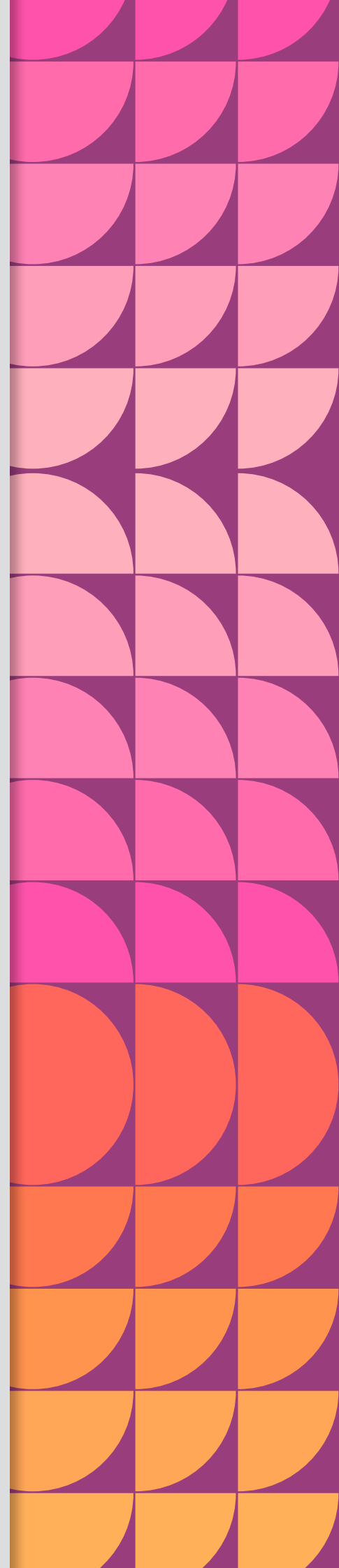




Australian Council for
Educational Leaders

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026





Australian Council for Educational Leaders

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To support, develop and strengthen educational leadership in current and future leaders across Australia and beyond

To influence educational thinking contributing to a vibrant professional learning community, founded on a shared commitment to improve the quality of learning for all

Strategic Pillars & Goals

09

LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

Leadership and Learning

- Identifying the professional learning needs of educators and educational leaders at their respective career stages
- Informing professional learning and resources by drawing upon seminal and contemporary research and engaging in ongoing evaluation of their effectiveness
- Advancing the knowledge and practice base of educational leadership via ACEL publications
- Connecting educators and educational leaders through professional learning opportunities across systems and locations nationally and internationally

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ENLIGHTENED DISCOURSE

Enlightened Discourse

- ACEL continuing its role as the premier educational leadership professional association that provides a platform for sharing educational leadership research and practice through publications, professional learning and conferences within and beyond Australia
- Initiating forums for members and non-members to engage in enlightened dialogue and exchange of ideas on educational leadership issues
- Strengthening relationships with Government and key agencies to build community and identity through purposeful engagement
- Stimulating thinking and action to positively influence policy and practice through strategic partnerships

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DYNAMIC NETWORKS

Dynamic Networks

- Focusing on member and non-member interests and needs
- Sharing contemporary quality practices in the profession through ACEL's two core publications, professional learning opportunities, and Awards
- Engaging members to collaborate, network and share best professional practices
- Inviting non-members to become members in the ongoing enhancement of professional practice and student learning

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RECOGNISE AND EMPOWER

Recognise and Empower

- Championing, encouraging and supporting excellence and diversity in education and educational leadership
- Recognising contributions and excellence in educational leadership with National Awards and Fellowships across states and territories
- Identifying new voices in educational leadership, educational research, and Indigenous education through scholarships

35

ORGANISATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Organisational Excellence

- Strengthening organisational governance, policies and processes
- Safeguarding the financial sustainability of the organisation
- Using innovative practices and up-to-date research to inform the development of future focused programs, resources and professional learning activities
- Seeking feedback from members and other stakeholders regarding the efficacy of programs, resources, and professional learning activities for continuous improvement

President's Message



Liz Foster
ACEL President

On behalf of the Board of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders, we present our 2026 Annual Report to members, branches, partners and all colleagues who are committed to the practice of educational leadership. ACEL is not simply an association, it is a place: a place of rigour in learning, dialogue, of advocacy and a place in which every educator belongs.

ACEL's membership is comprised of educators from every state and territory, spanning early childhood, primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions, professional associations and the organisations that support them. We are thankful for our members as you create a cross-sector community committed to turning transactional conversations into transformational change. Our two journals, the Australian Educational Leader and Leading & Managing, continue to amplify research and practitioner narratives from across the profession. Thank you to every contributor, member, branch executive and educator who made this year's conferences, colloquia, roundtables and publications possible.

Dr Barbara Watterston concluded her tenure as Chief Executive Officer after a period in which she strengthened ACEL's position as Australia's premier organisation for educational leaders, grew our New Voice Scholars and NextGen initiatives, and left ACEL a vibrant, collaborative community. On behalf of the Board and our members, we again thank Barbara for her extraordinary contribution and a seamless transition as we welcomed Lisa Newland, a long standing and deeply respected member of our education community, as our incoming Chief Executive Officer.

With Lisa's leadership, we have continued to shape the future together. As an organisation, ACEL is undertaking a renewal through consideration of purpose, our structures, our membership experience and our contribution to the profession. We are asking members the same questions we as leaders ask of our own schools and systems: What will we protect? What will we reconsider? The response from genuine member led conversations has seen the courage to explore new questions, engage diversity of perspectives and a gathering momentum of optimism evident in every interaction.

This renewal sits alongside our continuing partnership with AITSL on the Future Teacher Future Leader project, a national foresight initiative using horizon scanning and scenario planning to help our profession prepare for plausible futures rather than simply react to change as it arrives. A deliberate provocation for the profession to consider who holds agency over the future of Australian education and how today's decisions shape which of those futures becomes reality. ACEL is proud to be a significant contributor to this project with continuing dialogue enabled through our conference programs, toolkits and our branch professional learning during 2026 and beyond.

In partnership with the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) we convene for our National Conference in Perth. The theme, Bold Leadership has been evident across the year with the release of three toolkits: The Bold Leader Toolkit, Team Toolkit and Shaping the Future Together Toolkit. All combine self-assessment tools, evidence summaries and practical templates. Working alongside The University of Sydney has enabled an understanding of their Skills Horizon

Report, research with access to the latest thinking on the capabilities leaders will need next. A conference with our sights set on the future, it will again be a place where meaningful connections are forged and educational leaders seen for the positive impact they are making.

Advocacy and thought leadership have been demonstrated across each State and Territory through branch led initiatives. In contributing to the Civics Education and Social Cohesion Roundtable hosted by the Governor-General, our submission drew on the direct experience of members leading schools across Government, Catholic and Independent systems, that authentic civic capability cannot be learned through instruction alone, it requires experiences enabled through structures of genuine student decision making. An ongoing dialogue and evolving conversation on courage in leadership.

To lead in education is to ensure that what we learn does not stop with us, yet enriches the practice and the possibility of others. Our peer nominated awards have again enabled recognition at Branch and National Awards ceremonies. In listening to the citations across Australia, we can be immensely proud of the impact achieved and importantly, recognition within our own profession, from colleagues who have watched one another do extraordinary work.

Leadership is an act of trust extended and courage exercised. The future of our profession will not be determined solely by technology, policy or circumstance. It will be shaped by us, the conversations we promote, the members we serve, all people, in each, every school and system in this country. As a board, we will lead with courage, with a clear and unified direction: the elevation of our profession : **Be Seen. Be Heard. Connect.**



CEO's Message



Lisa Newland
ACEL Chief
Executive Officer

It is a privilege to present my first Annual Report as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders.

This year has been one of both transition and momentum. We have respected and built upon the strong foundations established over ACEL's long history, while beginning to shape the next chapter of an organisation that has an increasingly important role to play in Australian education.

At the heart of that next chapter is a simple belief: *the expertise required to shape the future of education already exists within our profession.*

Every day across Australia, educators are leading people, improving learning, navigating complexity, strengthening communities and changing lives. Much of this extraordinary work happens quietly, without fanfare and often without the recognition it deserves. One of ACEL's most important responsibilities is to change that — to recognise the expertise within our profession, amplify it and create opportunities for that expertise to influence others.

Our vision is to *Shape the Future of Education*, and our mission is to *Elevate the Profession*. For me, those two ideas are inseparable. We elevate the profession not simply by talking about education differently, but by making the extraordinary work of educators more visible, connecting people to one another and creating platforms through which professional knowledge can travel beyond the boundaries of a single classroom, school, system or sector.

This is the thinking behind our emerging strategic direction:

Be Seen. Be Heard. Connect.

Be Seen is about recognising and profiling the extraordinary leadership that already exists across Australian education. It is about giving emerging, established and experienced leaders opportunities to share their work, their ideas and their contribution.

Be Heard is about professional agency and voice. Our profession should not only be consulted about the future of education; educators should increasingly help shape it. ACEL has an important role to play in creating credible pathways through which practitioner expertise can contribute to the national conversations that influence policy, practice and the future of leadership.

And ***Connect*** reflects something ACEL has always done exceptionally well. We are genuinely cross-sector — bringing together leaders from government, Catholic and independent education; early childhood, schools, tertiary education, research, systems and organisations supporting the profession. There are few places where educational leaders can come together simply as a profession, united not by jurisdiction or institution but by a shared commitment to education. That is a powerful position for ACEL to hold.

During 2025–2026, we began building the structures that will bring this strategy to life.

One of the most exciting developments is the evolution of our state and territory branches towards a *portfolio-based leadership model*. This represents much more than structural change. It creates significantly more opportunities for members to participate, contribute and lead — locally and nationally. Rather than branches being primarily defined by events, we are creating an interconnected leadership ecosystem through which members can lead portfolios, build communities, contribute to national networks, convene conversations and amplify great work.

The principle is simple: ACEL should not merely ask educators for their views. We should create structures through which their expertise can have influence. Our role is increasingly to *curate experiences, convene voices and broker opportunities that allow our members to lead.*

We have also continued to build momentum through initiatives designed to provide value across every stage of the leadership journey. The refreshed **NextGen** experience is creating a more substantial national pathway for emerging leaders. Career Catalyst will broaden our support for leaders navigating their professional journey. Our leadership toolkits are translating important research into practical resources that can be used within schools and teams. Our partnerships are creating opportunities for educators to contribute to conversations beyond their immediate contexts. And our conferences, awards, publications and professional learning continue to provide important platforms through which great educational leadership can be recognised, challenged and shared.

Our professional learning programs have also continued to generate outstanding feedback from participants and clients across Australia. That feedback matters because it tells us our work is landing where it needs to — practical, relevant and responsive to the realities of educational leadership. Just as importantly, it gives us an opportunity to keep improving. Our bespoke programs are deliberately designed around the needs, context and aspirations of each school, system or organisation, and we are committed to continually evolving them, so they remain fit for purpose. That means listening closely, refining our approaches, incorporating contemporary research and evidence, and ensuring our programs both support and appropriately challenge the leaders and teams we work alongside. This ongoing cycle of design, delivery, reflection and improvement is central to how ACEL will continue to strengthen its professional learning offer and deepen its impact across the profession.

Our developing partnership with AITSL through *Future Teacher, Future Leader* is a particularly strong example of this new direction — deliberately creating opportunities for the experience and perspectives of educational leaders to contribute to thinking about the future of the profession.

Recognition also remains fundamental to our purpose. Our awards remind us that there is extraordinary leadership happening throughout Australian education every day. When one educator nominates another and says, what this person is doing matters, they do more than recognise an individual. They contribute to a different narrative about our profession — one grounded in expertise, contribution, innovation and impact.

