

Compulsory Workshop Early Childcare - Session 1	
Title	Child Protection and Safety
Presenter	Sherean Michael & Silvana Popovic
Organisation	Fairfield City Council
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by Fairfield City Council's Early Childhood Team, outlines the key Child Protection and Child Safety reform requirements for early childhood services. It covers mandatory training, reporting duties, and practical compliance steps, ensuring educators are confident and prepared to maintain safe, child-centred practice.
Presenter's Bio	Sherean Michael has built a long career in early childhood education, beginning at 19 as a diploma-trained educator in the private sector. She completed her teaching degree while working full time and raising her children, later moving into Local Government where she found strong alignment with her values. Sherean spent ten years as a Director before progressing to Cluster Director and then Coordinator, supporting multiple services. These roles prepared her for her current position as Manager of Children's Services, which she has held for the past two years, leading high-quality, community-focused programs centred on children and families. Silvana Popovic has worked in early childhood education within Local Government since 2008, bringing nearly two decades of experience and a strong commitment to quality outcomes. She began as an educator and had since taken on leadership roles, including leading a community project supporting vulnerable families, serving as a preschool Director, and now working as Team Leader of Family Day Care at Fairfield City Council. Silvana is currently studying for a degree in Early Childhood Education and remains dedicated to building educator capability, strengthening compliance, and contributing positively to the sector.

Compulsory Workshop Professional Experience 1 – Primary & Secondary- Session 1	
Title	PE1-TEAC7154 Only-Teach NSW Your Employability
Presenter	Sam Goodman
Organisation	Teach NSW
Presentation Summary	This is a compulsory session for all preservice teachers enrolled in TEAC7154- PE1- ONLY. Teach NSW – Maximising Your Employability. Join the Teach NSW team to learn how to kick start your teaching career with the NSW Department of Education. This session outlines scholarship opportunities, employment pathways, programs that support early career teachers, and the benefits and incentives available when choosing to teach in NSW public schools. Join the Teach NSW team to learn how to kick start your teaching career with the NSW Department of Education. This session outlines scholarship opportunities, employment pathways, programs that support early career teachers, and the benefits and incentives available when choosing to teach in NSW public schools.
Presenter's Bio	Samantha is an experienced K-6 educator and leader with 20 years in NSW public education, specialising in curriculum development and teacher mentoring. She completed her Bachelor of Primary Education at Wollongong University in 2004 and has since progressed through diverse leadership roles, from classroom teacher to Deputy Principal positions and Foundation Assistant Principal: Curriculum and Instruction. Throughout her career, Samantha has demonstrated deep commitment to mentoring educators at every stage of their professional journey, from supervising practicum students to mentoring teachers and middle leaders and guiding senior leadership teams through curriculum transformations. In her current role as University Partnership Lead with Western Sydney

	University, she leverages her deep K-6 experience and pedagogical expertise to support beginning teachers in discovering their passion for teaching and building successful careers in NSW public schools.
Compulsory Workshop Professional Experience 2, School based – Primary & Secondary- Session 1	
Title	Final Year Students Only – Research to Practice
Presenter	Dr Chris Grima-Farrell
Organisation	Western Sydney University
Presentation Summary	This is a compulsory session for all preservice teachers enrolled in TEAC7155, TEAC4006 & TEAC7106 - Only. This session focuses on the ongoing challenge of bridging the gap between educational research and everyday classroom practice. The session explores how evidence-based approaches can be effectively translated into real teaching contexts, highlighting the importance of teacher agency, collaborative problem solving, and context responsive decision making in embedding inclusive pedagogy.
Presenter's Bio	Dr Christine Grima-Farrell is an educator and researcher specialising in inclusive education and the translation of research into classroom practice. Her career encompasses experience as a schoolteacher, special educator, teacher educator, and educational leader, informing her commitment to improving outcomes for diverse learners. Her research focuses on the ways evidence-informed practices can be enacted in educational settings, with particular interest in inclusive pedagogy, intervention approaches, and the role of teachers as active agents in research-to-practice processes. She has contributed to the field through publications, collaborative projects, and engagement with professional research communities, including the NSW Institute of Educational Research and the Australian

	Association for Research in Education. She also serves in editorial and reviewing roles, including her involvement with the IFIP Global Inclusion Magazine. Dr Grima-Farrell's work has been recognised through several teaching and research awards, including a NSW Premier's Teaching Award for Excellence in Inclusive Education and an Australian Government Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning. Her doctoral research received both the Beth Southwell Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award and Charles Sturt University's Most Outstanding Thesis Award. She is the author of What Matters in a Research to Practice Cycle? Teachers as Researchers (2017) and has produced a range of scholarly and professional publications. Dr Grima-Farrell continues to work with schools, systems, and research partners to support inclusive, evidence-informed practices that respond to learner diversity. Her work also includes collaboration with a range of national and international partners, contributing to projects focused on inclusion, teacher practice, and system improvement. These have included partnerships with organisations such as the European Centre for Educational Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health, as well as universities and industry partners including the University of Malta, the University of Hawai'i, Google (USA), and the University of Central Florida. Through these collaborations, she contributes to cross-context dialogue and the sharing of practices that support inclusive and equitable education.
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Early Childhood - Session 2	
Title	Developing Confidence with Aboriginal Perspectives
Presenter	Lesley Woodhouse & Brielle Nielsen
Organisation	Wingaru Education
Presentation Summary	This session helps teachers build confidence in embedding Aboriginal perspectives. It addresses common fears and barriers, offers practical strategies, and uses real classroom examples to show what respectful, culturally safe practice looks like. The aim is to support teachers to find their place in Aboriginal education and deliver meaningful, culturally grounded learning.
Presenter's Bio	<p>Lesley Woodhouse is a proud Boorooberongal Dharug woman and Founder of Wingaru Education, an Aboriginal owned organisation supporting schools to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across teaching and learning. With a background in education, policy and community engagement, Lesley leads the development of digital resources and professional learning that empower educators to teach with confidence, respect and cultural integrity.</p> <p>Brielle Nielsen is a proud Dharug woman from the Cabrogal clan with over 15 years of classroom teaching experience. Her work focuses on embedding Aboriginal knowledge and cultural perspectives into meaningful learning experiences. With extensive experience in Juvenile Justice Education Training Units, Brielle supports schools to create culturally safe environments that strengthen identity, engagement and positive outcomes for Aboriginal students.</p>

Early Childhood- Session 2	
Title	Fizzics Education - Science You Can Teach
Presenter	Shaun Gardiner
Organisation	Fizzics Education
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by Fizzics Education, introduces simple, hands-on science experiments that you can run with your students using everyday materials found at home or in local shops.
Presenter's Bio	Fizzics Education has been a leading Australian provider of interactive science workshops, shows & professional development programs since 2004, having now reached several million students across Australia and beyond. As a multi-award-winning STEM education provider, we work both face-to-face and online through inquiry-based learning with relevant & curriculum-linked hands-on activities that help learners understand their world.
Early Childhood- Session 2	
Title	Play, Place and Purpose: Nature-Based Pedagogy
Presenter	Jeanene Rox and Jessica Gibbs
Organisation	Cronulla Preschool
Presentation Summary	This workshop from Cronulla Preschool helps new educators build confidence in play-based, nature-rich teaching. Using the Play, Place and Purpose framework, it explores how children learn through play, the role of natural environments, and how intentional teaching is shaped by relationships and observation. The session highlights bush and beach programs, clarifies misconceptions about play-based learning, and offers practical ideas for open-ended environments and simple, meaningful documentation. It aligns with the Early Years Learning Framework and encourages educators to trust themselves and the learning process.
Presenter's Bio	Janene Rox , Director of Cronulla Preschool, leads a community-based service known for strong advocacy, relationship-focused practice, and

