete Stebbins  <b>Wellbeing: Preventing Educator Burnout</b>	Jeff Souter Statewide Services  <b>The latest on Generative AI for Inclusive Learning in Queensland State Schools</b>	Deborah Susan McIntyre Nicola Kelly Centenary State High School  <b>Reimagining Senior Pathways Planning for Students with a Disability</b>	Emma Reid Colette Andersen Ainsley Robbins Mt Ommaney Special School  <b>Non-Verbal Drama: Creativity and Connection in the Drama Session and Beyond</b>
1:00pm	<b>Lunch &amp; trade exhibition</b>   Plaza Terrace Foyer				

Time	Plaza Terrace
1:45pm	Sponsor Messages
1:50pm	<b>Vicki Caldwell (School Improvement Coach Education Futures Institute - Metro South Region)</b> Junction Park State School/Grand Avenue State School Insights into inclusive educational practices across school settings
2:55pm	<b>Keynote: Dr Pete Stebbins</b> Leading Sustainable Change in Schools
3:45pm	Day 2 Wrap-up and Day 3 Preview
4:00pm	Close of Day 2
6:00pm	Gala Dinner



Time	Plaza Terrace				
7:30am	Registration and networking				
8:30am	<b>Simone Coogan</b> , Day 3 Welcome				
8:55am	<b>Keynote: Natalia Russ</b> , Principal Education Officer – Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Beyond the Spreadsheet: Data Insights to Improve Individual Curriculum Plans				
9:25am	Sponsor messages				
9:30am	<b>Keynote: Leanne Hughes</b> The Dark Arts of Engagement				
10:45am	<b>Morning tea &amp; trade exhibition</b>   Plaza Terrace Foyer				
	Plaza terrace	P1	P2	P3	P4
11:20am	Leanne Hughes <b>Beyond the Dark Arts: Making Engagement Work for You and Your School</b>	Rebecca Rosenberg Sarah Bambagiotti <i>Special Education Curriculum Cluster (SECC)</i> <b>Leading Inclusive Engagement Through UDL</b>	Ric Day, Ray Hack Craig Mcgrath <i>Department of Education</i> <b>What to Look for in SORD: for Special Education Leaders in Primary and Secondary Schools</b>	Sharon Van Jaarsveldt Catriona Pine <i>Statewide Vision Impairment Services</i> <b>Functional Vision and Complex Communication Needs</b>	Phil Whatt Deb <i>Gympie Special School</i> <b>Start to Finish Challenges and Problem Solving to Embed the 'Interactive Behaviour Matrix'</b>
12:15pm	Leanne Hughes <b>The 2-Hour Workshop Blueprint</b>	Vanessa Lockett Natalia Russ <i>School and Student Support, Disability</i> <b>Writing Reasonable Adjustments: Are You Getting It Right on the Student Plan?</b>	Ric Day, Ray Hack Craig Mcgrath <i>Department of Education</i> <b>What to Look for in SORD: for Special Education Leaders in Special Schools</b>	Susan Monaghan <i>Brisbane School of Distance Education</i> <b>Leading Pedagogy and Facilitating Whole School Change</b>	Melissa McLaren Danae Fletcher Jo McCabe <i>Goodna Special School</i> <b>Multi-Tiered Systems of Support At Goodna Special School</b>
1:00pm	<b>Lunch &amp; trade exhibition</b>   Plaza Terrace Foyer				

Time	<u>Plaza Terrace</u>
1:45pm	<b>Sharon Schultz   Senior Principal, Capability Educational Capability</b> Address from Education Futures' Institute
2:15pm	<b>Address: Sharon Schimming</b> Director-General address and Conference close
2:35pm	Prize Draw & President's message
3:00pm	<b>Conference Close</b>