That matters deeply.

Education is frequently discussed through the language of problems, deficits and reform. ACEL has an opportunity — and, I believe, a responsibility — to help reclaim that narrative. This does not mean avoiding the difficult issues facing our profession. It means ensuring those conversations also recognise the extraordinary knowledge, capability and commitment already present within it.

We want to ***elevate the profession through the work.***

When a teacher develops an approach that transforms learning, we should help others see it. When a leader finds a better way to build culture, support people or lead change, we should connect that knowledge with others. When practitioners identify an issue that deserves national attention, we should help create the platform through which their voice can be heard.

The possibility is significant. A great idea from one part of Australia can influence practice in another. Emerging leaders can learn alongside experienced leaders. Practitioners can connect with researchers. Sectors that may rarely interact can come together around shared problems of practice. And the collective expertise of our profession can increasingly contribute to shaping Australian education.

None of this requires ACEL to have all the answers. It requires us to create the conditions through which the profession can contribute its answers.

As we look forward, I feel an enormous sense of momentum. The foundations are being laid for a more visible, connected, member-driven and nationally influential ACEL — one that honours its history while being prepared to evolve for the future.

My aspiration is that ACEL becomes increasingly indispensable to educational leaders at every stage of their journey: a place where aspiring leaders begin to see themselves as part of the profession's leadership community; where established leaders continue to learn, connect and contribute; and where our most experienced leaders can share their wisdom, influence the profession and help create opportunities for those who follow.

ACEL should be somewhere leaders belong — and somewhere they contribute.

Because ultimately, the future of Australian education should not simply be shaped for educators. It must increasingly be shaped with educators and by educators.

As we move into our next strategic chapter, that is the invitation to our members and to the broader profession: bring your expertise, your experience, your ideas and your voice. Help us recognise great work. Help us connect people. Help us convene the conversations that matter. And where there is important work to be done, put your hand up to lead it.

Be Seen. Be Heard. Connect.

Together, we can elevate this extraordinary profession and ***Shape the Future of Education.***







Leadership and Learning

To inspire and develop educators and educational leaders regardless of where they are in their professional careers to lead learning outcomes for all.

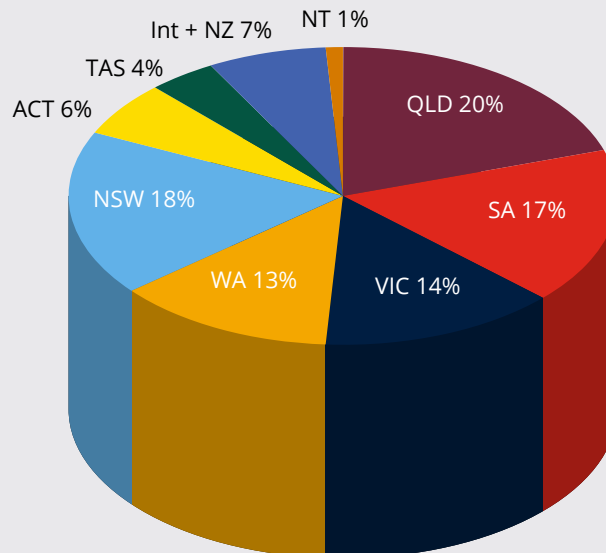
Leadership and Learning

As a professional body, ACEL's suite of professional learning programs are attended by educators across all levels and sectors, both nationally and internationally.

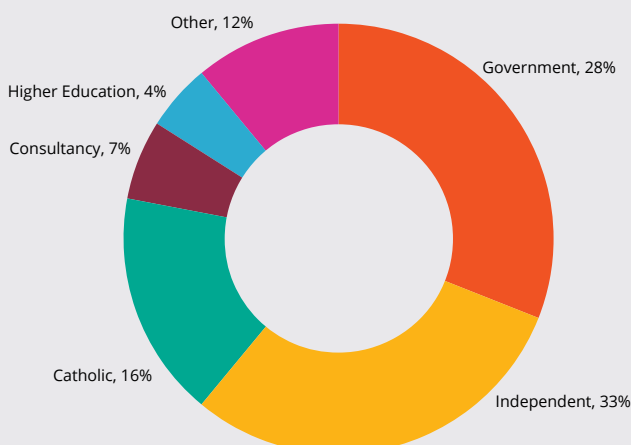
ACEL acknowledges the importance of supporting those who support and educate our young people, particularly at a time when educators are facing increasing pressures. Budget constraints, staff shortages and competing demands on time continue to impact the capacity of educators to participate in professional learning.

Despite these challenges, ACEL remains committed to providing relevant, accessible and high-quality professional learning opportunities that respond to the evolving needs of educators and educational leaders.

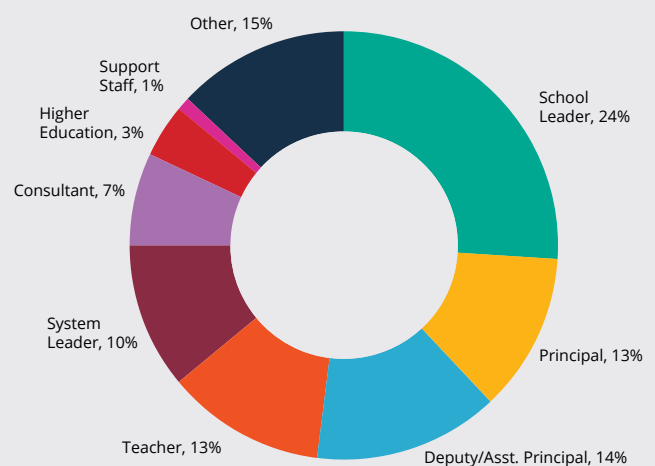
Registration by State



Registration by Sector



Registration by Role





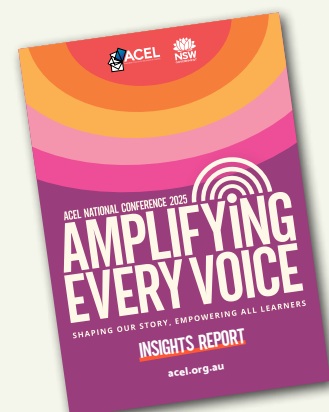
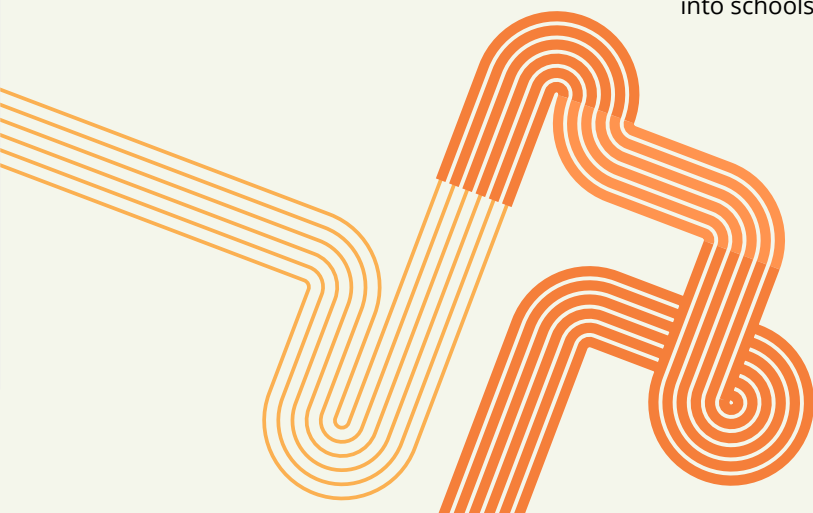
Conferences



The ACEL National Conference 2025 was proudly presented in collaboration with the NSW Department of Education, from 29 September to 1 October at the Hilton Sydney. The theme *Amplifying Every Voice – Shaping Our Story, Empowering All Learners* called for fresh thinking, deep conversation and bold action to ensure equity and to empower students, educators and communities to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

The Conference program featured 15 international and national thought leaders sharing their insights and lived experiences through keynote addresses and panel discussions.

We are proud to share the ACEL 2025 [insights report](#), a resource designed to extend the learning and inspiration from our conference into schools, systems, and communities.





The ACEL Inclusion and Disability Conference was held in Adelaide from 25-26 May, proudly presented in partnership with the Department for Education, South Australia.

Under the theme One Goal, Many Voices, the 2-day conference provided an opportunity for educators to pause, reflect, and learn alongside colleagues from across the country in a space designed for professional learning, honest conversation, and shared problem-solving.

The program placed a strong emphasis on practitioner voice and school-based experience. The conference included keynote presentations, panel discussions, provocations and interactive workshops designed to challenge participants' thinking while providing insights and strategies that could be applied within their own contexts.

Comments received:

“ The atmosphere was vibrant with genuine engagement and collaboration—everywhere I looked, attendees were connecting, exchanging experiences, and bringing energy to each break by discussing the sessions they'd just attended. It truly felt like people were reaching out, eager to learn from one another. ”

“ It was encouraging to hear the 'buzz' in the room and see that we may help in meeting the needs of schools – and ultimately students! ”

“ Truly a fantastic conference with great balance of opinions, as well as focus on system, classroom and school level. ”

ACEL INCLUSION & DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2026

**ONE GOAL
MANY VOICES**

ADELAIDE, MAY 25-26



Workshops & Webinars

Alongside ACCEL's national conferences and bespoke programs, ACCEL continued to provide accessible professional learning through online workshops, webinars and programs. These offerings enabled educators from across Australia to engage with practical, evidence-informed learning without the barriers of travel or extended time away from their workplaces.

During 2025–26, ACCEL delivered three public professional learning offerings: Ryan Dunn's ***Teachers Who Lead*** webinar series, Christopher Thomas' ***Teach Like a Champion*** webinar series, and the ***Middle Leaders Online*** program. Together, these opportunities supported teachers and leaders to strengthen practice, build leadership capability and connect their learning directly to their professional contexts.



Teachers Who Lead

Ryan Dunn

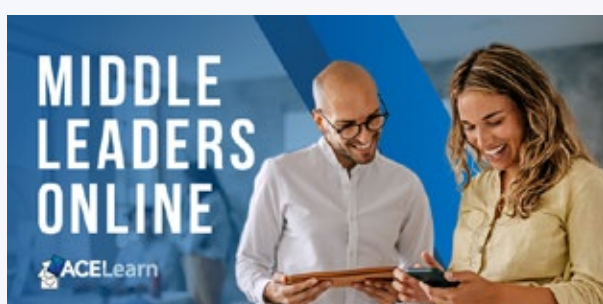
Webinar
March 26 – May 7, 2026



Teach Like a Champion

Christopher Thomas

Webinar
March 25 – May 14, 2026



Middle Leaders Online

Online Program
February 24 – July 28, 2026

ACELearn

ACEL's tailored programs continue to make a significant contribution to professional development of educators across Australia. During the year, 15 bespoke programs were delivered nationally, covering a range of topics including Women in Leadership, Middle Leadership and Straight Talking.

Coaching and assessments also form an integral part of ACELearn's leadership programs – 67 one-hour coaching sessions were delivered, supported by the administration of online assessments involving 479 raters.

ACEL remains committed to further developing and expanding its suite of tailored programs to respond to the evolving professional learning and leadership development needs of educators.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Middle Leaders Online
- Middle Leaders Program
- NextGen: Emerging Leaders
- Dynamic Leadership Teams

PARTNER PROGRAMS

- Teach Like a Champion
- Strengthen Your Leadership Influence

SKILLS STUDIO

- Straight Talking
- Building Thriving Teams
- Dynamic Teacher Rounds
- Dynamic Teacher Rounds: Train the Trainer
- Beginning and Early Career Teachers
- Instructional Leadership Coaching



[acelearn.org.au](https://www.acelearn.org.au)





ACEL Bookshop and Resources

The ACEL online bookshop features a curated selection of titles designed to support the needs of educators.