	<p>high-quality early childhood education. With extensive leadership experience, she is committed to supporting educators to feel confident, capable, and valued. Janene's work is grounded in the principle of paramountcy—placing children's rights and wellbeing at the centre of all decisions. She is known for thinking creatively about pedagogy and practice, challenging traditional approaches to create responsive, meaningful learning. Her leadership reflects a deep belief in play, connection to place, and inclusive learning communities.</p> <p>Jessica Gibbs, Educational Leader at Cronulla Preschool, supports educators to strengthen reflective practice, curriculum decision-making, and pedagogical confidence. Passionate about play-based and nature-based learning, she brings a collaborative, thoughtful approach that helps educators feel capable and supported. Jessica creates environments where children and educators are inspired to explore, grow, and thrive.</p>
Early Childhood - Session 2	
Title	Role of Unions in Supporting Pre-Service Teachers
Presenter	Peter Criticos - Organising Lead
Organisation	IEU NSW/ACT
Presentation Summary	This workshop delivered by IEU NSW/ACT focusses on the role of unions in supporting pre-service teachers as they enter the profession. It explores practical issues such as workplace rights, contracts, accreditation, and early career challenges, while highlighting how collective organisation can strengthen professional voice and improve conditions. The session will provide clear, practical guidance to help pre-service teachers navigate their first roles and understand the value of union membership from the outset of their careers.

Presenter's Bio	The IEU NSW/ACT represents teachers and support staff across the non-government education sector, including Catholic systemic schools, independent schools, and early childhood settings. The Union advocates for fair salaries, manageable workloads, job security, and professional respect, while supporting members through workplace issues, enterprise bargaining, and policy reform. It also plays a key role in engaging and supporting pre-service teachers as they transition into the profession.
Early Childhood - Session 2	
Title	Reflecting on Context Through Reggio Principles
Presenter	Victoria Kirkwood & Sarah Herbert
Organisation	IGS Early Learning Centre
Presentation Summary	This workshop draws on IGS ELC philosophy review and the principles of the Reggio Emilia Educational Approach in relational dialogue to our own local community. We invite participants to reflect on how their own personal and community context, such as history, culture, language and values, shape their educational approach.
Presenter's Bio	<p>Sarah Herbert is an Early Childhood Teacher working on Gadigal land as Deputy Principal Junior School at the International Grammar School, Ultimo. With more than two decades in early childhood education, she is committed to inclusive, family- and child-centred practice. Her work is grounded in transdisciplinary approaches that ensure all children, including those with special rights, have equitable access to high-quality education. Sarah has held leadership roles across preschools, long day care, OSHC, and primary school settings, always championing collaborative, strengths-based practice that honours children's rights and voices.</p> <p>Victoria Kirkwood has over 25 years' experience teaching, designing, and leading early childhood</p>

	programs across high-quality, not-for-profit settings in Australia and overseas. As Head of School Early Learning at IGS ELC, she advocates for social constructivism, inclusion, and diversity. Her recent participation in the Reggio Emilia International Study Tour strengthened her passion for children's rights, inquiry-based learning, and supporting children as active citizens. Victoria is committed to deepening cultural responsiveness personally, professionally, and organisationally.
Primary - Session 2	
Title	Developing Confidence with Aboriginal Perspectives
Presenter	Lesley Woodhouse & Brielle Nielsen
Organisation	Wingaru Education
Presentation Summary	This session helps teachers build confidence in embedding Aboriginal perspectives. It addresses common fears and barriers, offers practical strategies, and uses real classroom examples to show what respectful, culturally safe practice looks like. The aim is to support teachers to find their place in Aboriginal education and deliver meaningful, culturally grounded learning.
Presenter's Bio	<p>Lesley Woodhouse is a proud Boorooberongal Dharug woman and Founder of Wingaru Education, an Aboriginal owned organisation supporting schools to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across teaching and learning. With a background in education, policy and community engagement, Lesley leads the development of digital resources and professional learning that empower educators to teach with confidence, respect and cultural integrity.</p> <p>Brielle Nielsen is a proud Dharug woman from the Cabrogal clan with over 15 years of classroom teaching experience. Her work focuses on embedding Aboriginal knowledge and cultural</p>

	perspectives into meaningful learning experiences. With extensive experience in Juvenile Justice Education Training Units, Brielle supports schools to create culturally safe environments that strengthen identity, engagement and positive outcomes for Aboriginal students
Primary - Session 2	
Title	Seeing Me: Leveraging Learning for Belonging
Presenter	Penny Walden & Joan Palenzuela
Organisation	Mount Druitt Network of Schools
Presentation Summary	Delivered by Mount Druitt Network of Schools, Seeing Me - Leveraging Learning to Support Belonging and Connection in Complex Schools. For many students, their experience of school is shaped by a simple question: Do my teachers really see me? This workshop explores how student voice can strengthen belonging, connection, and engagement, particularly within the realities of complex school environments. Participants will examine how learning design can become a powerful enabler for students to feel recognised, valued, and understood. The session highlights practical ways teachers can notice and respond to student perspectives and lived experiences, fostering inclusive and identity-affirming classrooms. This workshop supports pre-service teachers to view student voice as a central practice for building connection, supporting equity, and enhancing teacher impact.
Presenter's Bio	Penny Walden (R/Principal Emerton Public School) & Joan Palenzuela (Deputy Principal, Blackett Public School), two devoted educational leaders with decades of service to Western Sydney, alongside Craig Warner, Relieving Director Educational Leadership, will present on the topic of Seeing Me - Leveraging Learning to Support Belonging and Connection in Complex Schools.

	<p>Mount Druitt Network consists of 12 primary schools, 2 schools for specific purposes, and 5 secondary schools, serving 8000 students, including 25% from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. Three primary schools have on-site public preschools providing critical early learning and social development for young learners. As students transition to, through and beyond school, we seek to provide educational experiences that provide equitable access to opportunities and outcomes and transform lives through learning. Mount Druitt Network schools serve diverse and complex communities, where school staff achieve success by ensuring a culturally responsive curriculum, inclusive pedagogies, and deep knowledge and understanding of community.</p>
Primary - Session 2	
Title	Student Wellbeing for teachers
Presenter	Melissa Jacka - Head Teacher Learning and Wellbeing
Organisation	St Marys Senior High School
Presentation Summary	<p>The session, "Student Wellbeing for Teachers" is delivered by St. Mary's Senior High School. You never get a second chance at a first impression. While this may be so, as a teacher, you should be the exception to this rule. To support our students, we must first endeavour to understand them. This is one of the greatest challenges facing teachers today. This workshop will help you navigate the dynamics of the classroom using the Wellbeing domains to connect with students, using real world experiences. We will examine the teenage brain, different techniques, and practical strategies that you can use in the classroom.</p>

