

Queensland Independent Schools SUMMIT

FUTURE GROWTH,
PROPELLING
SCHOOL LEADERS

30 July – 1 August 2025

Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Gold Coast

Join us for the Queensland Independent Schools Summit (QISS), a premier leadership event tailored specifically for independent school leaders from across Australia and abroad to enhance their leadership skills and strategies.

**REGISTER
NOW**

Day one of the conference will focus on the theme of 'RISK', featuring keynote speakers such as Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, who will discuss navigating risk and leading from the front, and Justine Flynn, who will address the importance of personal and team wellbeing to avoid burnout.

On day two, the theme shifts to 'GROWTH', with Dr Catriona Wallace exploring transformational leadership and informative decision-making for growth, and Simon Kuestenmacher discussing population and economic growth and the future of education.



SPECIALIST ANAESTHETIST AND CAVE DIVER
DR RICHARD HARRIS SC OAM



CO-FOUNDER - THANKYOU
JUSTINE FLYNN



GLOBAL ETHICIST, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR,
SPEAKER & CO-AUTHOR
DR CATRIONA WALLACE



CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR - THE
DEMOGRAPHICS GROUP
SIMON KUESTENMACHER

Program

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY

18.30 – 20.00	WELCOME RECEPTION
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THURSDAY 31 JULY – MORNING

6.30	Yoga or Beach Walk
8.00	Arrival tea and coffee
8.30	OPENING: Dr Phillip Moulds OAM, Chairman, Independent Schools Queensland
8.35	Welcome to Country
8.40	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Keynote speaker to be announced
8.50	Dr Richard Harris: Navigating Risk & Leading from the Front Richard's role as an anaesthetist required him to balance risk multiple times a day, often with people's lives at stake. His ability to manage risk was put to the ultimate test during the Tham Luang Thai Cave Rescue, where he was one of the leaders tasked with saving 12 students and their coach trapped in a flooded cave. Richard had to consider not only the lives of those trapped but also his own and his team's safety. Richard will share his experiences in leadership and risk management, as well as his research into risk, through interviews with renowned risk-takers such as climber Alex Honnold (from the movie <i>Free Solo</i>), sailor Jessica Watson, and film director and deep-sea diver James Cameron.
9.50	Justine Flynn: Don't Risk Burnout. Personal & Team Wellbeing and Culture Justine Flynn is the Co-Founder of Thankyou, a social enterprise that brings consumers a product choice that exists for one purpose only; the help create a world where not one person lives in extreme poverty. Thankyou has raised over \$18.5 million towards the end of extreme poverty. Justine will share her journey of leading a team to build one of the world's leading brands and the immense pressures that come with it. She will discuss the delicate balance between leadership and burnout, a challenge well-known to independent school leaders. Having experienced severe burnout herself, resulting in being bedridden for four months, Justine will offer insights on leadership and self-care to help you and your team avoid burnout.
10.30	MORNING TEA
11.15	PANEL: Risking Change Panellists to be announced Hear from our panellists who have taken rewarding risks.
12.15	KEYNOTE: The State of the Australian Education Sector Workforce Presenters to be announced
13.15	LUNCH

Program continued

THURSDAY 31 JULY – AFTERNOON

14.00	RISK	WORKSHOP: Cyber Security Governance Principles Simon Mitchell, Senior Policy Adviser, AICD	PANEL: Educational Leadership Experience Panellists to be confirmed	International Education Focus Details TBC
15.00		WORKSHOP: Managing Reputational Risk Boards and school leaders are being held more accountable for how they handle information from individuals. In this workshop our team of experts will advise on the school board's responsibilities to implement adequate policies and procedures to protect and manage personal data. Policies and procedures will take into account the responsibilities of the school leadership and their course of action in the event of a data breach. The workshop will include an interactive scenario of a cyber security breach and ransom demand and how boards and school leadership can best navigate the situation to avoid reputational risk. Who should attend? Board representatives, Principals, Business Managers, ICT Managers and Crisis Management team, Communications Managers Presenters and advisory team; ISQ ICT Managers Committee ISQ Subject Matter Experts Cybersecurity Expert Records Management Expert Legal Expert Media Expert Various Technology Experts	PANEL: Leadership Panellists to be confirmed Generative leaders cultivate and reward creative thinking in their teams. They pursue new technologies and ideas that once seemed impossible. Leading with the heart means seeking to inspire and enrich the human experience by building great cultures and workplaces where people can do their best work.	International Education Focus Details TBC
16.00		NETWORKING IN EXPO		
19.30		GALA DINNER		

Program continued

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST

6.30	Yoga or Beach Walk
8.00	NETWORKING BREAKFAST IN EXPO
9.00	<p>Dr Phillip Moulds OAM: AI in schools isn't just about cheating</p> <p>Dr Phillip Moulds is an experienced educational leader with a diverse background in teaching, leadership, and academic development.</p> <p>Before his current role as Headmaster at Rockhampton Grammar School, he spent over 18 years at Brisbane Grammar School, holding positions such as Deputy Headmaster, Deputy Head of Boarding, and Head of Science and Chemistry.</p> <p>Phillip is also a lecturer at the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University, specialising in educational leadership and data-informed learning. He holds a PhD in Education from the University of Queensland, with additional qualifications in Music, Science, and Educational Studies.</p> <p>Phillip's passion for music, particularly as a saxophonist, complements his extensive academic career.</p>
9.30	<p>Dr Catriona Wallace: Transformational Leadership – AI, Ethics and the Role of the Future Leader</p> <p>Dr Catriona Wallace has been recognised as a top Global Power Woman by the Centre of Economic & Leadership Development, by the Australian Financial Review as the Most Influential Woman in Business & Entrepreneurship. You may also recognise Catriona as one of the Sharks from the hit TV series, <i>Shark Tank</i>, Australia.</p> <p>Catriona is the founder of the Responsible Metaverse Alliance and the Chair of Boab AI - Artesian Capital's AI Accelerator and VC fund. Catriona was also the Founder of Ethical AI Advisory, now part of the Gradient Institute and is the co-author of the book <i>Checkmate Humanity: the how and why of Responsible AI</i>.</p> <p>Catriona was the Founder of Artificial Intelligence ASX Listed company Flamingo AI, the second only woman-led (CEO & Chair) business ever to list on the Australian Stock Exchange.</p> <p>Catriona is one of the world's most cited experts on topics of AI, the Metaverse, responsible tech, diversity in leadership and the future of work.</p>
10.30	MORNING TEA
11.15	<p>Simon Kuestenmacher: Population & Economic Growth and the Future of Education</p> <p>Simon is the Director and Co-founder of The Demographics Group. He is ranked as one the world's top 10 influencers in data and a global authority on worldwide trends shaping our future.</p> <p>Simon's following sees his social media posts reach over 35 million people every month.</p> <p>From analysing a significant number of data sets and information, Simon will share sensational insights into Australia and Queensland's growth and it's impact on independent education.</p>
12.15	<p>PANEL: Infrastructure Required for the Future of Education</p> <p>MC: Gary Adsett, General Manager, Block Grant Authority</p> <p>PANELISTS:</p> <p>Bronwyn Dolling, Principal, Pacific Lutheran College</p> <p>Simon Kuestenmacher, Co-Founder & Director, The Demographics Group</p> <p>Scott Hutchinson, Chairman, Hutchinson Builders</p> <p>Catherine O'Sullivan, Acting Executive Director, Anglican Schools Commission</p> <p>Don O'Rorke, CEO and Chairman of Consolidated Properties Group, Chair – Brisbane Boys' College Advisory Council</p>
13.15	Closing remarks
13.30	NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO

GROWTH