Sincere thanks to our valued partners – Amba Press, Booktopia, Ingrove Press, Taylor & Francis and Woodslane for their ongoing collaboration.



ACEL
**BOOK
SHOP**

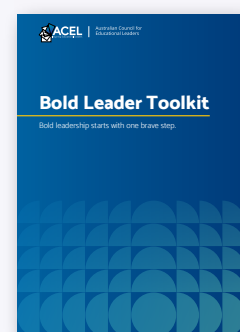


Toolkits: Exclusive Value, Strategic Reach

This year saw the development and delivery of free, practical toolkits — tangible, ready-to-use resources designed to give the community something genuinely valuable in return for their ongoing support of ACEL regardless of membership status. These toolkits translate research and best practice into accessible, actionable tools that the community can apply directly within their own schools and systems, reinforcing ACEL's commitment to ensuring we deliver real, everyday impact rather than abstract benefit.

Across 2026, toolkit content has been shared via social media, offering a genuine taste of the calibre and practicality of ACEL's member resources to a wider, non-member audience. This approach has served as a deliberate membership attraction strategy — allowing prospective members to experience first-hand the quality and relevance of what ACEL offers, while reinforcing to existing members that their membership continues to unlock exclusive, high-value content unavailable elsewhere.

Together, the following two strategies work in tandem: rewarding current members with thousands of meaningful, practical resources via the Leaders' Library, while using these free toolkits to demonstrate the tangible value of ACEL membership to those not yet part of the community — turning the toolkits into both a retention tool and a growth lever for the organisation.





Sponsored by
Government of South Australia
Department for Education

The ACEL National Inclusion and Disability Conference is proudly presented in
partnership with the South Australian Department for Education

ACEL INCLUSION & DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2026

ONE GOAL MANY VOICES

MANI VOICES

— ADELAIDE, MAY 25-26 —



Enlightened Discourse

To define and illuminate the professional voice and its contribution to Australia's educational leadership agenda in order to optimise its impact.

Forums/ Branch Activities

ACEL's state branches continue to be the linchpin connecting the education community across all sectors and levels through networking events, webinars and forums.

A total of 34 branch events were held across the nation, ranging from Breakfast with the Minister events and professional forums to book clubs and Hot Topic sessions.

These activities provide valuable opportunities for local education communities to connect, share challenges and problems of practice, and learn from one another.

ACT

Oct 16, 2025 Awards Evening 2025
May 29, 2026 Breakfast with the Minister 2026

NSW

Jul 30, 2025 Leading with Purpose:
Navigating AI in Education Discussion
Aug 29, 2025 Awards Evening 2025
Oct 30, 2025 Australian AI Framework: Discuss and Discover
May 1, 2026 Branch Coaching Conference

QLD

Jul 30, 2025 Pivotal People 2025 – Brisbane
Aug 6, 2025 Early Career Teacher Networking Dinner 2025
Oct 21, 2025 Awards Evening 2025
Feb 11, 2026 Pivotal People 2026 – Gold Coast
Mar 20, 2026 Aspiring & Early Career Teacher Breakfast
May 13, 2026 Pivotal People 2026 – Gold Coast
Jun 3, 2026 Pivotal People 2026 – Brisbane

SA

Aug 28, 2025 Hot Topic: Empowering Equity and Excellence
in Education
Nov 18, 2025 Hot Topic: Breakfast with Dr Tom Porta
Mar 12, 2026 Book Launch Event
Mar 13, 2026 Breakfast with Dr Shyam Barr
Jun 16, 2026 Awards Evening 2026

TAS

Nov 4, 2025 Breakfast with the Minister 2025
Jun 29, 2026 Hot Topic: Student Voice, Engagement and
Creating Partnerships with Students

VIC

Aug 7, 2025 Awards Evening 2025
Feb 16, 2026 Leading with Evidence in Schools:
Bridging Research, Data, and Practice for
Continuous Improvement

WA

Jul 17, 2025 Educational Leadership Book Club
Sep 10, 2025 Hot Topic: Beyond the Hype: Real
Conversations on AI in Schools
Oct 9, 2025 Educational Leadership Book Club
Nov 6, 2025 Leading Innovation in Education Network 4
Nov 12, 2025 Awards Evening 2025
Jan 22, 2026 Educational Leadership Book Club
Feb 25, 2026 Breakfast with the Minister 2026
Mar 26, 2026 Leading Innovation in Education Network 1
Apr 16, 2026 Educational Leadership Book Club
May 1, 2026 Leading Early Years Workshop
May 14, 2026 Leading Innovation in Education Network 2
Jun 10, 2026 Hot Topic: Leading in a Climate of Change



Journals and Publications

ACEL's publications play an important role in connecting research, practice and professional voice across Australian education. Through Australian Educational Leader, Leading & Managing, New Voice Perspectives and the ACEL Monograph, ACEL provides platforms for established and emerging leaders, researchers and practitioners to share knowledge, examine contemporary issues and contribute to educational leadership discourse.

Together, these publications reflect ACEL's commitment to making high-quality research and practice accessible, amplifying diverse perspectives and creating opportunities for professional knowledge to travel across schools, systems, sectors and contexts.

Leading & Managing (L&M) is ACEL's peer-reviewed journal dedicated to advancing research and scholarship in educational leadership and management. Published in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), the journal provides an international platform for Australian and global scholarship and continues to attract contributions examining contemporary leadership challenges, research and practice.

The partnership has strengthened the journal's international reach and provides an important avenue through which ACEL contributes to scholarly discourse in educational leadership.

New Voice Perspectives celebrates and amplifies the thinking of ACEL's New Voice Scholars, providing emerging educational leaders and researchers with an opportunity to contribute to important conversations across the profession. The publication reflects ACEL's commitment to ensuring new and diverse voices are seen, heard and connected within Australia's educational leadership community.



Journals and Publications

Australian Educational Leader (AEL) is ACEL's practitioner-focused publication, bringing together the perspectives of educational leaders, researchers and practitioners from across Australia and internationally. Published digitally, AEL provides a platform for contemporary research, leadership thinking, professional reflection and stories of practice from across the education sector.

Across 2025–26, four editions explored significant issues shaping educational leadership and the profession:

Amplifying Every Voice: Shaping Our Story, Empowering All Learners

Exploring leadership, inclusion and the importance of ensuring diverse voices contribute to shaping education.

Purpose and Meaning of Schools and the Role of Leadership

Examining the purpose of schooling and the role leaders play in creating meaningful, future-focused educational communities.

Learning Together and Learning in Communities

Exploring professional learning, collaboration and the power of communities in strengthening practice.

Sustainability of the Profession

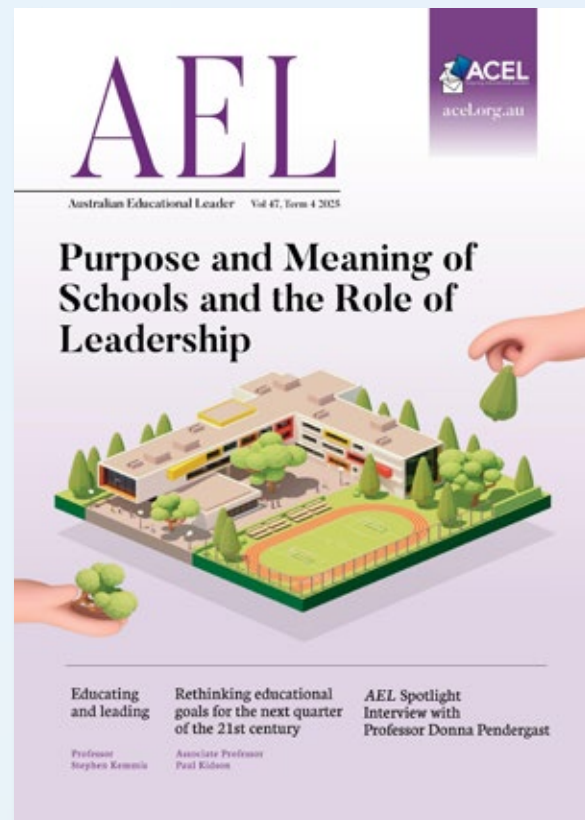
Considering the conditions, leadership and collective action required to sustain and strengthen the education profession.

Across each edition, AEL continued to showcase both established expertise and practitioner experience, creating an important bridge between research, leadership thinking and the realities of educational practice. I would like to recognise the expertise and dedication of Dr Lisa C. Ehrich and Dr Megan Kimber and the Editorial Board for their contribution.

AEL

Australian Educational Leader









Dynamic Networks

To create and enable strong connections and networks for educators and educational leaders to collaborate across sectors and geographies.



Membership

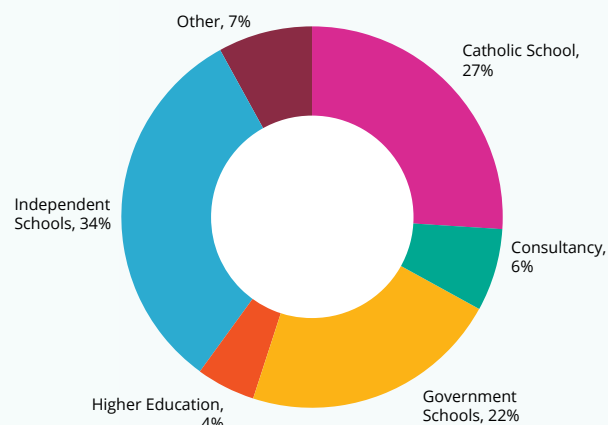
Our membership represents individuals and organisations from across the education sector, supporting educators at every stage of their professional journey.

In an increasingly challenging time where professional membership is optional, ACEL recognises the importance of providing services, resources and opportunities that respond to the changing needs of our members.