Presenter's Bio	<p>Mel is a Western Sydney University alumnus who has worked for the NSW Department of Education for over 30 years. Trained as a secondary teacher, she has worked across a range of school settings, as Senior Education Officer, for NESAs in a variety of roles and lectured at a tertiary level. She has been called upon to develop resources for teachers, facilitate workshops and support new and experienced teachers to implement curriculum. In addition to teaching a range of subjects Mel's career has consistently involved a role in Student Wellbeing and her philosophy for working in education is "Every teacher is a teacher of Wellbeing".</p>
Primary - Session 2	
Title	Building Your Teacher Identity
Presenter	Stacey Quince - Professor of Practice
Organisation	Western Sydney University
Presentation Summary	<p>This session is presented by Stacey Quince from Western Sydney University. Becoming part of the teaching profession is both deeply rewarding and challenging, requiring confidence, adaptability and ongoing learning. This workshop builds on your learning and experience as a pre-service teacher, offering practical strategies to support your placement experience and ongoing development as a teacher. You'll explore effective ways to collaborate, seek and apply feedback, and navigate expectations in schools, building your confidence and identity as a member of the teaching profession. The workshop also invites your input into how ITE and placement support and ongoing professional learning are shaped through WСУ's new flagship initiative – The Centre for Innovation in Teaching. It's an opportunity to contribute your valuable perspective on what effective support looks like for ITE students and early career teachers, now and into the future!</p>

Presenter's Bio	Prof. Stacey Quince is Professor of Practice in WSU's School of Education and leads the university's new flagship initiative, the Centre for Innovation in Teaching. She brings extensive in-school experience as a classroom teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal across Western and South-Western Sydney schools. Stacey has also led high impact professional learning and system wide support initiatives across 2200 NSW public schools in early childhood, primary and secondary contexts.
Primary - Session 2	
Title	Storytelling as an educational tool
Presenter	Josh Nicholls
Organisation	Sydney Zoo
Presentation Summary	Presented by Sydney Zoo, Storytelling as an educational tool from a First Nations perspective. In this workshop, Josh Nicholls explores the art of storytelling as a powerful teaching practice and a culturally grounded way of sharing knowledge. Drawing on First Nations perspectives, he demonstrates how stories can create respectful, meaningful learning spaces that honour lived experience, place, and identity. Teachers will gain practical insights into culturally safe approaches that support authentic engagement with First Nations histories, cultures, and ways of knowing in the classroom.
Presenter's Bio	Josh Nicholls, a proud Muruwari/Gamilaroi man, is the First Nations Education Team Leader at Sydney Zoo. With over a decade of experience as an educator, Josh has worked in education at Muru Mittigar before helping design Sydney Zoo's education programs from the ground up. Today, he leads a passionate team delivering immersive, hands-on learning experiences for students of all ages. These programs celebrate First Nations history, culture, and sustainability, offering science programs such as Caring for Country, Food and

	Fibre, Survival and Sustainability and Aboriginal Astronomy. Josh's work ensures that every student connects deeply with culture and understands the importance of protecting our environment.
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Title	Fizzics Education - Science You Can Teach
Presenter	Shaun Gardiner
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Primary - Session 2	
Title	Teach in a Catholic School: Get a Head Start
Presenter	Joanne Thompson, Stephanie Chidiac, Lisa Boys & Gerard Moore
Organisation	BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education & Catholic Diocese
Presentation Summary	This session, delivered by BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education and the Catholic Diocese, outlines the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education required for teachers in Catholic primary schools and some secondary settings. Through a partnership between WSU and BBI, students can meet this requirement while completing their current studies. Learn how to gain a career advantage while studying at WSU.

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Primary- Session 2	
Title	Role of Unions in Supporting Pre-Service Teachers
Presenter	Peter Criticos - Organising Lead
Organisation	IEU NSW/ACT
Presentation Summary	This workshop delivered by IEU NSW/ACT focusses on the role of unions in supporting pre-service teachers as they enter the profession. It explores practical issues such as workplace rights, contracts, accreditation, and early career challenges, while highlighting how collective organisation can strengthen professional voice and improve conditions. The session will provide clear, practical guidance to help pre-service teachers navigate their first roles and understand the value of union membership from the outset of their careers.
Presenter's Bio	The IEU NSW/ACT represents teachers and support staff across the non-government education sector, including Catholic systemic schools, independent schools, and early childhood settings. The Union advocates for fair salaries, manageable workloads, job security, and professional respect, while supporting members through workplace issues, enterprise bargaining, and policy reform. It also plays a key role in engaging and supporting pre-service teachers as they transition into the profession.

Primary- Session 2	
Title	Diversity - what does it look like in today's classroom and how do we cater for all students?
Presenter	Nerida Rylewski
Organisation	Ropes Crossing Public School
Presentation Summary	This workshop presented by Nerida Rylewski from Ropes Crossing Public School will support pre-service teachers in understanding and addressing the diverse learning needs in today's mainstream K-6 classrooms. The session will provide an overview of various student learning needs, with practical suggestions for resources to further support teachers in accommodating these needs.
Presenter's Bio	Nerida Rylewski is a teacher at Ropes Crossing Public School, within the Department of Education. She has extensive experience working with diverse learners and is passionate about helping pre-service teachers build the skills necessary to support all students effectively in the classroom.
Primary- Session 2	
Title	Starting in STEM
Presenter	Shelley Wilson
Organisation	Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre
Presentation Summary	Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, <i>Starting in STEM</i> workshops are designed for pre-service, early-career, out-of-field, and STEM-curious educators. This interactive session explores how to plan to engage, curiosity-driven STEM learning aligned to NSW syllabus outcomes. You'll get hands-on with practical, low-cost activities using everyday materials to build confidence in teaching primary or high school science, technologies, and engineering.

Presenter's Bio	Shelley Wilson , Questacon's NSW Regional Leader, is passionate about helping teachers engage students in fun, hands-on, curriculum-aligned STEM learning. As part of Questacon's national Educator Programs team, she designs and delivers professional learning and supports STEM communities of practice, connecting teachers with resources and opportunities to enrich their classrooms. A former engineer, Shelley brings over 15 years of experience creating and leading impactful STEM programs for primary and high school students and their teachers.
Secondary - Session 2	
Title	Developing Confidence with Aboriginal Perspectives
Presenter	Lesley Woodhouse & Brielle Nielsen
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Secondary - Session 2	
Title	Media Literacy in the Classroom
Presenter	Natasha Thiele & Amelia Moseley
Organisation	ABC Education: BTN High
Presentation Summary	This workshop is delivered by ABC Education: BTN High. Join BTN's Amelia Moseley and Natasha Thiele for a deep dive into media literacy. They'll tackle critical digital issues and equip teachers with practical tips and ready-to-use classroom resources.
Presenter's Bio	Amelia Moseley is the host of Behind the News and a senior reporter on BTN High. She's worked at the ABC for nearly 10 years and studied Journalism at the University of South Australia. She's passionate about educating and engaging kids, teens and young adults in news and current affairs, giving them a voice in the media, and helping them build a better understanding of what's going on in the world around them. Natasha Thiele has worked for Behind the News for 16 years, firstly as a reporter and in more recent years as Production Co-ordinator with the BTN Education Team. She studied a Bachelor of Media at Adelaide University and Journalism at the University of South Australia. Natasha loves communicating with people, helping reporters

