

2025 NEAS  
CONFERENCE



# Pathways to Belonging

Our Role in Building Communities

## PROGRAM

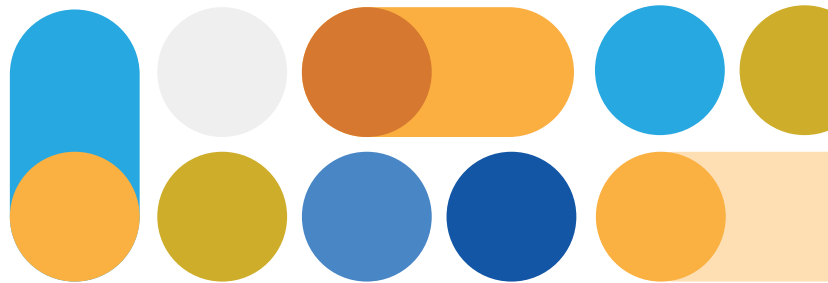


22-23 MAY 2025

Aerial UTS Function Centre - Sydney

[neas.org.au](https://neas.org.au)

THURSDAY  
22 May 2025



9:30-10:00 am

Arrival Tea and Coffee

Sponsored by  
**IELTS**

10:00-10:05 am

Welcome and Housekeeping – NEAS



**Adam Kilburn**  
Chief Executive Officer  
NEAS Australia

10:05-10:10 am

Welcome to Country



**Yvonne Weldon**  
Independent Councillor  
City of Sydney

10:10-10:15 am

Welcome from the NEAS Board



**Prof. Tanya Buchanan**  
Chair of the NEAS Board  
NEAS Australia

10:15-10:20 am

Welcome from the Conference Premium Sponsor



**Stephanie Bethencourt**  
Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager  
IDP Education

Sponsored by  
**IELTS**

10:20-11:10 am

Opening Plenary



**Mehdi Sina**  
ASRC Speaker

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**IELTS**

11:10-11:30 am

Morning Tea

Sponsored by  
**IELTS**

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**11:30-12:30 pm****Keynote Session**

The Need for Oracy in the Age of AI

**Cathy Jones**Assessment Development Specialist  
*LanguageCert*Sponsored by  
**LANGUAGE  
CERT****12:30-1:30 pm****Buffet Lunch and Networking**Sponsored by  
**IELTS****1:30-2:30 pm****Keynote Session**

AI Agents in the English Language Sector: Our New Robotic Colleagues

**Jarrad Merlo**AI Product Manager  
*Pearson*Sponsored by  
  
**Pearson****2:30-3:30 pm****Panel: International Student Voices**

Arrival to Belonging: An International Student's Story in Australia

**Ogunbodede Olaitan MD**Medical Practitioner  
*NSW Health***William Nguyen**NSW International Student Ambassador  
*Study NSW***3:30-4:00 pm****Afternoon Tea**Sponsored by  
**IELTS****4:00-4:45 pm****Panel: Government Voices****Carmen Basilicata**Executive Director, Integrity Branch  
*Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)***Jen Bahen**Executive Director, Regulatory Operations  
*Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)***Melinda Hatton**Director  
*Tuition Protection Service (TPS)***4:45-5:00 pm****New Endorsements Ceremony**Sponsored by  
  
**NEAS**  
QUALITY ASSURANCE  
IN EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING**5:00-6:00 pm****Networking Drinks and Canapes**

FRIDAY  
23 May 2025



9:00-9:20 am

Arrival Tea and Coffee

Sponsored by  
**IELTS**

9:20-9:25 am

Welcome Back and Housekeeping – NEAS

9:25-10:00 am

*Professional Learning Teams  
– Creating a Supportive  
Community with ELT and  
Mainstream Teachers of  
EAL/D Students*



**Megan Huber**  
St Laurence's College

*School Accommodation: Rethinking Homestay*



**David Ferguson**  
John Paul College



**David Bycroft**  
AHN



**Iori Forsyth**  
Study NSW



**Leanne Harrison MAICD, IEAA-AF**  
Australian Institute of Company Directors  
(AICD)

10:00-10:35 am

*Leadership in ELT: Creating  
Cultures of Belonging in  
university English language  
centres*



**Zoe Hancock**  
Southern Cross University (SCU)

*Building Bridges: Fostering Belonging Through  
Peer-Driven Engagement in International  
Education*



**Emma Currie**  
Pearson



**Tatia Pittham**  
Allianz Partners Australia



**Varsha Devi Balakrishnan**  
Voyage



**Debora Lima**  
ILSC

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10:35-11:00 am

Morning Tea

11:00 am-12:00 pm

*Empowering EAL Learners –  
Pathways into the Real World*

**Zoe Repse**  
Swinburne University

*Finding your place when you don't belong*

**Leisl Bruhn**  
Ivanhoe Grammar School



**Jo Kwai**  
John Paul College



**Vanessa Newbery**  
Hills International College

12:00-1:00 pm

Buffet Lunch and Networking

Sponsored by

**IELTS**

1:00-1:35 pm

*A Transnational Delivery  
Experience: The ongoing  
development of a General  
English Program for  
university students in China  
following NEAS Quality  
Area M guidelines*

**Savvas Papandony**  
Australian Academy of  
Commerce

*Whole-person and in-community learning and  
support as a basis for enabling student success*

**Jo Kwai**  
John Paul College



**Ash Moor**  
UQ College



**Jane Roberts**  
Sarina Russo Institute

1:35-2:05 pm

*From Classroom to  
Community: SPC Cairns'  
25-Year Commitment to  
Belonging*

**Dr Susan Delahunty**  
Sun Pacific College

*Building resilient communities through  
English language programs*

**Vlasta Gunning**  
Navitas Skilled Futures



**Grace Nabhan**  
Navitas Skilled Futures

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**2:05-2:35 pm****Afternoon Tea****2:35-3:35 pm****Closing Plenary**

**Luke Kennedy**  
Keynote Speaker

Sponsored by

**IELTS****3:35-4:00 pm****NEAS CEO Address**

**Adam Kilburn**  
Chief Executive Officer  
*NEAS Australia*

Sponsored by

**IELTS****4:00-5:00 pm****Networking Drinks and Canapes**