

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

15.00	REGISTRATION OPENS
14.30–17.00	<p>MASTERCLASS:</p> <p>This exclusive masterclass equips school leaders with essential knowledge and practical tools to optimise their property assets, secure appropriate funding, manage risks, and make informed decisions about their facilities.</p> <p>Designed specifically for principals, business managers, and school board chairs, this session addresses the diverse knowledge levels and challenges faced by independent schools. By bringing together expertise in Block Grant Authority, valuations, asset management, and insurance, participants will gain actionable insights that lead to cost savings, enhanced learning environments, and sustainable asset management.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>By the end of this masterclass, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the interrelationship between strategic master planning, asset management, and improved educational outcomes• Recognise industry-standard valuation methodologies used to assess school property assets• Implement effective asset management strategies tailored to their specific school facilities• Understand and secure appropriate insurance coverage, with focus on Industrial Special Risks and claims management• Integrate strategic property planning and business planning to align with educational outcomes and financial sustainability• Identify potential funding opportunities in a changing landscape
18.30	WELCOME RECEPTION

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR QISS Platinum Partners

ISQ extends our deepest gratitude to our Platinum Partners for their exceptional support and commitment to the success of QISS. Your partnership plays a vital role in making this event possible.



Program continued

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		<p>Dr Richard Harris: Navigating Risk & Leading from the Front</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
9.50	RISK	<p>Justine Flynn: Don't Risk Burnout. Personal & Team Wellbeing and Culture</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
10.30		MORNING TEA
11.15		<p>PANEL: Risking Change</p> <p>Hear from our panellists who are taking calculated risks in the pursuit of excellence.</p> <p>Panellists</p> <p>Anthony Micallef, Headmaster, Brisbane Grammar School</p> <p>Joy Geyer, Head of Culture and Wellbeing, Hillcrest Christian College</p> <p>Richard Harris, Author, Anaesthetist and Thought Leader</p> <p>Justine Flynn, Entrepreneur and Thought Leader</p>

Program continued

THURSDAY 31 JULY – AFTERNOON

12.15	RISK	KEYNOTE: <i>The State of the Australian Education Sector Workforce</i> Presenters Mike Hennessy, Chief Research & Insights Officer, PeopleBench Q&A facilitated by Kate Crowe, Workforce Innovation Unit Manager, ISQ Join Mike Hennessy as he unveils the findings of the State of the Queensland Independent Sector Workforce project. This comprehensive survey of schools and staff across Queensland's independent schools highlights the unique characteristics of the sector. Key Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Workforce Shortage: Explore the current challenges and opportunities within the independent school workforce • Sector Distinctions: Understand what sets the independent sector apart from others • Diversity Celebration: Appreciate the varied experiences and backgrounds within sector and its workforce Report Insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data-Driven Analysis: Gain insights from staff surveys, school-provided data on workforce shortages and recruitment, and data from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency Australia (WGEA) • Key Issues and Opportunities: Identify critical issues and potential opportunities for Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) employing entities This session will include a facilitated Q&A about what the report findings mean for the independent sector, what schools can do to capitalise on opportunities and mitigate risks.	
13.15		LUNCH	
14.00		WORKSHOP: <i>Cyber Security Governance Principles</i> Simon Mitchell, Senior Policy Adviser, AICD Simon is a Senior Policy Adviser in the Education & Policy Leadership team of the AICD. He focuses on cyber security, critical infrastructure, data governance and financial services and how policy and governance developments in these areas impact AICD members. Simon led the development of key AICD cyber and data governance publications, notably Governing Through a Cyber Crisis, Cyber Security Governance Principles and the upcoming Data Governance Foundations resource.	PANEL: <i>Understanding the Internationalisation of Education</i> Panellists to be confirmed Facilitator: Angelin Achari, School Services Advisor - International Education, ISQ Whether you are an international school or not this session is packed with great insights and case studies and draws on the current trends occurring through the internationalisation of education and how your school and community may benefit. This session will delve into the role of international education in today's interconnected world and global diplomacy. It will explore how schools can adapt to the current global geopolitical landscape and provide insights into past trends, present value propositions, and future projections in domestic and international education. Additionally, this session helping educators understand the dynamics of domestic and international student experience, cultural integration, and innovation, as well as understanding the importance of fostering a more inclusive and forward-thinking educational environment.

Program continued

THURSDAY 31 JULY – AFTERNOON

15.00	<div>RISK</div> <p>WORKSHOP: Managing Reputational Risk</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Who should attend?</p> <p>Board representatives, Principals, Business Managers, ICT Managers and Crisis Management team, Communications Managers</p> <p>Presenters and advisory team</p> <p>ISQ ICT Managers Committee ISQ Subject Matter Experts Cybersecurity Expert Records Management Expert Legal Expert Media Expert Various Technology Experts</p>	<p>PANEL: Leadership in Schools with a Global Perspective</p> <p>Panellists to be confirmed</p> <p>Facilitator:</p> <p>Angelin Achari, School Services Advisor – International Education, ISQ</p> <p>A panel of school principals will share their experiences and insights on leading schools in a globalised and rapidly changing world. They will discuss best practices, challenges, and innovative strategies for preparing students for the future. They will emphasise the importance of global competence and citizenship in education.</p>
16.00	NETWORKING IN EXPO	
19.30	GALA DINNER	

Program continued

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST

6.30	Yoga or Beach Walk
7.30	NETWORKING BREAKFAST IN EXPO
8.30	<p>Amanda Watt, Executive Director, Queensland Independent Schools Parents Network and special guests: Partnering with parents for student (and school!) success</p> <p>In recent years, QIS Parents Network has joined forces with Independent Schools Queensland to elevate and enhance parent engagement in independent schools through a number of innovative initiatives, including their flagship Mastering Parent Engagement program. In this panel discussion, Amanda will be in conversation with experienced school principals Dr Linda Evans and Dr Phillip Moulds, ISQ Parent Engagement program manager Jacky Dawson and independent school parent Gayle Pacchini, to unpack how effective and purposeful parent engagement can lead to tangible growth in student academic and wellbeing outcomes and teacher satisfaction, as well as stronger school communities.</p>
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 The 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

Program continued

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST

11.15	Simon Kuestenmacher: <i>Population & Economic Growth and the Future of Education</i> 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. Simon's following sees his social media posts reach over 35 million people every month. 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.
12.15	PANEL: <i>Infrastructure Required for the Future of Education</i> MC: Gary Adsett, General Manager, Block Grant Authority Panellists: Bronwyn Dolling, Principal, Pacific Lutheran College Simon Kuestenmacher, Co-Founder & Director, The Demographics Group Scott Hutchinson, Chairman, Hutchinson Builders Catherine O'Sullivan, Acting Executive Director, Anglican Schools Commission Don O'Rorke, CEO and Chairman of Consolidated Properties Group, Chair – Brisbane Boys' College Advisory Council
13.15	Closing remarks
13.30	NETWORKING LUNCH IN EXPO

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

QISS Partners

ISQ would like to gratefully acknowledge and thank our QISS Partners for their invaluable support and collaboration.

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We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our QISS Exhibitors for their participation and contributions to this year's event.

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