	organise talent and filming, and spreading the word about BTN as a resource for teachers.
Secondary - Session 2	
Title	Classroom Management Essentials
Presenter	Trevor Rothery
Organisation	Cambridge Park High School
Presentation Summary	Delivered by Trevor Rothery from Cambridge Park High School, this presentation will explore different ways to set up and manage challenging behaviours in your class by establishing consistent routines and practices. These practices are targeted at reducing student behaviours and creating a safe learning environment that focuses on student learning.
Presenter's Bio	Trevor Rothery is the Head Teacher Professional Practice and Hub coordinator at Cambridge Park High School. He has worked in Western Sydney for over 9 years with extensive experience dealing with low-SES and diverse students. He also has extensive experience working with pre-service and beginning teachers having coached and mentored them for the last 6 years.
Secondary- Session 2	
Title	Building Your Teacher Identity
Presenter	Stacey Quince - Professor of Practice
Organisation	Western Sydney University
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	and identity as a member of the teaching profession. The workshop also invites your input into how ITE and placement support and ongoing professional learning are shaped through WSU's new flagship initiative – The Centre for Innovation in Teaching. It's an opportunity to contribute your valuable perspective on what effective support looks like for ITE students and early career teachers, now and into the future!
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Secondary - Session 2	
Title	Teach in a Catholic School: Get a Head Start
Presenter	Joanne Thompson, Stephanie Chidiac, Lisa Boys & Gerard Moore
Organisation	Teach in a Catholic School: Get a Head Start (BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education & Catholic Diocese)

Presentation Summary	This session, delivered by BBI – The Australian Institute of Theological Education and the Catholic Diocese, outlines the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education required for teachers in Catholic primary schools and some secondary settings. Through a partnership between WSU and BBI, students can meet this requirement while completing their current studies. Learn how to gain a career advantage while studying at WSU.
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Secondary - Session 2	
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Presenter	Peter Criticos Organising Lead
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Secondary- Session 2	
Title	Starting in STEM
Presenter	Shelley Wilson
Organisation	Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre
Presentation Summary	Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, <i>Starting in STEM</i> workshops are designed for pre-service, early-career, out-of-field, and STEM-curious educators. This interactive session explores how to plan engaging, curiosity-driven STEM learning aligned to NSW syllabus outcomes. You'll get hands-on with practical, low-cost activities using everyday materials to build confidence in teaching primary or high school science, technologies, and engineering.
Presenter's Bio	Shelley Wilson , Questacon's NSW Regional Leader, is passionate about helping teachers engage students in fun, hands-on, curriculum-aligned STEM learning. As part of Questacon's national Educator Programs team, she designs and delivers professional learning and supports STEM communities of practice, connecting teachers with resources and opportunities to enrich their classrooms. A former engineer, Shelley brings over 15 years of experience creating and leading impactful STEM

	programs for primary and high school students and their teachers.
Early Childhood- Session 3	
Title	Trauma Informed Classroom Practice
Presenter	Jacquelyn Holmes & James Wade
Organisation	NSW Department of Education – Curran Public School
Presentation Summary	This workshop covers a brief introduction to trauma and how it can impact development, behaviour and learning. Practical, trauma-informed strategies are shared to support students in the classroom. Structured around Howard Bath's Three Pillars of Trauma Informed care, pre-service teachers will walk away with strategies to provide a safe environment, build strong trusting relationships with students and effectively teach emotional regulation.
Presenter's Bio	Jacquelyn Holmes has over a decade of experience in early childhood intervention and K–6 primary settings, across both mainstream and support classes. She has been an Assistant Principal in multiple schools and is now Assistant Principal Mentor at Curran Public School, supporting early career teachers through coaching and mentoring. Jacquelyn has led wellbeing initiatives in complex settings, delivering professional learning on trauma-informed practice and developing inclusive systems that engage all students and proactively support behaviour. James Wade has played a key role in creating a culturally safe and inclusive learning environment at Curran Public School. With strong expertise in wellbeing, he has embedded the Zones of Regulation and Berry Street Education Model and achieved significant success through his Engagement Group initiative. James is currently leading a school-wide project integrating learning dispositions and Aboriginal 8 Ways Pedagogy. As Assistant Principal Engagement & Wellbeing, he

	has been central to driving a shift toward more inclusive and trauma-informed practice.
Early Childhood- Session 3	
Title	Strengthening Early Learning
Presenter	Melinda Leedham, Nicole Mogensen & Justine Inglis
Organisation	Georges River Council
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by Georges River Council, explores practical, evidence-based approaches to high-quality, play-based learning in early childhood settings. Drawing on Council-run services, it highlights how strong governance, community connection, and professional practice support positive outcomes for children and families. The session examines how services respond to local community needs, guided by children's wellbeing and family priorities. It also emphasises authentic partnerships with families, strong community connections, and inclusive practice that prioritises diversity, equity, and participation for all children, including those with additional needs. The workshop also outlines the benefits of Council-run services—stability, continuity of care, and transparent governance—and the role of qualified, experienced educators supported through ongoing professional learning, mentoring, and strong leadership.
Presenter's Bio	Justine, Nicole and Melinda form part of the Georges River Council Early Learning leadership team and collectively bring more than 20 years of industry experience and expertise. With extensive backgrounds across a wide range of early learning settings, they are highly skilled in leading and supporting exceptional practice. Together, they offer deep insight into the delivery of high-quality early learning environments and innovative

	educational programs that support strong outcomes for children, families and communities.
Early Childhood - Session 3	
Title	NSW Public Preschool Insights: Practice, Inclusion, and Early Intervention
Presenter	Lauren Halloran
Organisation	Bankstown South Infants School Public Preschool
Presentation Summary	Delivered by Bankstown South Infants School Public School, this workshop will provide a snapshot on how NSW Public Preschools work and share her experience on working in the Public Preschool space. She will provide an insight into personal experience in working closely with children with disability with an Early Intervention Preschool Support class attached.
Presenter's Bio	Lauren Halloran is the Assistant Principal of Preschool and Early Intervention at Bankstown South Infants School, with over 20 years' experience in the NSW Department of Education. She has taught Kindergarten to Year 6 and spent the past 14 years in Public Preschools. Lauren has led two successful assessment and rating cycles, achieving "Exceeding" in all areas both times. She previously worked as an Initiatives Officer supporting Public Preschools to align with the National Quality Framework. Lauren now guides her team in high-quality play-based programming and transition practices, and serves as Network Facilitator for Public Preschools, leading professional discussions and sharing best practice.

Early Childhood - Session 3	
Title	The Next Word
Presenter	Matthew Esterman
Organisation	The Next Word
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by The Next Word, explores the rapid integration of artificial intelligence in classrooms and its impact on teaching and learning. The session unpacks how AI powered tools - from adaptive tutoring systems to generative content assistants - are reshaping educator roles, student engagement and assessment practices. Participants will gain practical insights into selecting and implementing AI solutions responsibly, including key ethical considerations and safeguards. The workshop also looks ahead to a future where collaboration between humans and intelligent technologies becomes a core part of education, helping educators feel prepared and confident as AI continues to evolve.
Presenter's Bio	Matt Esterman has over 20 years working in schools and beyond as a leading voice in the thoughtful adoption of technology. He is a trained History teacher with two master's degrees, who has made a significant contribution to educational thinking in Australia and overseas. Matt has founded The Next Word, a consultancy that seeks to leverage AI and other technologies to help shape a better future. He works with schools, universities and other organisations to increase awareness and capability in using AI. He has co-authored two books with Dr Nick Jackson, "The Next Word: AI & Teachers" (2024) and also "The Next Word: AI & Learners" (2025) co-written with award-winning high school student Amy Wallace. In partnership with Class Cover, he is also co-founder of Educator Intelligence a movement that

