



# Business Educators Australasia (BEA) 2026 Biennial Conference

Hosted by



Victorian Commercial  
Teachers Association  
[www.vcta.asn.au](http://www.vcta.asn.au)

## Educate for Impact: Shaping Civic, Economic and Financial Futures

### Thursday 18 & Friday 19 June 2026

Monash University, Melbourne City Campus

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# BEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of Business Educators Australasia (BEA), I am pleased to welcome you to the 2026 BEA Biennial Conference.

This national conference brings together business educators from across Australia to collaborate, share expertise and strengthen professional practice. Guided by the theme *Educate for Impact*, the program focuses on the compulsory years of schooling, with a strong emphasis on advancing Economics and Business and Civics and Citizenship education for all Australian students. Sessions have been designed to support high-quality teaching, deepen pedagogical capability and improve learning outcomes for all students in Years 7 to 10.

A key strength of this conference is the leadership of teachers sharing practical, classroom-ready strategies informed by professional experience. The program also provides valuable opportunities to build networks, engage with real-world contexts through field trips, and connect with colleagues and industry leaders through scheduled networking and social events.

The BEA sincerely thanks Monash University for hosting the conference as Venue Sponsor and acknowledges our major strategic partner, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand for their continued support as Platinum Sponsor. I also recognise the conference team, and thank the Victorian Commercial Teachers Association for their leadership in delivering this national event.

I wish you a productive, engaging and impactful conference.

Debbie Perrett  
BEA President

# VCTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Victorian Commercial Teachers Association (VCTA), I am pleased to warmly welcome you to the 2026 Business Educators Australasia (BEA) Biennial Conference.

VCTA has a proud history of hosting this significant national event, and we are delighted to bring together business educators once again from across Australia. The 2026 conference program features representation and presentations from Queensland, Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria, making this a truly national gathering of professionals.

The conference theme, Educate for Impact, places a strong focus on the compulsory years of schooling within the Economics and Business and Civics and Citizenship curricula. The program has been carefully designed to support and enhance pedagogical practice, with the aim of strengthening classroom delivery and improving learning outcomes for students in Years 7 to 10. I am particularly pleased to see a strong emphasis on teachers delivering sessions to teachers, sharing their pedagogical knowledge, expertise and practical insights developed over many years in the profession.

In addition to the rich professional learning on offer, the conference offers an opportunity for educators to build new networks. There are also a number of field trips on offer to the Port of Melbourne and the National Trust's Old Melbourne Gaol precinct, providing valuable real-world and historical contexts to complement conference sessions. I encourage all delegates to also take the opportunity to relax and connect with colleagues during the social hour on the first evening, followed by an optional dinner.

I would like to sincerely thank our venue sponsors, Monash University Business School, for their ongoing support, and to acknowledge the extensive work of Carla Wilkin and her team in bringing this conference to fruition and to our industry partner and major sponsor, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, led by Anthony Matis from the Sydney office.

Finally, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the VCTA team, who have worked tirelessly on behalf of BEA to develop and deliver this comprehensive two-day program.

I wish you a rewarding, engaging and enjoyable conference.

Jim Ouliaris  
VCTA President

# SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

BEA acknowledges the support of our sponsors and exhibitors that are holding a stand at the BEA Biennial Conference over the 2 days. Please visit them during your breaks or anytime on Thursday between 8:30am and 4:10pm or Friday between 10:30am and 3:15pm.

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# ABOUT THE BEA

BEA and its affiliates across Australia represent teachers of the following curriculum areas:

- Accounting
- Business
- Civics and Citizenship
- Economics
- Financial Literacy
- Law-Related Education
- Work-Related Education

BEA, in conjunction with its affiliates, provides leadership as a national voice to advocate for and foster excellence in business education.

Our vision is for BEA to be the leading national voice for business educators, with education stakeholders seeking BEA first as a partner in the pursuit of excellence in business education.

For more information, please visit the BEA website at [bea.asn.au](http://bea.asn.au).

## BEA DIRECTORS

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Debbie Perrett, Business Educators Association of Queensland (BEAQ)

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- Joy Bartsch, Economics Teachers Society of South Australia (ETSSA)
- Christine Dowd, Queensland Economics Teachers Association Inc. (QETA)
- Tony Kuc, Victorian Commercial Teachers Association (VCTA)

We would like to cordially thank the many people who were involved in the planning and delivery of the BEA Conference, including:

## BEA CONFERENCE WORKING PARTY

- Debbie Perrett
- Joy Russell
- Sasha Mildenhall
- Mary Pettinger
- Tony Kuc

## VCTA CONFERENCE WORKING PARTY

- Cindy Bryant
- Sasha Mildenhall
- Tony Kuc

# ABOUT THE HOST - VCTA

The Victorian Commercial Teachers Association (VCTA) is an independent professional teacher association providing leadership, professional learning programs, resources and advocacy to members. VCTA's Australia-wide members work in schools, in organisations associated with schools and in tertiary institutions. For more information, visit [www.vcta.asn.au](http://www.vcta.asn.au).

