

Lead the Way Conference 2025

11–12 August | Melbourne | Rydges

Strengthening Wellbeing and Safety through
Collaboration



Keynote Speakers



Meena Singh

Acting Principal
Commissioner and
Commissioner for Aboriginal
Children and Young People



Dr Ross Greene

Clinical Psychologist
New York Times
Bestselling Author



Prof. Pasi Sahlberg

Professor
Educational Leadership
University of Melbourne



Prof. Leah Bromfield

Director
Australian Centre for
Child Protection
University of South Australia



Prof. Anne Graham

Director
Centre for Children &
Young People
Southern Cross University



Dr Robyn Miller AM

Chief Executive Officer
MacKillop Family Services

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Join 500+ Leaders Driving Real Change in Safety and Wellbeing. Connect with a powerful network of education, child and family services, community services, and mental health professionals who are shaping the future of safety and wellbeing.

The Lead the Way Conference 2025 brings together world-class speakers, cutting-edge research, and real-world case studies to equip you with the knowledge and tools to lead transformational change. This unique conference brings together leaders from across schools, organisations and services to share insights and practice that build the safety and wellbeing of our children, young people, families and staff.

Across two days of keynotes, panel discussions, research presentations, and hands-on workshops, the conference will explore:

- How collaboration and partnerships across sectors can build safety and wellbeing.
- How evidence-based approaches improve practice.
- What real-world cases look like across sectors.



Inspiring Keynotes

Experts on trauma, culture, safety, wellbeing and collaboration.



Cutting Edge Research

Evidence-base for safer environments.



Real-World Case Studies

Proven strategies transforming schools and organisations.



Networking

Connect with leaders across school, child and family, community sectors.

Explore What Matters to You

Sessions are grouped to match your role, but real impact comes from cross-sector learning. Explore all streams, gain fresh perspectives, and strengthen your practice.

EMPOWERED SCHOOLS: WELLBEING, SAFETY AND INCLUSION IN EDUCATION	STRONGER COMMUNITIES: CHILD, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN PRACTICE	THRIVING WORKPLACES: CULTURE, LEADERSHIP AND MENTAL HEALTH
<p>Cultivating Cultural Responsiveness Supporting Identity and Belonging for Young People</p> <p>Equipping Young People for the Future Wellbeing, Inclusion and Opportunity through Entrepreneurial Education</p> <p>Building Emotional and Grief Literacy Supporting Whole-of-School Communities Following a Suicide or Other Loss Event</p> <p>The Power of Paws Animal-Assisted Education Interventions to Support Social Emotional Skills with Students</p> <p>Supporting Students Experiencing 'School Can't' to Re-Engage in Learning</p> <p>We Belong The Practical Implementation of Collaborative Practice in Schools</p> <p>Empowering Educators to Have Brave Conversations Power to Kids in Schools and the Role of Staff in Safeguarding Children</p> <p>Effective Child Safeguarding Models</p>	<p>Building Bridges in Fractured Spaces Intercultural Understanding as a Foundation for Safe and Inclusive Communities</p> <p>Grief Support Building Capacity to Support the Grief Experiences of Children & Young People Living in Out-of-Home Care</p> <p>Belonging, Identity & Mental Wellbeing A Roadmap for Young People</p> <p>Responding to Harm, Building Safety Co-Designed Prevention Strategies for Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Child and Youth Services</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Panel Discussion</p> <p>Upholding Rights to Children's Cultural Connections</p> <p>Trauma Informed Integrating Trauma-Informed Care into Child and Family Services: Strategies for Practitioners</p> <p>Innovations in Child Protection Research-Driven Strategies for Preventing Abuse</p> <p>Ethical Practice with Children in Out-of-Home-Care</p>	<p>Psychosocial Safety at Work How Organisations Can Assist or Hinder Staff Wellbeing and Mental Health</p> <p>The Whanaungatanga Program A New Approach to Mental Ill Health Prevention in Emergency Workforces</p> <p>Healing Organisational Systems From Trauma-Affected to Trauma-Informed Systems</p> <p>Moral Injury A New Dimension to Trauma</p> <p>Contemporary Leadership for the Human Professions Safe Harbours or Turbulent Seas?</p> <p>The Invisible Toll Combatting Vicarious Trauma in Human-Centred Workforces</p> <p>Designing for Wellbeing Building Resilience and Positive Psychology in Adult and Adolescent Learners</p> <p>Building Organisational Cultures of Safety</p> <p>Truth Telling and Collaboration Panel Discussion</p>

We offer early bird discounts and flexible booking options.

Registration Type	Early Bird	Standard Rate
Full Conference (2 Days)	\$795	\$895
Single Day Pass (Day 1)	\$445	\$499
Single Day Pass (Day 2)	\$445	\$499

Guest Speakers



A/Prof Lisa McKay-Brown

Associate Professor

Diversity & Inclusion University of Melbourne
Institute of Child Protection Studies
Australian Catholic University (ACU)



A/Prof Tim Moore

Associate Professor

Institute of Child Protection Studies
Australian Catholic University (ACU)



Dr John Molineux

Senior Lecturer

Deakin Business School
Deakin University



Annette Schneide

CEO

Together for Humanity



Kano Ravalji

CEO Third Culture,
Victorian Youth

Multicultural Commissioner



Esmat Manahan

National Director,
Aboriginal & Torres Strait
Islander Services



Jocelyn Bignold OAM

CEO McAuley Community

Services for Women



Jahin Tanvir

CEO

Australian School of
Entrepreneurship



David Burroughs

Chief Mental Health Officer

Westpac Founder of
Australian Psychological
Services



Rabbi Zalman Kastel AM

Founder

Together for Humanity



Fiona McCallum

General Manager

MacKillop Seasons



Deb Tsorbaris

CEO

Centre for Excellence in
Child and Family Welfare



Dr Beau Hu

National School Partnerships Manager

Together for Humanity



Dr Gemma McKibbin

Senior Research Fellow

University of Melbourne



Smeeta Singh

National Program Director

Power to Kids



Dr Phil Lambert PSM

Adjunct Professor

University of Sydney



Simangaliso Nyoni

Multicultural Practice Lead

MacKillop Family Services



Justin Roberts

National Program Director

RelATE



Allison Wainwright

CEO

Family Life



Louise Hall

National & International
Partnership

MacKillop Seasons



Josh Darby

Project Lead

Whanaungatanga
Fire & Emergency
New Zealand



Dr Nikki Jamieson

Suicide Prevention Lead

Department of Defence &
Founder of Moral Injury
Australia



Matthew Spicer

Director

Clinical Training Services
The Centre for Positive
Behaviour Support (CPBS)



KA McKercher

Founder

Beyond Sticky Notes



Keeva Mostyn

Seasons for Life Lead

MacKillop Seasons



Cameron Burgess

Program Director

Sanctuary



Dr Trixie James

Lecturer

School of Access Education
CQUniversity



Douglas Russel

Senior Research Officer

Institute of Child Protection
Studies, ACU



Kathy Karatasas

Founder & CEO

CulturalWorks



Gavin Blake

Founder

Visual Scribe