	will help educators across the world build and maintain their knowledge and skills in AI.
Early Childhood - Session 3	
Title	The importance of embedding inclusive practices from the point of enrolment
Presenter	Rebecca Whitburn, Anne Smith & Karen Nessi
Organisation	Campbelltown City Council
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by Campbelltown Council, focuses on what does inclusion really look like in everyday practice? In this interactive workshop, leaders from Campbelltown City Council share their real-world inclusion journey and invite you to reflect on your role in inclusive teaching practice. Through reflection, discussion and hands on activities, you'll see how inclusion is built through relationships—not reactions. You'll leave with practical tools you can use immediately and a clear next step to guide your growth as a teacher of tomorrow.
Presenter's Bio	Bec, Karen and Anne are members of the Senior Leadership Team within Campbelltown City Council's Education and Care Services. Together, they bring more than 70 years of combined experience across early childhood education, leadership and sector development, having worked in a range of roles that span practice, mentoring and system level improvement. Their work is grounded in a strong commitment to equity, quality and belonging for all children and families. As a leadership team, they are driven by thoughtful, evidence informed practice and a continuous improvement mindset, consistently seeking creative and practical ways to strengthen outcomes across services. Working collaboratively, they support educators and leaders to build consistent, confident practice and are focused on positioning their services and their community as leaders within the education and care sector.

Early Childhood -Session 3	
Title	State Library of NSW
Presenter	Jessica Knight
Organisation	State Library of NSW
Presentation Summary	This session is presented by the State Library of NSW. From Mary Shelley's hair to Henry Lawson's death mask, the State Library of NSW is full of stories that spark curiosity. This session introduces pre-service teachers to the State Library's remarkable collections and its wide range of curriculum-aligned learning experiences for ES1 - Stage 6 students. Through hands-on navigation of the library's website, participants will explore on-site and virtual excursions, professional learning opportunities, and discover how to access high-quality resources to enrich future classroom practice.
Presenter's Bio	Jessica Knight is the Senior Education Officer at the State Library of NSW and an experienced educator with 15 years in the classroom. She has taught English, History, Geography and Aboriginal Studies across Sydney, rural NSW and London, and has held leadership roles including Head Teacher Social Science and Quality Teaching Advisor at the NSW Department of Education.
Primary - Session 3	
Title	Trauma Informed Classroom Practice
Presenter	Jacquelyn Holmes & James Wade
Organisation	NSW Department of Education – Curran Public School
Presentation Summary	This workshop covers a brief introduction to trauma and how it can impact development, behaviour and learning. Practical, trauma-informed strategies are shared to support students in the classroom. Structured around Howard Bath's Three Pillars of Trauma Informed care, pre-service teachers will

	walk away with strategies to provide a safe environment, build strong trusting relationships with students and effectively teach emotional regulation
Presenter's Bio	Jacquelyn Holmes has over a decade of experience in early childhood intervention and K–6 primary settings, across both mainstream and support classes. She has been an Assistant Principal in multiple schools and is now Assistant Principal Mentor at Curran Public School, supporting early career teachers through coaching and mentoring. Jacquelyn has led wellbeing initiatives in complex settings, delivering professional learning on trauma-informed practice and developing inclusive systems that engage all students and proactively support behaviour. James Wade has played a key role in creating a culturally safe and inclusive learning environment at Curran Public School. With strong expertise in wellbeing, he has embedded the Zones of Regulation and Berry Street Education Model and achieved significant success through his Engagement Group initiative. James is currently leading a school-wide project integrating learning dispositions and Aboriginal 8 Ways Pedagogy. As Assistant Principal Engagement & Wellbeing, he has been central to driving a shift toward more inclusive and trauma-informed practice.
Primary - Session 3	
Title	Literacy through Literature
Presenter	Sheryl Cootes, Maureen Bromage & Michael Campbell
Organisation	WestWords
Presentation Summary	Delivered by WestWords, The Inspiring Reading and Writing" session will focus on the value and consequent benefits of engaging with literature and the importance of reading for pleasure, for both teachers and their students, including to manage

	engagement levels and inspire reading and writing, as well as practical examples and pathways to achieve results.
Presenter's Bio	<p>Sheryl Cootes, Schools' Program Manager, has over 30 years' teaching experience in Western Sydney across roles including teacher, Assistant Principal and Relieving Principal. Most recently at Bidwill PS, she mentored teachers in using literature and built a strong culture of reading for pleasure. She is a recipient of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Australian College of Education Award, a former President of the CBCA Blue Mountains sub-branch, and a judge for the Eve Pownall Award (2021–2023).</p> <p>Maureen Bromage, Assistant Schools' Program Manager, has taught upper primary students in public and private schools across regional NSW and Western Sydney for more than 35 years. She is passionate about inspiring a love of literature and supporting students as thoughtful readers and writers. Maureen has been an active member of the CBCA Blue Mountains branch, working with local authors and illustrators to promote new work.</p> <p>Michael Campbell, Executive & Publishing Director, is a senior Australian arts leader with a 35-year career across literature, publishing, festivals, opera, dance and theatre. He has held roles including Festival Director, CEO, Publishing Director, Artistic Director, producer, strategist and curator, working nationally and internationally with major arts organisations, writers and cultural institutions.</p>

Primary - Session 3	
Title	Understanding EAL/D Education
Presenter	Kerrie Quee
Organisation	Western Sydney University
Presentation Summary	This workshop delivered by Kerrie Quee from Western Sydney University, explores effective strategies for supporting EAL/D learners in mainstream classrooms. Drawing on practical experience and current Department of Education policy and research, it equips pre-service teachers with inclusive, culturally responsive approaches to strengthen language, literacy and curriculum access, enabling all students to participate, engage and achieve across diverse learning contexts.
Presenter's Bio	Kerrie Quee is an experienced educator with over 40 years in teaching and leadership, specialising in English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D). She currently works as an EAL/D Education Leader with the NSW Department of Education, where she supports schools to implement evidence-based practices that improve outcomes for multilingual learners. Kerrie is a Nationally Accredited Highly Accomplished Teacher (HALT) and actively contributes to the profession through her work with NESAs, supporting teacher accreditation processes and mentoring colleagues. In addition, she is an academic at Western Sydney University, where she teaches pre-service teachers. Kerrie is committed to building teacher capacity, strengthening culturally responsive practices and promoting equitable access to the curriculum for all students. Her work reflects a deep commitment to collaboration, professional learning and improving student outcomes across diverse educational contexts.