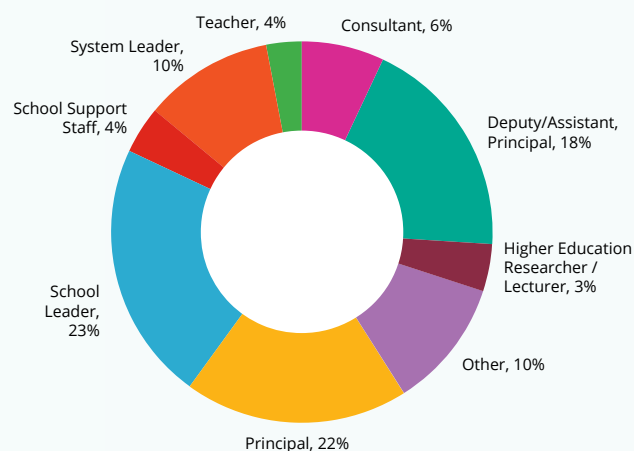
ACEL members benefit from:

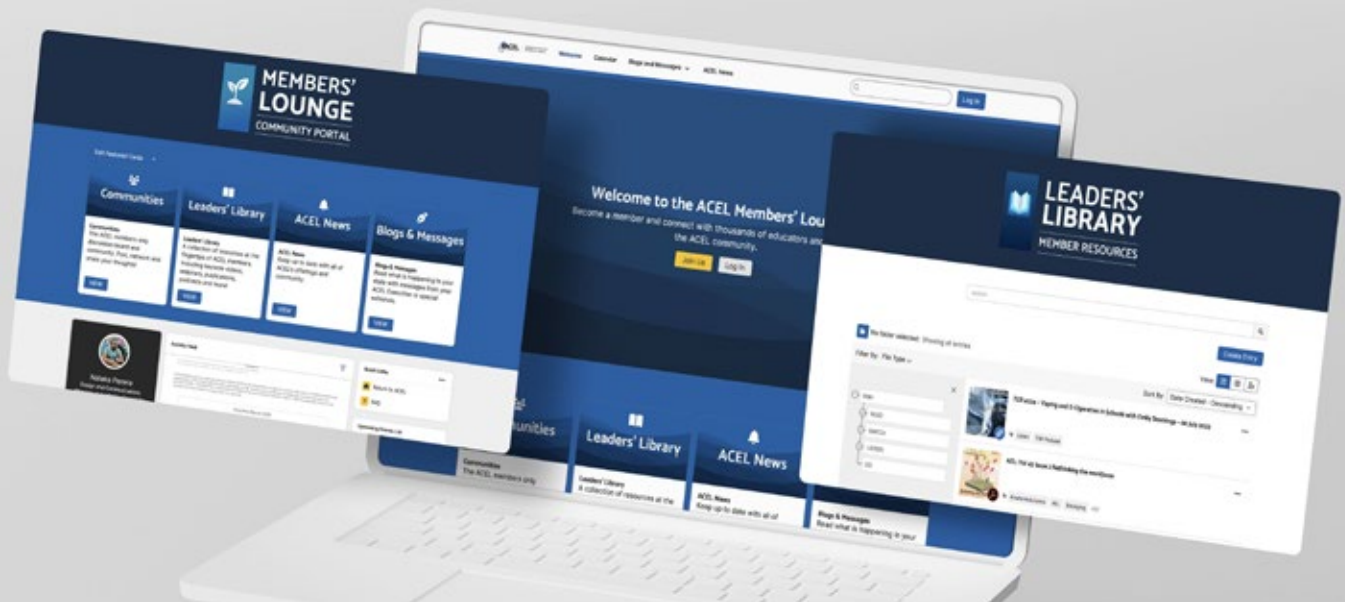
- **Access** to the **ACEL members' lounge**, our online community portal where our members can participate in discussion forums, share blogs and resources.
- **Free access** to ACEL's extensive online library, featuring a wealth of written and video content from leading Australian and international educational leaders.
- **Discounts** on ACEL professional learning opportunities including conferences, workshops and webinars, as well as access to member pricing on resources and Book Shop purchases.
- **Access to research and practitioner insights** through our Australian Educational Leader and Leading & Managing journals, delivered directly to members' inboxes.
- **A sense of belonging** through diverse connections, communities and professional networks across ACEL's state and territory branches and National Office.
- **A cross-sector professional community** that brings together executive, established, middle and emerging leaders, from schools, systems, early learning settings and higher education, both nationally and internationally.

Sector



Role





Community Engagement

This year marked the evolution of this role, with the Online Community Manager position expanding into the newly established Coaching and Community Engagement Manager role — a shift reflecting ACEL's broader commitment to deepening member connection, driving leadership development, and strengthening its community presence across both digital and in-person channels. Central to this role was the delivery of a substantial coaching program, with 76 online Leadership 360 assessments managed end-to-end and paired with individual coaching sessions to help members translate their results (and ACEL program content) into genuine professional growth.

The role was also responsible for operationalising the reimagined **2026 NextGen Program** and introducing a new framework that positions meaningful contribution to the ACEL community as a core expectation of the **New Voice Scholar** experience (such as contributions to AEL, engagement with State Branches, participation in Community Discussions, and delivery of free member webinars through 2027). This initiative is intended to drive a culture of reciprocity among emerging leaders, ensuring the next generation of ACEL scholars actively shapes, and gives back to, the broader community.

Alongside this, the role strengthened ACEL's commercial and digital footprint through managing relationships with advertisers, producing high-impact social media assets, and reviving ACEL's presence on Instagram after a period of dormancy.

Beyond these achievements, the role has continued to enrich the member experience through the ongoing curation of monthly, thematic "**Bite-sized**" collections that showcase the depth of ACEL's Leaders' Library, the development of additional resources supporting ACEL's programs and membership base, and sustained engagement with members via the Community Discussion page. The role has also laid important groundwork with ACEL's Institutional Members, initiating direct outreach to explore how ACEL's resources, webinars, and professional learning offerings can be more closely aligned with individual schools' staff development needs and strategic priorities — a relationship-based approach that will be a key area of focus and expansion in the year ahead.





Partnerships

Partnerships are integral to ACEL's role as a national, cross-sector professional association. During 2025–2026 we strengthened relationships with organisations that share our commitment to educational leadership, professional learning and shaping the future of the profession.

A significant development was ACEL's collaboration with **AITSL and Learning Creates** through the Future Teacher, Future Leader national foresight project. The initiative is exploring the knowledge, skills and capabilities teachers and school leaders may require towards 2040. ACEL's involvement provides an important mechanism for the lived experience and expertise of educational leaders to inform this national work, while Learning Creates ensures the perspectives of students and young people are also meaningfully represented.

ACEL also continued its work with **Headspace, APPA** and **ASPA** to progress a national model of Professional Reflective Supervision for school leaders. Together, the partners developed a proposal for a sustainable national capability focused on supporting the wellbeing and sustainability of educational leaders.

Relationships with principals' associations and other education bodies across states and territories continue to extend ACEL's reach and strengthen our understanding of different leadership contexts. This includes our strong connection with the Tasmanian Principals Association as we further develop our Regional, Rural and Remote strategy.

We also acknowledge our valued government partners. The 2025 National Conference was presented in collaboration with the **NSW Department of Education**, while the National Inclusion and Disability Conference was delivered in partnership with the **South Australian Department for Education**.

These partnerships reflect an important evolution in ACEL's role — from bringing educational leaders together to also ensuring their expertise, experience and voice contribute to the conversations shaping Australian education.



Communication and Social Media

This year saw a sustained and strategic presence across ACEL's social media channels, showcasing the full breadth of ACEL's programs, events and community. Coverage extended across two major conferences — the NIDC Conference and the National Conference — with each supported by targeted calls to attend, followed by progressive profiling of speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and the program to build momentum and engagement in the lead-up to each event. State Branch activity was also woven into this broader promotion, amplifying local events and initiatives alongside ACEL's national presence.

Social media became a platform for celebrating ACEL's emerging leaders, with dedicated profile content showcasing every NextGen participant and New Voice Scholar, giving these rising voices visibility across the ACEL community and reinforcing ACEL's commitment to recognising and elevating talent at every career stage. This was complemented by the sharing of ideas and resources created by ACEL members themselves, ongoing promotion of ACEL Bookshop titles, and the broader dissemination of curated resources — all contributing to deepened connections with schools across the nation and education thought leaders across the globe.

A deliberate platform strategy underpinned this work: LinkedIn content remained professional and academic in tone, reflecting ACEL's standing among senior education leaders and researchers, while Instagram content adopted a more casual, accessible voice as part of a considered effort to engage a younger, emerging membership base.

Direct communications via our subscriber and member newsletters continue to be delivered on a weekly basis, keeping the reputation of a curated resource and information hub for ACEL's marketing.

Underpinning all of this activity was a consistent, unifying message: that ACEL membership unlocks far more than any single benefit — it opens the door to an entire ecosystem of professional learning, connection and opportunity. Through this cohesive, platform-aware content strategy, social media has become a genuine extension of ACEL's value proposition, translating the breadth of membership benefits into tangible, everyday visibility for current and prospective members alike.







Recognise and Empower

To recognise and celebrate diversity, equity and inclusion in education and educational leadership and to empower the next generation of educational leaders.



ACEL Awards

The Australian Council for Educational Leaders

40th ANNUAL NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

As Australia's key peak professional organisation for educational leaders, the Australian Council for Educational Leaders has a strong reputation for recognising, developing and celebrating excellence in educational leadership.

ACEL National Awards are presented to those individuals or teams who have made a significant educational contribution and influenced education at a national level in Australia and beyond. All awards are proudly peer nominated. Overwhelmingly, the education community holds ACEL awards and New Voice Scholars in high esteem.

The 2025 ACEL National Awards were announced via the ACEL Newsletter and recipients received their recognition at the ACEL National Conference in Sydney.

ACEL Gold Medal

Emeritus Professor Helen Cahill,

ACEL Hedley Beare Award for Educational Writing

Norm Hunter

ACEL Fellowships

Summer Howarth
Derek Scott

Dr Mathilda Joubert
Andrew Wrigley

ACEL Leadership Award

Dr Stephanie MacMahon
Dr Caitlin Munday
The University of Melbourne's Melbourne Metrics and 41
Australian/New Zealand Partner Schools

ACEL Keith Tronc Award

Chiara Monopoli
Matthew Paton

ACEL Nganakarrawa Award

Colin Dobson

ACEL Presidential Citation

Dr Lyn Sharratt

ACEL New Voice Scholarships



The New Voice Scholarships are part of ACEL's significant commitment to recognise the emerging voices in educational leadership. New Voice Scholarships recognise forward thinking, contextually relevant and responsive educational leaders whose work has had an impact above and beyond their immediate context.

Each scholarship aims to welcome recipients into the ACEL network and support their journey by sharing their voices with the education community. The 2025 ACEL New Voice Scholars were also announced via the ACEL Newsletter and recipients received their recognition at the ACEL National Conference in Sydney.

The New Voice in School Leadership Scholarship

Emma Clemmens
Siobhan Jones
Obayda Kannouj
Suren Mendis
Andrew Pennay
Matt Pitman
Nadia Walker

The New Voice in Educational Leadership Research

Dr Tom Porta

The New Indigenous Voice in Educational Leadership Scholarship

Makayla King

The New Voice in Early Childhood Education Research

Michelle Heath

ACEL NextGen

NextGen has been reimagined as a more purposeful and sustained national leadership experience for Australia's emerging education leaders. Rather than a one-off recognition opportunity, the refreshed program creates a year-long pathway that brings together a select cohort from across sectors and jurisdictions to build leadership identity, strengthen professional capability and develop meaningful national connections. Participants are supported by experienced mentors and guest contributors, engage in leadership learning and observation, contribute to a national Insights Paper, and are given a visible platform through the NextGen Summit at the ACEL National Conference. The intent is to create a more robust, contemporary experience that not only develops individual leaders, but also connects them to a wider professional community, amplifies their voice and encourages an ongoing contribution to the future of Australian education.