## Thank you to our sponsors

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BFX Furniture

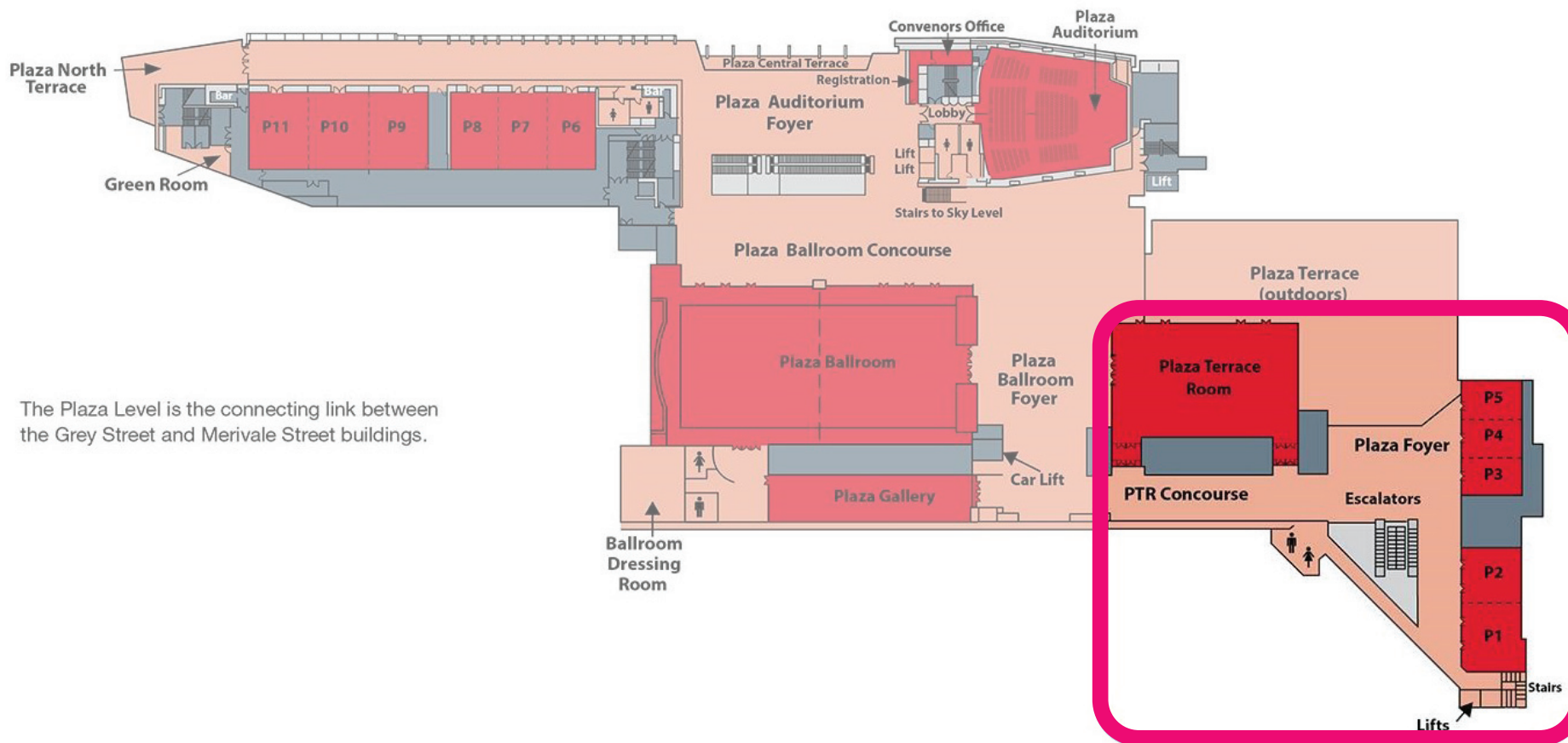


GOLD



SILVER

## Venue map





[qasel.org.au](http://qasel.org.au) | [events@qasel.org.au](mailto:events@qasel.org.au)