Primary - Session 3	
Title	Inclusive Teaching In Action
Presenter	Audrey O'Connor
Organisation	Warrah Specialist School
Presentation Summary	How do we truly see our students beyond their diagnoses? This workshop invites pre-service teachers to reflect on their beliefs and assumptions about disability and learning. This workshop invites pre-service teachers to reflect on their beliefs and assumptions about disability and learning. Delivered by staff from Warrah Specialist School, the session uses stories, discussion, and practical strategies to help participants explore how to create inclusive classrooms where every student is valued, understood, and supported to succeed. The workshop aims to inspire a mindset shift while also building practical teaching approaches, encouraging future teachers to see the whole child—not just their diagnosis—and to foster genuine belonging in their classrooms.
Presenter's Bio	Audrey O'Connor is an actor, advocate, and speaker with Down syndrome. She shares her lived experience to support educators in creating inclusive classrooms and is a strong voice for representation, opportunity, and high expectations.
Primary - Session 3	
Title	The Next Word
Presenter	Matthew Esterman
Organisation	The Next Word
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by The Next Word, explores the rapid integration of artificial intelligence in classrooms and its impact on teaching and learning. The session unpacks how AI powered tools - from adaptive tutoring systems to generative content assistants - are reshaping educator roles, student engagement and assessment practices. Participants will gain

	practical insights into selecting and implementing AI solutions responsibly, including key ethical considerations and safeguards. The workshop also looks ahead to a future where collaboration between humans and intelligent technologies becomes a core part of education, helping educators feel prepared and confident as AI continues to evolve.
Presenter's Bio	Matt Esterman has over 20 years working in schools and beyond as a leading voice in the thoughtful adoption of technology. He is a trained History teacher with two masters degrees, who has made a significant contribution to educational thinking in Australia and overseas. Matt has founded The Next Word, a consultancy that seeks to leverage AI and other technologies to help shape a better future. He works with schools, universities and other organisations to increase awareness and capability in using AI. He has co-authored two books with Dr Nick Jackson, "The Next Word: AI & Teachers" (2024) and also "The Next Word: AI & Learners" (2025) co-written with award-winning high school student Amy Wallace. In partnership with Class Cover, he is also co-founder of Educator Intelligence a movement that will help educators across the world build and maintain their knowledge and skills in AI.
Primary - Session 3	
Title	NSW Teachers Federation: The power of collaboration
Presenter	Katinka Kastner
Organisation	NSW Teachers Federation
Presentation Summary	Presented by the NSW Teachers Federation this seminar will cover how Federation supports future teachers through professional support and scholarships as well as union wins and campaigns. The seminar also covers important information for

	those preparing to teach in the public education system including accreditation, approval to teach, and working conditions.
Presenter's Bio	Katinka is the NSW Teachers Federation Membership & Training Officer. What she loves most about this role is engaging pre-service and early career teachers in the union and the many benefits of membership. Her background is as a primary school educator with over a decade of experience. Katinka has taught in public schools across Victoria, New South Wales, and the Northern Territory. Her diverse experiences have allowed her to teach in a variety of settings from inner-city to rural and remote schools and each location has offered unique experiences and challenges.
Primary Session 3	
Title	Building Confidence in your early career
Presenter	Phil Gentile & Tony Diaczok
Organisation	Holroyd High School
Presentation Summary	<p>This session features two presenters, with each topic delivered in a 30-minute presentation.</p> <p>Session 1: Presented by Phil Gentile, a teacher in the western suburbs and an author, this workshop is a warm and encouraging space created especially for pre-service teachers stepping into one of the most rewarding journeys of their lives. Whether heading into a first prac, a final prac, or the exciting threshold of a first teaching job, the session is designed to inspire, equip, and remind each participant of the strengths they bring and the impact they can make.</p> <p>Session 2: Delivered by Tony Diaczok, a long serving teacher in the western suburbs and a university advisor supporting Western Sydney University pre-service teachers, this workshop explores "Making Sense of Your Early Career</p>

	Teaching Journey." This session helps early career teachers develop clarity, understanding, and perspective as they navigate the first stages of their professional journey. Tony provides practical, actionable skills and mindsets to support agile, responsive approaches to new school environments, with a strong emphasis on personal agency and professional responsibility. The workshop draws on evidence-based frameworks including Choice Theory, Self Determination Theory, and Dweck's Growth Mindset, offering participants a grounded, research informed foundation for thriving in their early years of teaching.
Presenter's Bio	<p>Phil Gentile is a specialist Music teacher with fifteen years of experience across primary and secondary schools. His passion for mentoring beginning teachers, combined with completing a Master of Education in Leadership, inspired him to write Dear Graduate Teachers - a heartfelt letter to new educators designed to help them start well and continue in the profession with strength. Phil has led faculties and secondary curriculum, forged partnerships with external school stakeholders, and brings a wealth of real-world experience to everything he does. Today, his greatest desire is to equip the next generation of teachers with the qualities and skills he knows make a lasting difference in students' lives.</p> <p>Tony Diaczok Public Educator 42 years, 35 in various leadership positions, currently working as a coach and mentor at Holroyd HS. Also currently working with WSU as a Practicum Adviser and in the past, he has delivered Geography Method units at WSU. Passionate about putting people at the centre of education, recognising that relationships are the key to creating a climate and culture which produces excellent educational outcomes.</p>

Primary - Session 3	
Title	Your Librarian, A Quiet but Essential Partner
Presenter	Gina Krohn
Organisation	Glenfield Public School, NSW Department of Education
Presentation Summary	Presented by Glenfield Public School, the seminar "Your School Librarian – Your Quiet and Essential Partner in Quality Education" introduces pre-service teachers to the vital role of teacher librarians in supporting effective teaching and learning. Participants will explore research highlighting the impact of qualified teacher librarians and learn how they: * Curate high quality, age appropriate resources that save teacher's valuable time *Teach research skills, information literacy, digital literacy, and digital citizenship *Align library learning with the new NSW curriculum *Build a strong reading culture through school wide initiatives and personalised book support. This session highlights how teacher librarians quietly but powerfully enhance student learning and strengthen whole-school practice.
Presenter's Bio	Gina Krohn is an award-winning teacher librarian, working at Glenfield Public School in Western Sydney since 2016. She is a passionate and dedicated educator with a strong background as a teacher librarian, literacy and library advocate and community leader. At school, her work focuses on developing students' information and digital literacy skills as well creating meaningful connections between students and books. She believes that reading widely supports both academic growth and social awareness, and she encourages students to see themselves as lifelong readers and learners. Gina is the founder of the PLCC (Primary Library: Creative Collaboration) - a unique collaborative space for TLs (teacher librarians) to network, provide support and share ideas and inspiration.

	She also created the PLCC Backpack Project, a literacy initiative partnering with some of Australia's top authors and illustrators to promote reading engagement to schools throughout Australia. In her spare time, she supports Inuka, a registered charity working in Tanzania and founded by her daughter; Gina is currently building a library at CHETI 5 in Arusha.
Primary Session 3	
Title	State Library of NSW
Presenter	Jessica Knight
Organisation	State Library of NSW
Presentation Summary	This session is presented by the State Library of NSW. From Mary Shelley's hair to Henry Lawson's death mask, the State Library of NSW is full of stories that spark curiosity. This session introduces pre-service teachers to the State Library's remarkable collections and its wide range of curriculum-aligned learning experiences for ES1 - Stage 6 students. Through hands-on navigation of the Library's website, participants will explore on-site and virtual excursions, professional learning opportunities, and discover how to access high-quality resources to enrich future classroom practice.
Presenter's Bio	Jessica Knight is the Senior Education Officer at the State Library of NSW and an experienced educator with 15 years in the classroom. She has taught English, History, Geography and Aboriginal Studies across Sydney, rural NSW and London, and has held leadership roles including Head Teacher Social Science and Quality Teaching Advisor at the NSW Department of Education.