Ebony Jack
Wilderness School, SA

Bryce Ostini
Ascham School, Sydney, NSW

Eldene Johnston
St Peter's Lutheran College, QLD

Isabella Robotham
St Martin's Primary School, Davidson, NSW

Caitlin Lamont
University of Melbourne, VIC

Teagan Spence
Hampton Park Secondary College, VIC

ACEL Fellows

1981-2013

1981

Clifford Burnett ACT
Charles Philip Cullen QLD
Edwin Harold Jones WA
Patricia Jean Jones WA
Thomas James Moore VIC
Francis (Frank) George Rogan VIC
William George Walker VIC (Hon)

1982

Hedley Beare VIC
Jarvis Lesley Finger QLD
William Richard Mulford ACT
Ian Francis Vacchini NSW

1983

John Richard Steinle SA
Eric George Hoare WA
Gerald Anthony O'Callaghan SA
Colin Reginald Joseph Moyle VIC

1984

Phillip William Hughes TAS

1985

Judith Dorothy Chapman VIC
William John Kennedy SA
Richard Roger Lee ACT

1986

Trevor Marshall Barr SA
William Neil Hird QLD
Doug Swan NSW
Quentin Frederick Willis VIC

1987

Clyde Percival Bant WA
Pauline Josephine Murphy VIC
Brian John Caldwell TAS
Diana Mildred Fleming VIC
Robin Beth Gregory NSW
Alexander Ross Thomas NSW
Robert Muir Stone SA
Ian Wilson Paterson NSW

1988

Janette Barbara Biber NSW
Johanna Conway NSW
Thomas A Grunsell NSW
Barry Jenkins NSW
Milton Edgar March ACT
Laurence Royce Miller QLD
John Frank Clement Roulston QLD
John Woods SA

1989

John A Bunday WA
Geoffrey A Burkhardt ACT
Kingsley Curtis SA
James Stewart Hamilton VIC
Eric Hinchliffe WA
Mary Mercer SA
Merline Muldoon QLD
Kath Phelan NT
Ruth Readford QLD
Neil Tuckwell QLD

1990

Martin Donovan Brandreth WA
Francis Allan Crowther QLD

James Anthony d'Arbon NSW
Barry Herbert Elliott VIC
Reynold John Macpherson NSW
Robert Keith Maynard SA
Margaret Louise Nadebaum WA
Charles Henry Payne NT

1991

Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowen NSW
Mary Louise Bergin NSW
Neville Harry Fry QLD
Michael Bernard Myers NT
Campbell William Reilly WA
Anthony Tenney NSW
Maxwell John Sawatzki ACT

1992

William George Bassett QLD
Ruary James Bucknal NT
Michael John Hough NSW
Bruce Alan Lyons WA
Douglas Charles Ogilvie QLD
Fenton George Sharpe NSW
Elaine Winsome Thomas VIC
John Gilroy Thorne TAS

1993

Martin Kennings Caust SA
Alan Edgar Druery QLD
Carolyn Diana Harrod QLD
David George Heath WA
Neil Andrew Johnson NSW
Ian Maxwell Ling VIC
Gwenyth Joan McNeil VIC
David Bruce Smith VIC
Keith Ernest Tronc QLD
Denise Florence Wilkowski NT

1994

Mary Grace Armstrong NSW
Maureen Bridget Boyle ACT
Ronald James Kirkman NT
Garry Michael Askey-Doran TAS
Norman Alfred John Hughes QLD
Peter Lloyd Hodge TAS

1995

Robin Amm NSW
Charles Burford NSW
William F Donovan ACT
Michael Gaffney ACT
Gail Mackay QLD
Joseph John McCorley QLD
John Olsen McGorm SA
Ian Stevenson NT
Noel Lee Stonehouse VIC
Colin James Sutcliffe QLD
Beryl Wilson VIC

1996

James McDonald Cameron NT
Paul Carlin VIC
Robert Connors NSW
Janelle Eldridge NSW
Tom Grace WA
Everlyn Marie Jansen QLD
Malcolm Lee ACT
Richard Mayhew WA
Cynthia Merrill VIC

David Mossenson WA (Hon)
Philip Thurston Seino WA
Geoffrey James Spring NT (Hon)

1997

Peter Gronn VIC
Marian Lewis PNG
Neil Keith Money QLD
Michael Norman VIC
Reginald Pollack NSW
Colin Stanley Trestrail WA
Raymond William McCulloch VIC (Hon)

1998

Richard Jeremy Bates VIC
Narottam Bhindi NSW
Michael William Bradley NT
Sylvia Jane Walton VIC
Glenda Campbell-Evans WA
Michael John Colwell PNG
Patrick Augustine Duignan NSW
Elizabeth Hazel Lee ACT
Jennifer Anne Lewis NSW
Angus Edward Lucas QLD
Glynys O'Brien SA
Robert Clive Townsend ACT
Peter William Hill VIC (Hon)

1999

John Ewington TAS
Victoria Stokes NT
Prudence Clarke ACT
Donald Daniels PNG
Louise Clayton-Jones NSW
John Schiller NSW
Kenneth Evans WA
Graham Brown WA
Richard Cotter VIC
Patricia Fitzgerald VIC

2000

Warren Henry Brown NSW
Clarence Michael Burke QLD
Stephen Kenneth Dinham NSW
Kathleen Kuryl TAS
Donald Richard Laird VIC
Isabelle Brigid Limerick QLD
Graham Paul Harrington TAS (Hon)

2001

Gordon Kenneth Avenell QLD
Michael Anthony Cox VIC
Hazel Jean Day VIC
Darryl Bruce Moir TAS
John Anthony Retallick NSW
Patricia Ann Wilks ACT
Edward Allen Holdaway Cda. (Hon)
Alan Seagren USA (Hon)
Donald Keith Tyrer VIC (Hon)

2002

Anne Benjamin NSW
Catherine Gwynn Buchanan SA
Kathleen Susan Cottee SA
Neil Charles Cranston QLD
Alan Hutchinson VIC
Ronald Rea Ikin NSW
Gregory Bryne Whitby NSW



The Australian Council for Educational Leaders

**2003**

Kenneth John Eltis	NSW
Peter Bryant Hauser	VIC
Neville Tom Highett	SA
Janette Belva McClelland	NSW
David George Manttan	QLD
Heather Doris Sjoberg	NT
Robin Ann Sullivan	QLD
Gene R Carter	USA (Hon)
Anthony Brace Conabere	VIC (Hon)
Darrell John Fraser	VIC (Hon)
Frances Merryl Hinton	ACT (Hon)
Kenneth John Rowe	VIC (Hon)

2004

Stephen Paul Brown	QLD
Debra Joy Brydon	VIC
Kenneth Gilbert	QLD
Helen Margaret Halling	ACT
Roger Hayward	VIC
Ian Patrick Lillico	WA
Anthony Mackay	VIC
Ian McKay	QLD
Dennis Walter Sleight	ACT
Elizabeth Ward	VIC
Anthony Watt	QLD
Elizabeth Constable	WA (Hon)
Audrey Jackson	WA
Millicent Poole	WA (Hon)
Therese Mary Temby	WA (Hon)

2005

Lee Callum	QLD
Timothy Frances Hawkes	NSW
Jillian Morgan	TAS
Jennifer Mary Nicol	WA
Ingrid Moses	NSW (Hon)
Alan David Robson	WA (Hon)
John Munro	VIC (Hon)

2006

Simon Boss-Walker	QLD
Edward Brierley	VIC
Robert Chandler	NSW
Mark Creedon	QLD
Rev. Monsignor Thomas Doyle	VIC
Ron Dullard	WA
David Gurr	VIC
Anne Paul	ACT
Graeme Sassella-Otley	WA
Rosa Storelli	VIC
Desmond Cahill	VIC (Hon)
Lynne Kosky	VIC (Hon)

2007

Annette Cunliffe	NSW
Leoni Degenhardt	NSW
Christine Edwards	TAS
Irene Gray	TAS
Michael Harvey	WA
Genia Janover	VIC
Kathy Lacey	VIC
Jean Lomax	SA
Stephanie Munday-Lake	QLD
Helga Neidhart	VIC
Rob Rasmussen	QLD
John Worthy	WA
Alexander Young RFD	TAS
Ron Miletta	USA (Hon)
Simon Marginson	VIC (Hon)

2008

Brenda Beatty	VIC
Carolyn Broadbent	ACT
Paul Brock	NSW
Louise Anne Bywaters	SA
Christine Cawsey	NSW
Peter Anthony Hope Cooper	VIC
Philippa (Pip) Field	SA
Christopher Presland	NSW
Allan John Shaw	ACT
Karen Starr	VIC
Rev Andrew Phillip Syme	WA
Edward Richard Tudor	VIC
Kathy Walker	VIC
Jeff Walkley	VIC
Daniel White	VIC
Lisa Paul PSM	ACT (Hon)

2009

Gerard Calnin	VIC
David Cannon	NT
Henry Gray	NT
Brenda Keenan	NT
Gabrielle Leigh	VIC
Maureen O'Rourke	VIC
Marian Parkinson	SA
Alan Reid	SA
Heather York Schnagl	VIC
Marie Therese Smith	NSW
Jennifer Stanley	SA
Arthur Townsend	NT
Jim Watterston	ACT
Helen Wildy	WA
Wayne Craig	VIC
Steve Marshall	VIC
Didamain Udo	NT (Hon)

2010

Dorothy Andrews	QLD
Michael Avery	NT
Margaret Banks	NT
Toni Cocchiato	SA
John DeCourcy	NSW
Michelle Green	VIC
Bob Lingard	QLD
Stephen Hibbert Newton	VIC
Elizabeth O'Carrigan	NSW
Lee-Anne Perry	QLD
Greg Petherick	SA
Barbara Stone	NSW
Mark Turkington	NSW
Peter Turner	NSW
Allan Walker	HK
David Warner	QLD
Robyn White	WA
Pauline Zappulla	VIC
Br Kelvin Canavan fms	NSW (Hon)
Brian Croke	NSW (Hon)
Patrick Griffin	VIC (Hon)
Geoffrey Masters	VIC (Hon)
Moira Najdecki	ACT (Hon)
Richard Teese	VIC (Hon)

2011

Michele Bruniges	NSW
Graham Chadwick	NT
Garry Costello	SA
Neil Dempster	QLD
Helen Brennen	VIC
Margot Foster	SA

Brian Gray	QLD
John Hattie	VIC
Norman Hunter	QLD
Helen O'Brien	NSW
Peggy Saab	NSW
Helen Starr	QLD
Anthony Whelan	NSW
Peter Dawkins	VIC (Hon)
Field Rickards	VIC (Hon)
Jonathon Welch	QLD (Hon)

2012

Ian Anderson	WA
Amelia Angelakis	SA
Elida Brereton	VIC
Joan Conway	QLD
Lawrie Drysdale	VIC
Valerie Gould	WA
Marion Guppy	NT
Daryl Hanly	QLD
Margie Kesby	NT
Stewart Moyses	NT
Liliana Mularczyk	NSW
Mary Oski	VIC
Glenn Proctor	VIC
Kevin Richardson	SA
Steffan Silcox	WA
Karen Spiller	QLD
Elisabeth Turner	WA
Michael Windred	NSW
Suzanne Carrington	QLD (Hon)
Roderick Fraser	VIC (Hon)
Julie Grantham	QLD (Hon)
Noel Hayman	QLD (Hon)
Lee Musumeci	WA (Hon)
Jean Rice	WA (Hon)

2013

Robyn Bell	QLD
Kerrie Blain	ACT
Simon Clarke	WA
Michael Dahl	SA
Simon Gipson	VIC
Diane Joseph	ACT
Garry Le Duff	SA
Toni Meath	VIC
Dennis Mulherin	QLD
Coralee Pratt	VIC
Brian Ralph	NSW
Paul Rijken	SA
Phil Ridden	WA
Brett Shackleton	QLD
Carolyn Woodhouse	VIC
Allan Blagaich	WA (Hon)
Leonie Clelland	WA (Hon)
Tony Cook	ACT (Hon)
Margaret Fenbury	NT (Hon)
Richard Gill	QLD (Hon)
Paul Mathews	WA (Hon)
Helen McGrath	VIC (Hon)
Erica McWilliam	QLD (Hon)
Paul Swan	WA (Hon)
Leonie Trimper	SA (Hon)

