



2026 Behaviour and Diverse Learning Symposium

Event Programme



Australian Government
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Programme Day 1

Focus: Anti-Bullying, School Safety and Social Cohesion

Monday, May 4

8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 8:40	Acknowledgement of Country and Prayer
8:40 - 9:00	Welcome and Opening Address <i>Dallas McInerney, CEO, Catholic Schools NSW</i>
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote 1: NSW Anti-Bullying Framework – Overview & Implementation <i>Emeritus Professor Donna Cross OAM, University of Western Australia</i> <i>Allocated time: 15 minutes for questions and discussion</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Table Discussion followed by feedback to Whole Group
10:15 - 10:45	Morning Tea
10:45 - 11:05	Keynote 2: A School Approach to Implementing the NSW Anti - Bullying Framework <i>Iris Nastasi, Principal, Rosebank College</i>
11:05 - 11:25	Keynote 3: A Diocesan Approach to Implementing the NSW Anti-Bullying Framework <i>Kerryn Barnett, Head of Wellbeing and Student Learning, CEDoW</i>
11:25 - 12:00	Panel Discussion: Implementing the NSW Anti-Bullying Framework: Identifying and Overcoming Challenges <i>Emeritus Professor Donna Cross OAM, University of Western Australia</i> <i>Kerryn Barnett, Head of Wellbeing and Student Learning, CEDoW</i> <i>Iris Nastasi, Principal, Rosebank College</i>
12:00 - 12:15	Table Discussion
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch

13:00 - 13:40	Panel Discussion: Countering Antisemitism in Catholic Schools <i>Sandy Hollis, Sydney Jewish Museum</i> <i>Peter Werthiem, Executive Council of Australian Jewry</i> <i>Patti Taaffe, English Teacher, Loreto Normanhurst</i> <i>Anthony Cleary, Sydney Catholic School</i>	
13:40 - 14:10	Case Studies in Building Social Cohesion in Catholic Schools	
	<i>Jeanette Holland, Principal, St Agnes Catholic High School, Rooty Hill</i>	15 min
	<i>Liesje Barratt & Luke Tobin (Catholic Mission), Interfaith Encounter Program</i>	15 min
14:10 - 14:20	Table Discussion	
14:20 - 14:40	Afternoon Tea	
14:40 - 15:20	Keynote 4: School Safety – Hostile Threats Project - Lessons Learnt <i>Peter Moroney, Nemesis Consultancy Group</i>	
15:20 - 15:50	Panel Discussion: Experience of a Hostile Threat Readiness Assessment <i>Chair: Christina Trimble, Executive Director, Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst (CEDB)</i> <i>Andrew Pearn, Deputy Principal, Maronite College of the Holy Family, Harris Park</i> <i>Paul Forrester, Principal, LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown</i> <i>Nigel McIntyre, WHS Manager, Diocese of Lismore, Catholic Schools</i>	
15:50 - 16:00	Day 1 Wrap Up and Evaluation Catholic Schools NSW	
16:00	Ends	



Programme Day 2

Focus: Consent and Respectful Relationships Education, Diverse Learning, CVE & School Safety, and Mental Health & Pastoral Care

Tuesday, May 5

7:50 - 8:30	Registration			
8:30 - 8:45	Acknowledgement of Country and Prayer			
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome and Opening Address Marita Winters, Deputy CEO, Catholic Schools NSW			
9:05 - 9:45	Keynote 1: Cultivating Resilience for Human Flourishing <i>Tom Bennett OBE, Expert Behaviour Advisor and Author of "Running the Room"</i>			
9:45 - 10:25	Keynote 2: Digital Disruption and the Developing Brain: Safeguarding Cognitive and Social-Emotional Development <i>Dr Mark Williams, Cognitive Neuroscientist and Lead Contributor to the "Brain Drain" story on 60 Minutes</i>			
10:25 - 10:55	Morning Tea			
Workshop Sessions	Consent and Respectful Relationships Stream	CVE and School Safety Stream	Diverse Learning Stream	Pastoral Care and Mental Health Stream
11:00 - 11:45	WS1-A: Case Study: Unpacking the Successes of the Michaela Community School (UK) <i>Tom Bennett OBE, Expert Behaviour Advisor and Author of "Running the Room"</i>	WS1-B: Identifying, Assessing & Case Managing At-Risk and Radicalised Students <i>Dr Steve Barracosa, Founder and Lead Consultant, PathwayX</i>	WS1-C: The Architecture of Inclusion <i>Dr Shiralee Poed, Associate Professor within the School of Education, University of Queensland</i>	WS1-D: Supporting the Victims and the Perpetrators of Bullying <i>Dr Mark Williams, Cognitive Neuroscientist and Lead Contributor to the "Brain Drain" story on 60 Minutes</i>

11:50 - 12:35	WS3-A: Building Sustainable Respectful Relationships School Programs <i>Martin Tobin, Religious Educator, Assistant Director, Catholic Identity & Evangelisation</i>	WS2-B: Developing a Behavioural Threat Assessment Framework for Schools <i>Kris Illingsworth, Behavioural Threat Specialist</i>	WS2-C: Exploring How Stress and Trauma Affect the Brain - Explosive Behaviour and De-escalation <i>Bryan Jeffrey, Director, MOAT: Mental Health Services</i>	WS2-D: Increasing Mental Health Support Capacity in Systems and Schools <i>Dr John Burns, Clinical Psychologist, Author, and Researcher</i>
12:40 - 13:40 Lunch				
13:40 - 14:25	WS2-A Strategies for Promoting Positive Masculinity in Catholic Schools <i>Rev Adrian Gomez, Mission Partner, Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese</i>	WS3-B Approaches to Building Social Cohesion in Catholic Schools <i>Dr Michael Casey, Director, PM Glynn Institute, ACU</i> <i>Ben Smith, Head of Mission, Identity & Civics, CSNSW</i> <i>Kate Xavier, Professional Learning Lead, Together for Humanity</i>	WS3-C Managing Explosive and Tricky Behaviour <i>Bryan Jeffrey, Director, MOAT: Mental Health Services</i>	WS3-D Beyond Therapy Culture in Catholic Education: Who Is the Person We Are Caring For? <i>Shawn Van der Linden, Founder and Managing Director, Altum Integrated</i>
14:30 - 15:10	Keynote 3: Exploring the Role of Virtue in Building and Sustaining Respectful Relationships <i>Stina Constantine, Family and Relationships Practitioner/Counsellor, Centacare</i>			
15:10 - 15:50	Panel Discussion: Cultivating a Culture of Resilience for Human Flourishing: From Theory to Practice <i>Tom Bennett OBE, Expert Behaviour Advisor and Author of "Running the Room"</i> <i>Shawn Van der Linden, Founder and Managing Director, Altum Integrated</i> <i>Stina Constantine, Family and Relationships Practitioner/Counsellor, Centacare</i> <i>David Hurley, Principal, St Therese Catholic Primary School, Sadleir</i>			
15:50 - 16:00	Day 2 Wrap Up and Evaluation <i>Catholic Schools NSW</i>			
16:00 Ends				