Primary - Session 3	
Title	Building Behaviour & Cultural Connections
Presenter	Dannielle Chapman & Joan Palenzuela
Organisation	Mount Druitt area Public Schools
Presentation Summary	<p>This session will cover two different topics, with each presentation running for approximately 30 minutes. Session 1: This workshop is delivered by Danielle Chapman, a school principal from the Mount Druitt area. This practical and engaging session supports pre-service teachers to better understand and respond to challenging behaviour in the classroom. Grounded in trauma informed practice and the Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS) approach, the workshop explores how behaviour is often a form of communication linked to unmet needs and lagging skills. Participants will learn simple, effective strategies to build strong relationships, support regulation, and respond calmly and consistently in real classroom situations. The workshop emphasises shifting from control-based responses to connection driven approaches, equipping future teachers with realistic, actionable tools they can apply immediately on practicum.</p> <p>Session 2: This session is delivered by a principal from Blackett Public School and explores the theme “Creating Cultural Connections.” The presentation highlights how Blackett Public School has evolved through the leadership of culturally responsive staff and demonstrates the powerful impact a single teacher can have in driving meaningful, school wide change. This topic aligns strongly with the conference theme Inspiring Futures: Empowering the Teachers of Tomorrow, offering pre-service teacher’s insight into how culturally informed practice can transform student engagement, strengthen community relationships, and shape a more inclusive future for education.</p>

Presenter’s Bio	<p>Dannielle Chapman is an Assistant Principal based in Mount Druitt, NSW, with a strong commitment to supporting students from diverse and complex backgrounds. With experience as both a School Learning Support Officer and classroom teacher, she specialises in trauma-informed practice, behaviour support, and inclusive education. Dannielle is passionate about building strong, relational classroom environments where all students feel safe, supported, and able to succeed. She has led professional learning across schools and presented at sector events including SEPLA. In 2024, she was recognised with a Director’s Award for her leadership in organising the Western Sydney Special Education Conference.</p> <p>Joan Palenzuela is the Relieving Principal at Blackett Public School, where she leads a dedicated team committed to every student’s learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging. With a strong focus on inclusive education, Joan supports programs that provide high-quality learning opportunities for all students, including those in the school’s four Inclusive Education classes. She is deeply committed to fostering strong partnerships with families, the community, and Aboriginal stakeholders, ensuring that every child is set up for success. Joan’s leadership is grounded in collaboration, curiosity, and a belief in creating a supportive, culturally respectful school environment where all learners can thrive.</p>
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Secondary - Session 3	
Title	Classroom Ready Systems to Build Confidence
Presenter	Chantelle Jackson
Organisation	Elizabeth Macarthur High School
Presentation Summary	Delivered by Chantelle Jackson from Elizabeth Macarthur High School, this interactive workshop shares practical, classroom-ready systems that build confidence and reduce overwhelm from day one. Participants will explore clear lesson structures, simple behaviour routines, low-prep differentiation strategies and time-saving communication templates that make teaching more manageable and sustainable. Through hands-on activities and ready-to-use tools, attendees will create resources they can immediately apply in their next placement or classroom.
Presenter's Bio	Chantelle Jackson is an experienced Social Sciences teacher with over 10 years in NSW public schools. As Head Teacher – Mentor, she supports early career teachers through their first three years, focusing on strong classroom practice and achieving proficient accreditation. She also serves as a PEx Hub Coordinator, coordinating professional experience placements across the Macarthur region and strengthening partnerships between schools and universities. Chantelle leads her school's Future Teacher Club , encouraging students to pursue teaching, and has contributed Geography resources for the Geography Teachers' Association. Her work centres on practical, classroom-focused strategies that build teacher confidence and support student success.

Secondary Session 3	
Title	Thriving Just not Surviving
Presenter	Kath Lathouras
Organisation	Emmaus Catholic College
Presentation Summary	Positive Psychology for Sustainable Teaching - Delivered by a highly experienced Western suburbs teacher and long serving Western Sydney University advisor, Kath Lathouras from Emmaus Catholic College presents, "Thriving, Not Just Surviving": Positive Psychology for Sustainable Teaching. This workshop supports pre-service and early career teachers in understanding how positive psychology can strengthen wellbeing, resilience, and professional sustainability. Drawing on years of classroom experience and mentoring PSTs, Kath explores practical strategies that help teachers recognise their strengths, maintain perspective, and build habits that protect against burnout. Participants will learn evidence informed approaches to cultivating optimism, fostering supportive relationships, and developing self-awareness - key components of thriving in the teaching profession. The session offers realistic, actionable tools that teachers can apply immediately to enhance their wellbeing and sustain their passion for teaching.
Presenter's Bio	Kath Lathouras is a highly experienced teacher from Sydney's western suburbs and a long-serving advisor to Western Sydney University pre-service teachers. Currently teaching at Emmaus Catholic College, Kath brings decades of classroom expertise, deep knowledge of teacher development, and a strong commitment to supporting early career educators as they enter the profession.

Secondary - Session 3	
Title	Your Gateway to the Connected Communities Strategy
Presenter	Michael Lambe & Vicki Nguyen
Organisation	Airds High School
Presentation Summary	<i>Stay Local. Go Far. Start your Career with an Edge</i> is delivered by Michael Lambe and Vicki Nguyen from Airds High School. This workshop focuses on how to gain an early career advantage through practical insight and honest reflection—the advice you wish you could give your younger teacher self. It highlights why your first school matters, how it shapes your confidence, capability, and long-term opportunities, and how the right environment can build momentum from day one. You'll explore how different starting points influence personal and professional growth, and how intentional choices now can help you build the life you want—whether that's travel, flexibility, or eventually affording the house, the holidays, and yes, the smashed avo.
Presenter's Bio	Michael Lambe and Vicki Nguyen have had dynamic careers and have held numerous positions across NSW Public Schools. They are both currently serving the community at Airds High School, where Michael is the Deputy Principal and Vicki is the Head Teacher Mentor. Together, they bring a grounded, school-based perspective on how to have a rewarding career. Their combined experience spans classroom practice, leadership development, and system-level mentoring, with a shared focus on being your authentic self.

Secondary- Session 3	
Title	Power of Student & Teacher Reflection in Class
Presenter	Kimberley Fitzgerald
Organisation	Blacktown Girls High School
Presentation Summary	This seminar will explore how reflective practice is a cornerstone of quality teaching that enhances both your professional growth and student learning. This workshop guides you in using reflection to refine your instructional strategies, promote metacognition, and design authentic, challenging, and engaging learning experiences. Discover practical approaches to fostering critical thinking, adaptability, and deep understanding in your classroom. Harness the power of reflection to continually improve your teaching and empower your students to become thoughtful, critical and independent learners.
Presenter's Bio	Kimberley Fitzgerald has proudly been teaching on Dharug land since 2008, when she was first appointed at Blacktown Girls. As one never leaves paradise, she has remained there ever since, with the past 12 years served as Head Teacher of English. A passionate advocate for the boundless possibilities of public education, Kimberley has led whole-school cultural change in the areas of explicit teaching, high expectations and reflective practice. She prides herself on being a collaborative, committed and proactive educator, and feels genuinely fortunate to lead a team who not only laugh their way through each day, but are also consistently open to innovation, best practice and professional growth. Presenting outside her own school context for the first time, Kimberley feels both privileged and a little terrified to be speaking with students who are about to begin what she believes is “the best job in the world.”

