

Lead the Way Conference 2025

11–12 August | Melbourne | Rydges

Strengthening Wellbeing and Safety through
Collaboration



Keynote Speakers



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

Lead the Way Conference 2025

11–12 August | Melbourne | Rydges

Strengthening Wellbeing and Safety through
Collaboration



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.



MacKillop Family Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and Elders of the Communities we serve. As a Rainbow Tick organisation, MacKillop values an inclusive culture where LGBTIQ+ people are safe.

mackillopinstitute.org.au

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>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>Moral Injury A New Dimension to Trauma</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>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>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>

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



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



Esmail 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