ACEL Fellows

2014-2025

2014

Jeremy Beard	VIC
Ray Bloxham	QLD
Ray Boyd	WA
John Collier	NSW
Lisa Ehrich	QLD
Vicki Forbes	VIC
Bronwyn Harcourt	VIC
Robert Hoff	SA
Matthew Hughes	WA
Deborah Kember	QLD
Paul Kilvert	SA
Michael Lee	ACT
Warren Marks	NSW
Keith Newton	WA
George Palavestra	ACT
Phil Reid	SA
Annette Rome	VIC
Stuart Sellar	SA
Debbie Sukarna	VIC
Barbara Watterston	VIC
Tony Bryant	VIC (Hon)
Sylvia Corish	NSW (Hon)
Anne Ellis,	ACT (Hon)
Sandra England	VIC (Hon)
Janette Gee	WA (Hon)
Barry Kahl	SA (Hon)
Sue Kennedy Branford	SA (Hon)
Maria Kirkwood	VIC (Hon)
Mary Margetts	WA (Hon)
Pam McRobbie	SA (Hon)
Michael Morgan	WA (Hon)
Regan Neumann	QLD (Hon)
Jacqui Quartermaine	WA (Hon)
Regina Thompson	NT (Hon)

2015

Norma Ashton-Smith	VIC
Pamela Betts	QLD
Kerry Bolger	VIC
Kathryn Brennan	NSW
Patricia Cowling	VIC
Shane Glasson	WA
Patricia Hindmarsh	TAS
Norman McCulla	NSW
Ann McIntyre	NSW
Margaret McKenna	VIC
Anthony O'Byrne	VIC
Mandy Reynolds-Smith	TAS
Robert Walker	NSW
Gerald White	SA
Stephen Breen	WA (Hon)
Wendy Cave	ACT (Hon)
Narelle Hargreaves	ACT (Hon)
Kim Hebenstreit	SA (Hon)
Jo Padgham	ACT (Hon)
Sheryle Yorston	SA (Hon)

2016

Michelle Anderson	VIC
Bruce Armstrong	VIC
Antony Beswick	WA
Chris Bonnor AM	NSW
Wendy Cahill AM	VIC
Sandy Cartwright	NT
Helen Goode	VIC
Neil MacNeil	WA
Michael O'Neill	WA
John Mula	TAS
Debra Punton	VIC
John Ryan	QLD
Anne Tonkin	VIC
Angus Tulley	ACT
The Asia Education Foundation	VIC (Hon)
Nicole Hanna	WA (Hon)
Abdullah Khan	WA (Hon)
Darrel LeMercier	WA (Hon)

2017

Judy Crowe	VIC
Anne Foale	TAS
Alan Genoni	WA
David L. Giles	SA
Joanne Jarvis	NSW
David Lee	WA
Lynda MacLeod	SA
William Maiden	ACT
Anthony Roberts	NT
Warren Symonds	SA
Vicki Treble	NSW
Tony Watson	WA

2018

Mark Campling	QLD
John Cleary	NT
Kim Dray	VIC
Catherine Rey	ACT
Brad Russell	NSW
Geoff Ryan	VIC
Judy Smeed	QLD
Patrea Walton	QLD

2019

Neil Barker	VIC
Sholto Bowen	VIC
Mary Fitz-Gerald	VIC
Richard Ford	TAS
Ann-Marie Furney	NSW
Ronald Gorman	WA
Carolyn Grantskalns	SA
Lorraine Hodgson	NT
Rachael Lehr	WA
Kylie Lipscombe	NSW
Julie Podbury	VIC
Fran Reddan	VIC
Robert Sieben	SA

2020

Murat Dizdar PSM	NSW
Meredith Edwards OAM	SA
Tracey Ezard	VIC
James Laussen	VIC
Aine Maher	VIC
Michele McLoughlin	ACT

2021

Alice Dunlop	SA
Peter Goss	VIC
Frank Malloy	NSW
Phillip Moulds	QLD

2022

Dale Morrow	QLD
Josie Crisara OAM	VIC
Patrick Coughlan	QLD
Jake Madden	NSW

2023

Debbie Dunwoody	VIC
Angela Falkenberg	SA
Stephen Gniel	VIC
Lisa Rodgers	WA

2024

Nathan Chisholm	VIC
Dr Phil Cummins	VIC
Malcolm Elliott	TAS
Sinan Kerimofski	WA

2025

Summer Howarth	VIC
Dr Mathilda Joubert	VIC
Derek Scott	VIC
Andrew Wrigley	ACT



Organisational Excellence

ACEL is an association which embodies professional excellence and models it with integrity.

Board of Directors 2025-2026

President



Liz Foster
ACEL President

Independent Directors



Mary Oski



Murat Dizdar



Adam Voigt

Branch Appointed Directors



Sandra Darley
ACT Branch President



Paul Kidson
NSW Branch President



Ranae Graham
NT Branch President



Bruce Addison
QLD Branch President



Martyn Anderson
SA Branch President



Jacqui Lawless
TAS Branch President



Annette Rome
VIC Branch President



Rachael Lehr
WA Branch President



Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is a committee of the ACEL Board.

Membership of the ARMC comprises:

Mary Oski
(Independent Director), Chair

Annette Rome
(Branch Appointed Director)

Karen Fox
Education Consultant

Bhaumik Bumia
Partner, Harwicks

Shamiso Mtenje
Executive Director – Assurance, Knowledge and Executive Services Division, Dept of Education VIC

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) plays a key role in supporting the Board's oversight of ACEL's corporate governance. Its responsibilities include providing strategic guidance on financial management and reporting, internal controls, risk management, and the external audit process.

Operating in accordance with the ARC Charter, the Committee develops an annual work program for Board approval. It meets regularly, reviews monthly financial and risk reports, and delivers updates and recommendations at each Board meeting.

Throughout the year, the ARC has closely monitored ACEL's financial reporting processes and the effectiveness of internal control systems, policies, and risk management frameworks, ensuring compliance, accountability, and sound governance across the organisation.



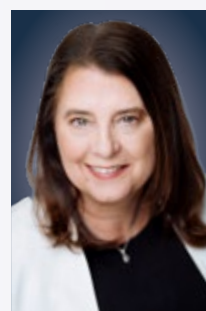
Mary Oski
Chair



Annette Rome



Bhaumik Bumia



Karen Fox



Shamiso Mtenje



The Professional Learning Committee

The Committee is tasked with supporting and advising Management and the Board on key matters related to:

- The development and delivery of professional learning programs for ACEL members and the broader teaching profession
- State and Territory-based professional learning priorities, standards, and venues
- Compliance with state-based standards and accredited training criteria
- The advancement of professional knowledge and skills across the sector

While the Professional Learning Committee is not a policy-making body, it plays an important advisory role particularly in shaping ACEL's signature professional learning events. Notably, the Committee contributes significantly to the call for papers and selection process for major conferences, helping to ensure relevance, quality, and impact.

Rachael Lehr
(Branch Appointed Director), Chair

Sue Bryen
Adam Kuss
Julie Tarzia
(Branch Executive)

Mathilda Joubert
Executive Principal, Christian College, Geelong

Kylie Lipscombe
*Associate Professor, Educational Leadership,
University of Wollongong*



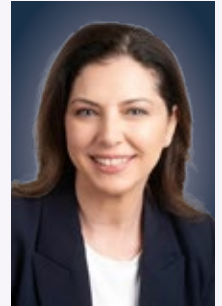
Rachael Lehr
Chair



Sue Bryen



Adam Kuss



Julie Tarzia



Mathilda Joubert



Kylie Lipscombe



The Awards Committee

The Awards Committee recently carried out a review of the ACEL national awards and developed clarifying guidelines for the nominations process and key selection criteria to support the ACEL community in delivering high-quality awards.

The annual awards program honours educational leaders who have made significant contributions to education, educational leadership, and the improvement of student learning outcomes.

Paul Kidson
(Branch Appointed Director), Chair

Sandra Darley
Martyn Anderson
Jacqui Lawless
(Branch Appointed Director)

Gary Racey
(Branch Executive)

Sue Buckley



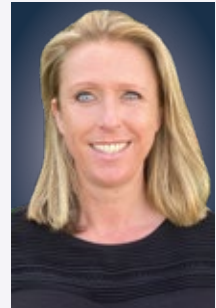
Paul Kidson
Chair



Sandra Darley



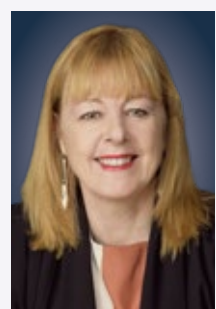
Martyn Anderson



Jacqui Lawless



Gary Racey



Sue Buckley

ACT Branch Report

It is a great privilege as President of the ACT Branch to contribute to the extraordinary vision, mission and work of ACEL, and to play a part in the critical role it plays in strengthening the leadership of every educator in every sector at every stage of their career. ACEL champions emerging leaders and celebrates the collective wisdom of the profession defining us not only as innovators and purposeful leaders of learning, but as leaders of leading, grounded in the future, celebrating that what we do explicitly and incidentally each day in each of our sectors, in our systems and in our classrooms is transformational in the lives of our people and in the future of our communities, our nation and our world. It is a great source of pride to be part of the work of this peak national organisation!

Our 2026 ACT Branch Executive includes Kirrally Talbot Principal, Lyneham Primary School, Maria O' Donnell Curriculum Lead, the Archdiocesan Schools Office, James Goodlet Principal, The Orana School, Tracey Taylor Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools, Dr Kirk Zwangobani Deputy Principal, Lake Ginninderra College and Melissa Planter Principal, Lake Ginninderra College. We are very fortunate to have each of our sectors so well represented in the ACT by such expert and generous leaders.

2026 has certainly been a year of celebration in the ACT, one in which the work and leadership of colleagues in each of our sectors has been remarkable and as such esteemed.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the 2026 Awards committee members Maria O'Donnell, Kirrally Talbot, and James Goodlet who led the nomination and selection process for our ACT Awards. We were delighted to see that there were nominations and awards attributed to colleagues leading work in Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and at System levels.

Our 2026 ACT Awardees were celebrated at a glittering function in August at which we welcomed over 84 guests and who include:

ACT Fellowship – Dr Matthew Brown

Growing in Leadership – Christopher Beerworth, Eve Fitzpatrick, Amy Vernon and Commins.

Excellence in Educational Leadership – Dr Tristan Burg, Dr Mahmoud Eid, Colby Cruwys, Elizabeth Baker, Nancy Lee, Craig Newton, Alice Pommer Peter Reuben, Catherine Amesbury, Glen Slater and Jeddah Teasdale

ACEL ACT The Trish Wilks Award for Collaborative Leadership – Hawker College Maths Faculty and the John Paul 11 College Leadership Team

Congratulations to our awardees who were esteemed for their individual and collective leadership and contribution to educational leadership in the ACT.

One of the premier ACEL events in the ACT is the annual Breakfast with the Minister held at the National Portrait Gallery in May. This year we had an outstanding number of attendees and on behalf of ACEL I wish to thank and pay tribute to our ACT members and their guests and for their patronage of this event. I particularly wish to thank our National President Liz Foster who attended our event and on behalf of the ACT Branch Executive and members, thank her for her presence and remarks. The Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Education Yvette Berry, has been a great supporter of the breakfast and each of our sectors and over a number of years has been very generous in sharing her views about educational leadership and strategy and gave a very poignant address which included taking questions from members and guests. On behalf of the Branch I also wish to express our deep appreciation to Minister Berry for her attendance and patronage of the event.

ACEL ACT has great support from each of the leaders of our educational sectors who are regular attendees at our events. I wish to take the opportunity to thank them sincerely for their advocacy and support for ACEL ACT. These include Jo Wood Director General of Education, the ACT Directorate, David de Carvalho Executive Director of the Archdiocesan Schools Office, Tracey Taylor, Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools and Martin Watson Executive Director of the Board of Senior Secondary Studies.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to our CEO Lisa Newland and National President Liz Foster for their leadership of ACEL in 2026. They bring vision, energy and aspiration for the richness and future of our profession in their leadership and work. I also wish to once again express my deep appreciation for the work of the national administrative team whose accessibility, efficiency and good humour have been integral to the success of our planning for events in the ACT.