Secondary - Session 3	
Title	Inclusive Teaching In Action
Presenter	Audrey O'Connor
Organisation	Warrah Specialist School
Presentation Summary	How do we truly see our students beyond their diagnoses? This workshop invites pre-service teachers to reflect on their beliefs and assumptions about disability and learning. This workshop invites pre-service teachers to reflect on their beliefs and assumptions about disability and learning. Delivered by staff from Warrah Specialist School, the session uses stories, discussion, and practical strategies to help participants explore how to create inclusive classrooms where every student is valued, understood, and supported to succeed. The workshop aims to inspire a mindset shift while also building practical teaching approaches, encouraging future teachers to see the whole child—not just their diagnosis—and to foster genuine belonging in their classrooms.
Presenter's Bio	Audrey O'Connor is an actor, advocate, and speaker with Down syndrome. She shares her lived experience to support educators in creating inclusive classrooms and is a strong voice for representation, opportunity, and high expectations.
Secondary Session 3	
Title	The Next Word
Presenter	Matthew Esterman
Organisation	The Next Word
Presentation Summary	This workshop, delivered by The Next Word, explores the rapid integration of artificial intelligence in classrooms and its impact on teaching and learning. The session unpacks how AI powered tools - from adaptive tutoring systems to generative content assistants - are reshaping educator roles, student engagement and assessment practices. Participants will gain

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Secondary - Session 3	
Title	NSW Teachers Federation: The power of collaboration
Presenter	Katinka Kastner
Organisation	NSW Teachers Federation
Presentation Summary	Presented by the NSW Teachers Federation this seminar will cover how Federation supports future teachers through professional support and scholarships as well as union wins and campaigns. The seminar also covers important information for

	those preparing to teach in the public education system including accreditation, approval to teach, and working conditions.
Presenter's Bio	Katinka is the NSW Teachers Federation Membership & Training Officer. What she loves most about this role is engaging pre-service and early career teachers in the union and the many benefits of membership. Her background is as a primary school educator with over a decade of experience. Katinka has taught in public schools across Victoria, New South Wales, and the Northern Territory. Her diverse experiences have allowed her to teach in a variety of settings from inner-city to rural and remote schools and each location has offered unique experiences and challenges.
Secondary Session 3	
Title	Building Confidence in your early career
Presenter	Phil Gentile & Tony Diacok
Organisation	Holroyd High School
Presentation Summary	<p>This session features two presenters, with each topic delivered in a 30-minute presentation.</p> <p>Session 1: Presented by Phil Gentile, a teacher in the western suburbs and an author, this workshop is a warm and encouraging space created especially for pre-service teachers stepping into one of the most rewarding journeys of their lives. Whether heading into a first prac, a final prac, or the exciting threshold of a first teaching job, the session is designed to inspire, equip, and remind each participant of the strengths they bring and the impact they can make.</p> <p>Session 2: Delivered by Tony Diaczok, a long serving teacher in the western suburbs and a university advisor supporting Western Sydney University pre-service teachers, this workshop explores "Making Sense of Your Early Career</p>

	Teaching Journey." This session helps early career teachers develop clarity, understanding, and perspective as they navigate the first stages of their professional journey. Tony provides practical, actionable skills and mindsets to support agile, responsive approaches to new school environments, with a strong emphasis on personal agency and professional responsibility. The workshop draws on evidence-based frameworks including Choice Theory, Self Determination Theory, and Dweck's Growth Mindset, offering participants a grounded, research informed foundation for thriving in their early years of teaching.
Presenter's Bio	<p>Phil Gentile is a specialist Music teacher with fifteen years of experience across primary and secondary schools. His passion for mentoring beginning teachers, combined with completing a Master of Education in Leadership, inspired him to write Dear Graduate Teachers - a heartfelt letter to new educators designed to help them start well and continue in the profession with strength. Phil has led faculties and secondary curriculum, forged partnerships with external school stakeholders, and brings a wealth of real-world experience to everything he does. Today, his greatest desire is to equip the next generation of teachers with the qualities and skills he knows make a lasting difference in students' lives.</p> <p>Tony Diaczok Public Educator 42 years, 35 in various leadership positions, currently working as a coach and mentor at Holroyd HS. Also currently working with WSU as a Practicum Adviser and in the past, he has delivered Geography Method units at WSU. Passionate about putting people at the centre of education, recognising that relationships are the key to creating a climate and culture which produces excellent educational outcomes.</p>

Secondary- Session 3	
Title	State Library of NSW
Presenter	Jessica Knight
Organisation	State Library of NSW
Presentation Summary	This session is presented by the State Library of NSW. From Mary Shelley's hair to Henry Lawson's death mask, the State Library of NSW is full of stories that spark curiosity. This session introduces pre-service teachers to the State Library's remarkable collections and its wide range of curriculum-aligned learning experiences for ES1 - Stage 6 students. Through hands-on navigation of the library's website, participants will explore on-site and virtual excursions, professional learning opportunities, and discover how to access high-quality resources to enrich future classroom practice.
Presenter's Bio	Jessica Knight is the Senior Education Officer at the State Library of NSW and an experienced educator with 15 years in the classroom. She has taught English, History, Geography and Aboriginal Studies across Sydney, rural NSW and London, and has held leadership roles including Head Teacher Social Science and Quality Teaching Advisor at the NSW Department of Education.
Secondary Session 3	
Title	Building Behaviour & Cultural Connections
Presenter	Dannielle Chapman & Joan Palenzuela
Organisation	Dannielle Chapman is an Assistant Principal
Presentation Summary	This session will cover two different topics, with each presentation running for approximately 30 minutes. Session 1: This workshop is delivered by Danielle Chapman, a school principal from the Mount Druitt area. This practical and engaging session supports pre-service teachers to better

	<p>understand and respond to challenging behaviour in the classroom. Grounded in trauma informed practice and the Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS) approach, the workshop explores how behaviour is often a form of communication linked to unmet needs and lagging skills. Participants will learn simple, effective strategies to build strong relationships, support regulation, and respond calmly and consistently in real classroom situations. The workshop emphasises shifting from control-based responses to connection driven approaches, equipping future teachers with realistic, actionable tools they can apply immediately on practicum.</p> <p>Session 2: This session is delivered by a principal from Blackett Public School and explores the theme "Creating Cultural Connections." The presentation highlights how Blackett Public School has evolved through the leadership of culturally responsive staff and demonstrates the powerful impact a single teacher can have in driving meaningful, school wide change. This topic aligns strongly with the conference theme Inspiring Futures: Empowering the Teachers of Tomorrow, offering pre-service teacher's insight into how culturally informed practice can transform student engagement, strengthen community relationships, and shape a more inclusive future for education.</p>
Presenter's Bio	Dannielle Chapman is an Assistant Principal based in Mount Druitt, NSW, with a strong commitment to supporting students from diverse and complex backgrounds. With experience as both a School Learning Support Officer and classroom teacher, she specialises in trauma-informed practice, behaviour support, and inclusive education. Dannielle is passionate about building strong, relational classroom environments where all students feel safe, supported, and able to succeed.

	<p>She has led professional learning across schools and presented at sector events including SEPLA. In 2024, she was recognised with a Director's Award for her leadership in organising the Western Sydney Special Education Conference.</p> <p>Joan Palenzuela is the Relieving Principal at Blackett Public School, where she leads a dedicated team committed to every student's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging. With a strong focus on inclusive education, Joan supports programs that provide high-quality learning opportunities for all students, including those in the school's four Inclusive Education classes. She is deeply committed to fostering strong partnerships with families, the community, and Aboriginal stakeholders, ensuring that every child is set up for success. Joan's leadership is grounded in collaboration, curiosity, and a belief in creating a supportive, culturally respectful school environment where all learners can thrive.</p>
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