Sandra Darley
ACT Branch
President

Sandra Darley

NSW Branch Report

Serving as the NSW Branch President for the past six months has been a great honour and privilege. I would like to begin by acknowledging the contribution of former President, Associate Professor Paul Kidson, whose leadership has helped strengthen the work and profile of the NSW Branch.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this role has been gaining a deeper appreciation of the passion and commitment to the ACEL brand demonstrated across the organisation. The tireless work of ACEL President Liz Foster, CEO Lisa Newland and Branch Presidents across Australia reflects a shared commitment to advancing educational leadership and supporting educators to make a meaningful difference in their communities. I was welcomed into the role with warmth and generosity and have greatly valued the opportunity to represent the NSW Branch Committee at the national level.

The NSW Branch Executive is a committed and highly capable group of educators who bring a wealth of expertise, experience and enthusiasm to the development of educational leaders. This commitment was particularly evident through the successful ACEL NSW Branch Coaching Conference, held on 1 May 2026.

The conference represented an exciting opportunity to explore a different model of professional learning. Elle Smith from St Andrews Catholic School in Sydney approached the Branch with a long-term vision to deliver high-impact professional learning that would equip educational coaches and leaders with evidence-informed coaching models applicable across K-12 settings. In partnership with ACEL NSW, Elle brought this vision to life through a highly successful conference that brought together expertise from across sectors. Presenters shared evidence-based coaching models, research and practical case studies, providing participants with valuable opportunities to reflect on and strengthen their own coaching practice.

The Branch also hosted events focused on navigating the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. These events were well attended, highlighting educators' strong interest in understanding the implications of AI and its potential impact on the future of schooling.

Particular recognition goes to Sue Bryen, who leads professional development for the NSW Branch. Sue's ongoing enthusiasm, commitment and exceptional organisational skills continue to be instrumental in supporting the Branch's professional learning initiatives and ensuring that they are both relevant and impactful.

The Branch Awards continue to be another significant strength of ACEL NSW. Under the expert leadership of Larissa Maraga, and with the support of the Branch Executive, the quality and diversity of nominations across school, system and tertiary sectors demonstrated the depth of leadership excellence within education. The prestigious Dr Paul Brock Memorial Award was awarded to Emeritus Professor Vivianne Robinson, whose contribution to educational leadership and evidence-informed practice has been profound. It was a privilege to have Vivianne attend in person and share her insights on the evening, making the occasion particularly memorable.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the ACEL National Office. Their ongoing and unwavering support, guidance and encouragement are deeply appreciated. The strength of ACEL is reflected in the connections between the national organisation and its Branches, and I am grateful to have been part of this collective work.

I look forward to seeing the NSW Branch continue to grow, connect and contribute to the advancement of educational leadership across NSW and beyond.



Corinna Robertson
NSW Branch
President

Robertson

QLD Branch Report



Bruce Addison
QLD Branch
President

The Queensland Branch has had another successful year. It started with a strategic planning day in January at St Hilda's School, Southport. The pre-reading stimulus was Carucci and Chamorro-Premuzic's Harvard Business Review article, *Leaders, Bring Your Best Selves in the New Year*. It was a powerful stimulus and set the tone very well for our deliberations. The final paragraph was particularly apposite:

When leaders learn to recognise their default patterns, challenge the systems that shape them, stay anchored in learning, and embrace the discomfort of growth, they step into a version of themselves that is both more authentic and more effective. Ultimately, the leaders who sustain their best selves are the ones who understand that they're always in the process of becoming and who choose to participate consciously in that becoming.

It was a most productive day in which we could focus on the future, especially forthcoming events and how we could, as an organisation, best serve our regional members. Queensland is a vast and diverse State and ACEL Queensland must genuinely seek to serve educational leaders wherever they might be.

First term saw our inaugural Aspiring Early Career Teacher Breakfast at Allan Border Field, bringing together 80+ educators, early career teachers and mentors. Amid talk of workload and shortages, the morning celebrated why teaching matters: a profession that's relational, demanding and vital to society.

Our commitment to regional Queensland has continued to develop, particularly through our engagement with the Darling Downs and Toowoomba educational community. We have been keen to listen to our regional colleagues about how ACEL can best support them rather than simply replicate what we do in metropolitan areas.

This commitment was strengthened through the establishment of the *Dorothy Andrews and Joan Conway Award for Regional and Remote Educational Leadership*. Dorothy and Joan have, for fifty years, demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ACEL and to educational leadership beyond our metropolitan centres. Regional leaders navigate distance, limited resources and smaller professional networks, yet do so with a depth of community connection and relational trust that can be quite extraordinary. This Award honours educational leaders who, in the tradition of Dorothy and Joan, lead with courage, creativity and an enduring commitment to their communities.

ACEL Queensland has also sought to contribute to the wider professional conversation. The review of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers and the Australian Professional Standard for Principals provides an important opportunity for our members to contribute to national thinking about the nature of contemporary educational leadership. This is important work.

Equally important are the relationships that sustain us professionally. Our *Pivotal People* networking events, strong in Brisbane and the Gold Coast, work because they're simple: educators talking, sharing ideas and enjoying each other's company. In a complex environment, that simple fellowship matters.

Our annual Queensland Awards ceremony at St James College, Spring Hill, was again a highlight, warmly hosted by Principal Andree Rice. Educators across systems and sectors were recognised for their skill, devotion and leadership, a fitting celebration of our profession. This year's Miller-Grassie Awardee, Mr Brendan Cahill, Principal of Brigidine College Indooroopilly, exemplified these qualities. His oration was thoughtful, personal and deeply grounded in the lived experience of school leadership. It reminded us that, for all the complexity surrounding contemporary education, leadership ultimately resides in people, relationships and the communities we have the privilege to serve.

None of this happens without people. Our Queensland Executive is an extraordinary collection of colleagues who willingly volunteer their time because they believe in ACEL and in our profession.

Queensland is vast and its educational communities wonderfully diverse. Our continuing responsibility is to ensure that educational leaders know they are part of something larger: a professional community bonded by a belief in education as an indispensable public good and in the continuing development of our common humanity.

SA Branch Report

The ACEL South Australia Branch has enjoyed another successful and impactful year, characterised by strong member engagement, meaningful sector collaboration, and a shared commitment to advancing educational leadership across South Australia.

I extend my sincere thanks to our Branch Committee for their dedication, expertise and generosity throughout the year. In particular, I acknowledge Julie Tarzia (Vice President), Emma Grave, Shane Hill, Michael Murphy, Kimberley Shean, Georgie West and Anita Zocchi for their valued contributions and ongoing support. Their collective leadership has enabled ACEL SA to deliver high-quality professional learning opportunities and foster strong connections across the government, Catholic and independent education sectors.

- **ACEL SA Awards Evening**

Our annual Awards Evening once again provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate excellence in educational leadership across South Australia. The event recognised the outstanding contributions of educators and leaders while reinforcing the critical role leadership plays in improving outcomes for learners and strengthening our profession.

- **Hot Topic: Empowering Equity and Excellence in Education**

This event explored how schools can successfully promote both equity and excellence, ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive. Through presentations and panel discussions featuring leaders from schools, universities and the gifted education sector, participants examined inclusive practices, strategies to support diverse learners, and approaches that enable high achievement for all students. The event also fostered rich professional dialogue and cross-sector collaboration.

- **Hot Topic Breakfast with Dr Tom Porta**

The Dilemmas of Inclusive Education: Everyone's Right or No One's Reality?

Dr Tom Porta challenged participants to consider the complexities of delivering truly inclusive education, highlighting the tension between policy aspirations and the realities of school practice. He argued that inclusion is not a problem to be solved, but rather a series of pedagogical, cultural, political and conceptual dilemmas that require courageous, values-driven leadership to balance equity, excellence and the diverse needs of all learners.

- **Book Launch Event**

Cultivating Cultures of Thinking in Australian Schools: From Control to Curiosity

ACEL SA proudly hosted the South Australian launch of *Cultivating Cultures of Thinking in Australian Schools: From Control to Curiosity*, welcoming educators and school leaders to engage with contemporary research and practice focused on deep learning, student agency and cultures of thinking. The event featured editors Cameron Paterson and Simon Brooks, whose insights reinforced the importance of fostering curiosity-driven learning environments in response to the challenges facing modern education.

- **Hot Topic Breakfast with Dr Shyam Barr**

AI, Agency and Self-Regulated Learning

Dr Shyam Barr explored the opportunities and challenges that artificial intelligence presents for teaching and learning, with a particular focus on self-regulated learning (SRL) as an essential capability in an AI-rich world. The session provided practical insights into how educators and leaders can leverage AI to strengthen student agency, independence and critical thinking while navigating the implications of rapidly evolving technologies.

As we look ahead, ACEL South Australia remains committed to supporting and connecting educational leaders through high-quality professional learning, thought leadership and collaborative opportunities. I thank our members, partners and supporters for their continued engagement and contribution to educational leadership across South Australia.

Martyn Anderson
SA Branch
President



TAS Branch Report



Jacqui Lawless
TAS Branch
President

Jacqui Lawless

The Tasmanian Branch Executive is a small and dynamic group, dedicated to supporting educators within Tasmania and providing opportunities for Professional Learning, networking and celebrating the profession.

Thank you to the 2025/ 2026 team for their ongoing commitment: Louise Bender, Amy Sharp, Tracy Siedler, Beth Gilligan, Louise Corrigan, Helen Spencer, Donna Brown, and Brittany Roestenburg.

In 2025, the ACEL Annual Awards were held at the University of Tasmania. The evening was one of celebration and connection. Educators from across the state were recognised for their passion, innovation, and dedication to education and to Educational Leadership. We were thrilled that the Tasmanian educational community rose to the occasion to once again celebrate great educational leaders in our community.

We are looking forward to celebrating our 2026 awards and welcoming Liz Foster to Tasmania.

The 'Breakfast with the Minister' is also an annual event; in 2025 with Minister Jo Palmer, it was a morning of positivity and warmth. We are hopeful that a similar event will be held towards the end of 2026.

ACEL's extensive online resources and webinars have enabled increased access to quality publications and Professional Learning for ACEL members. These opportunities are embraced by Tasmanian Educators, and we are looking forward to this pathway expanding so that our region can continue to access these Professional Learning experiences.

As we continue to move forward, we hope ACEL Tasmania will continue to create opportunities to ensure the provision of excellent professional learning, focused researched publications and the opportunity to build links and relationships between Educational Leaders and sectors.

VIC Branch Report

ACEL Victoria continues to support educators across the state. We know educators want to be seen, be heard and to lift each other up.

ACEL continues to operate through the mantra of 'by the profession, for the profession' and enjoys deep, thoughtful discussions about education.

Recognition of peers is a key plank of the Victorian mission. The excellent work of the Branch Awards Committee (Hayley Dureau (Chair), Cameron Patterson, Fiona Hutton, Kara Baxter and assisted by Anna Maree Beech) is gratefully acknowledged. In 2025, the VIC ACEL Awards included 2025 Fellowships which were awarded to Donnie Adams, Steve Cook, Colin Dobson, Bernadette Donnelly, Kerry Elliot, Ellen Heyting and Aisha Kristiansen. The ACEL Victoria Debbie Locco Leadership was awarded to Pip Cleaves. The ACEL Victoria Media Award went to Adriano di Prato and Phil Cummins. The Brian Caldwell Research Award went to Glenn Savage. The Hedley Beare Educator of the Year went to Richard Owens, and the President's Award went to Prof. Fazal Rizvi. ACEL Victoria also continues to support the 2025 Monash Education Scholarships and Awards, the Melbourne University Faculty of Education Student Awards 2025 and the 2025 Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) Tertiary Award at Deakin University

Other professional learning events included Dr Richard Owens reflecting on Leading Regenerative Learning at Mentone Girls' Secondary College and the importance of maximising human flourishing at our schools. Alex Bowers presented Leading with Evidence in Schools: Bridging Research, Data, and Practice for Continuous Improvement, kindly hosted by Wesley College where an audience enjoyed exploring strategies to transform schools. The international agenda was further augmented by Leading Inquiry: Building Cultures of Curiosity with Trevor MacKenzie as well as our termly 'Catch up in the Pub' that attract those wanting to consider all things educational.

All events consider and reflect on the purpose, sustenance, and growth of our wonderful profession. Please follow us on:

[linkedin.com/company/australian-council-for-educational-leaders-victorian-branch](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-council-for-educational-leaders-victorian-branch)

The 2025 National Conference was a fantastic opportunity to come together and consider matters of educational importance. Victorians recognised by ACEL national awards included ACEL New Voice Scholars in School Leadership: Matt Pitman, Obayda Kannouj; ACEL Leadership Award: Dr Caitlyn Munday, New Metrics for Success Research Practice Partners (University of Melbourne); Nganakarrawa Award: Colin Dobson; ACEL Gold Medal: Emeritus Professor Helen Cahill; ACEL National Fellowships: Dr Mathilde Joubert (now based in Vic) and Derek Scott.

Victoria is still the Education State. At the Victorian level, we also continue to contribute to national agendas through contributions to strategic planning and other initiatives.

In 2025-2026 The Victorian Branch comprised Annette Rome (President), ably supported by Kara Baxter, Hayley Dureau, Charlotte Forwood, David Gurr, Fiona Hutton, Steven Kolber, Fiona Longmuir, Cameron Paterson, Ashley Pratt, Melissa Riley and Lauren Sayer. The group was supported also wonderfully by Anna-Maree Beech. As a branch, we are committed to advancing the profession through providing opportunities for leadership, professional learning, networking, enlightened discourse, and recognition and awards. We warmly invite interactions with all members of our profession from ELC through to, and including, university staff across all sectors - Catholic, Government, and Independent. As mentioned, in 2026, ACEL Vic commenced a termly casual catch up in pubs around Melbourne where we enjoyed hearing from each other in an informal manner. These events have been met with great enthusiasm and Victorian ACEL membership continues to grow. All are welcome.

Professional association membership through ACEL enables our members to respond to educational questions with informed, non-partisan, current and contemporary knowledge. We owe this to the young people we teach.

Annette Rome
VIC Branch
President

Annette C. Rome

WA Branch Report

The WA Branch has had a busy year leading and learning together.

Our **Branch Awards Ceremony** last November, supported by the fabulous team at Compnow, was a highlight where the WA Minister for Education, Sabine Winton presented awards to 17 aspiring, emergent, and established leaders across the state, including a well-deserved Fellowship award for Mathilda Joubert, our outgoing WA Branch President.

We started the 2026 school year with a **Breakfast With the Minister for Education**, Sabine Winton, alongside system leaders Annette Morey, CEWA; Steve Watson, Department of Education; and Kris Stafford, AISWA. Three phrases were offered as a theme for the morning panel discussion: clarity, courage, and collective responsibility, and Minister Winton left us with a provocation: *what have you dumped this year, and what might become possible if you did?*

Our **Leading Innovation in Education Network** series continued, showcasing innovative practices across sectors, phases and roles. Educators from Aquinas College, Hensman Street Elementary School, Ballajura Community College, PEAC, Scotch College, Harrisdale Primary School, Servite College, AISWA, Guildford Grammar School, Bold Park Community School, Deanmore Primary School, Young Entrepreneurs Academy of WA, Sheoak Grove Primary School, Moorditj Noongar Community College, and CEWA all generously gave up time to share the wonderful initiatives taking place in their contexts

We continued with our termly **Educational Leadership Book Club**, where leaders met over cake and coffee to discuss a range of books with like-minded colleagues from different contexts. We explored *Restoring Teaching* by Adam Voigt, with an online visit from the author himself, *The Pruning Principle* by Dr Simon Breakspear and Michael Rosenbrock, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni, and *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt.

The WA branch hosted two **Hot Topic** events. Last year, Simon Fittock, AISWA; Cleo Jenkins, Harrisdale Primary School; Petra Trinke WITWA; and Paul Watson Emmanuel Catholic College shared their thoughts on **Beyond the Hype: Real Conversations on AI in School**, a timely topic given the shifting nature of AI's influence on our educational practice. In June, our topic was **Leading in a Climate of Change** with Peter Allen, Guildford Grammar School; Lisa Fogliani, Aranmore Catholic College; and Stephen Jeffrey, Department of Education sharing their insights. The evening left us with a strong sense that leadership in a climate of change is both demanding and deeply purposeful. As Stephen captured so well; *the value of leadership does not sit in having certainty, but in having the courage to lead without it.*

Leadership is rarely a solo act. At its best, it's practised with and for others: creating possibilities, building confidence, holding high expectations, and sometimes simply reminding someone of their own capability. Leadership takes many forms across our ACEL WA collective, who lead in schools, systems and organisations, but also in quieter moments: mentoring, advocating, asking hard questions, or holding things together when work is tough. That influence often extends far beyond what we'll ever see.

This year, I have been reminded that one of the greatest gifts of leadership is the ability to bestow belief; to see potential in others and help them see it in themselves. None of us leads well in isolation as we are strengthened by people who encourage us, challenge our thinking, open doors, offer perspective, and stand alongside us when the path is uncertain.

For me, that has been the WA Executive Branch this past year. I want to acknowledge **Vince Bellini, Dr Ray Boyd, Phil Collins, Carol Daniels, Tamara Doig, Krystal McKnight, Kathryn Netherwood, Jette Oksis, Gary Racey and Maree Whiteley** for the generosity, energy and commitment they have brought to ACEL WA throughout the year. Each has contributed in different ways, but all have shared a willingness to serve something bigger than themselves and to strengthen the educational leadership community across Western Australia. I am deeply grateful for the way they have supported me, challenged me, and stepped up to make things happen.

Perhaps that is one of the most important things we can do as leaders: help others stand a little taller because we were there. To open the doors a little wider, amplify voices that need to be heard, and to bestow belief before someone is quite ready to believe it for themselves. As we look to the year ahead, I hope we continue to do that for one another. Because leadership is not only about the impact we make ourselves; it is also about the courage, confidence and possibility we help create in others.



Rachael Lehr
WA Branch
President



Finance Report

Organisational Excellence

Finance Reports

Profit and Loss Statement

For the year ended 30th June 2026

	2026	2025
Revenue from contracts with customers	\$1,761,491	\$2,139,829
Net gain on disposal of asset held for sale		\$317,978
Other income	\$120,531	\$138,246
Total revenue	\$1,882,022	\$2,596,053
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	\$861,354	\$915,384
Depreciation and amortisation expense	\$56,340	\$27,597
Conference and event expenses	\$612,271	\$659,304
Membership and development	\$104,915	\$154,219
Branch expenditure	\$74,341	\$65,449
Professional learning	\$122,717	\$285,184
Bookshop and resources	\$50,095	\$41,518
Subscriptions, printing and stationery	\$38,062	\$37,114
Marketing expenses	\$5,663	\$12,324
Other expenses 1	\$116,313	\$165,708
Finance costs	\$7,782	\$4,154
Total Expenses	\$2,049,853	\$2,367,955
Surplus (deficit) before income tax expense	\$-167,831	\$228,098
Income tax expense	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year	\$-167,831	\$228,098
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year	\$-167,831	\$228,098

The Financial Report for FY 2025-2026, including the Auditor's report is presented to the AGM as a separate document

Balance Sheet

As at 30th June 2026

Assets	2026	2025
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$541,019	\$540,983
Trade and other receivables	\$16,495	\$37,373
Financial assets	\$1,769,055	\$1,869,055
Other assets	\$96,388	\$357,665
	\$2,422,957	\$2,805,076
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	-	-
Total current assets	\$2,422,957	\$2,805,076
Non Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	\$7,851	\$12,270
Right-of-use assets	\$78,559	\$128,175
Total non-current assets	\$86,410	\$140,445
Total Assets	\$2,509,367	\$2,945,521
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$100,541	\$188,605
Lease liabilities	\$52,112	\$45,872
Employee benefits	\$92,864	\$87,711
Contract liabilities	\$225,538	\$370,805
Total current liabilities	\$471,055	\$692,993
Non Current Liabilities		
Lease liabilities	\$33,142	\$85,255
Employee benefits	\$19,472	\$13,744
Total non-current liabilities	\$52,614	\$98,999
Total Liabilities	\$523,669	\$791,992
Net Assets	\$1,985,698	\$2,153,529
Equity		
Retained earnings	\$1,985,698	\$2,153,529
Total Equity	\$1,985,698	\$2,153,529

EMPOWERING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

We're a community of educators on a mission to connect, support, and inspire current and future leaders in education across Australia and beyond. Join us in strengthening educational leadership.

ACEL MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU:



Free access to ACEL's vast online library of writings and videos from pre-eminent Australian and international leaders.



Discounts on ACEL professional learning opportunities including conferences, workshops and webinars, as well as our Book Shop and resources.



Opportunity to receive the latest research and practitioner experience through our Australian Educational Leader and Leading & Managing journals free to your inbox.



A sense of belonging through diverse connections and networks via local state/territory branches and the National Office.



A cross-sectoral professional organisation that is inclusive of executive, established, middle and emerging leaders, from schools, systems, early learning settings and higher education, nationally and internationally.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

For individuals from all education sectors and organisations embracing the education sector from early childhood and care to higher education, schools and systems, metro or regional / remote and international including for example: teachers, leaders, researchers, consultants, advocates, system leaders

1 Year - \$225

2 Year - \$416 (save \$34)

3 Year - \$590 (save \$85)

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Institutional Membership is for groups from the same school or organisation. This offers your staff the full range of ACEL benefits at an affordable price.

For smaller schools or organisations please contact us so that we can support you in taking advantage of an Institutional membership.

1 Year

2-5 members - \$215 pp

6-10 members - \$208 pp

11+ members - \$195 pp

RETIRED MEMBERSHIP

Let's stay connected as you retire from more formal roles.

Our retired membership provides you with affordable opportunities to enjoy lifelong learning and enjoy networking opportunities.

1 Year - \$98

2 Year - \$162 (save \$34)

3 Year - \$231 (save \$63)

LEARN MORE & JOIN TODAY

ACEL membership is available to classroom teachers through to system leaders and includes both starting members of the profession and aspirational leaders, as well as the valued experience of retired leaders.

Join Australia's **premier** professional association for **educational leaders** and benefit from free, discounted and exclusive premier events, resources and workshops for the education sector.

[ancel.org.au/membership](https://www.ancel.org.au/membership)





The Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) is a not-for-profit company that actively supports the development of educational leadership capabilities across Australia through conferences and workshops, leadership programs, in-house publications, online resources, and a bookshop. Access to these leadership-focused opportunities is available for classroom teachers through to system leaders.

ACEL is the largest professional association in the education sector in Australia and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

Our Purpose:

To inspire, support, recognise and advocate for excellence in educational leadership.





ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

The ACCEL brand communicates our complete commitment to providing quality educational leadership services.

The ACCEL logo is an adaptation of the Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management logo that was created by William Walker with the establishment of this Council in 1970.

Australian Council for Educational Leaders

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