## NATIONAL CURRICULUM SERVICES (NCS)

NCS, a wholly owned subsidiary of VCTA that specialises in education consultancy, including project management, review and evaluation of educational initiatives, design and implementation of professional learning and training programs, production of curriculum materials and conference/event design and implementation.

For more information, visit [www.ncsonline.com.au](http://www.ncsonline.com.au).

## VCTA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
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EVENT MANAGER  
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Beth Woodhead

PROJECT OFFICER  
Terri Di Battista

ACCOUNTANT  
Stephen Lucas

## Business Educators Australasia (BEA) 2026 Biennial Conference

# REGISTRATION DETAILS

EARLY BIRD PRICING (15% SAVING) <i>Register before 18 May 2026</i>	One Day	Both Days
General	\$275	\$406
Concession - Pre-service Teacher, Retired	\$187	\$275

GENERAL PRICING	One Day	Both Days
General	\$324	\$478
Concession - Pre-service Teacher, Retired	\$220	\$324

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\*Concession pricing is available to teachers who are employed at 0.6 or below, retired, a teacher in training or hold CRT status. Evidence may be required for concession pricing.

## CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All cancellations must be emailed to [registration@vcta.asn.au](mailto:registration@vcta.asn.au).

No refunds if less than one week's notice prior to the conference. If more than one week's notice, a \$50 cancellation fee applies. Notifications must be in writing.

## ENQUIRIES

p: 03 9417 3555

e: [registration@vcta.asn.au](mailto:registration@vcta.asn.au)

# PRESENTERS

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF OUR VALUED PRESENTERS



RACHELLE WILLINGTON is the Manager, National Priority Projects at the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and is responsible for the Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences and the Cross-curriculum priority Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia. Rachelle led the development and review of the F-10 Australian Curriculum: Humanities and Social Sciences learning area. She has participated in several national projects including the Constitutional Education Fund resources project and is the Curriculum Specialist leading the National Assessment Program for Civics and Citizenship (NAP-CC). Rachelle is an experienced educator that has worked in both primary and secondary schools. During her career she has been a classroom teacher, HASS curriculum coordinator, curriculum adviser for the Queensland Department of Education and HASS curriculum specialist at QCAA.



DR HUGH GUNDLACH is the Commerce Coordinator in the Faculty of Education, The University of Melbourne, teaching pre-service Commerce teachers and conducting research. An experienced secondary teacher, Hugh is a Director of VCTA and was named as one of ACEL's 2023 New Voices in Educational Leadership Research.



DR CARLY SAWATZKI is a provocateur who challenges thinking around schooling. She wants every student to get an excellent education so they can live their best life. Working as a teacher educator and educational researcher at Deakin University, Carly designs courses that support preservice and practising teachers to teach differently, by helping them to connect students' classroom learning with the real world. She is internationally recognised for her thought leadership on young people's financial capability and her critical insights into issues of ethics and equity in education. Carly is widely published on these and other topics and has led research, curriculum, and professional learning projects for education authorities across Australia. She is a dynamic and in-demand public speaker, writer, and influencer who loves exchanging ideas, sharing laughter and – above all – making a difference. To find out more, go to [www.carlyawatzki.com](http://www.carlyawatzki.com).



SHARON BRINDLEY is a proud Yamatji/Noongar woman, mother of three and grandmother of six. As founder of Jala Jala – formed from Jala Jala Treats and Only Mine – she leads Australia's largest 100% First Nations female-owned food manufacturer, blending native flavours with artisan chocolate craftsmanship and award-winning innovation.



DAMIAN NICHOLSON is the National Manager, Digital Learning and Program Development at Financial Basics Foundation (FBF). He is an experienced teacher of Business and Technology, who taught in remote, regional, and rural parts of Queensland for almost 20 years. A passion for financial literacy education brought Damian from the classroom into the charity space to oversee FBF's education programs.



MARY PETTINGER (South Australia) is a respected Commerce educator and curriculum leader with more than two decades of experience developing students' economic and financial literacy across SACE, IB DP, MYP, and the Australian Curriculum. With a background in Commerce and deep expertise in Economics, Accounting, and Business, she is committed to equipping young people with the analytical and decision-making skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex economic environment. Mary is an influential contributor to Economics and Business education nationally, serving as President of BETASA, Secretary of ETSSA and Business Educators Australasia, and as a member of the Reserve Bank of Australia's Education Advisory Panel. She has also strengthened secondary-tertiary connections through her work on UniSA's Accounting and Finance Advisory Group. Since 2025, Mary has been the Commerce Coordinator at St Peter's College, leading the Years 7-12 Commerce curriculum and supporting staff in delivering high-quality, real-world learning.



JOSEPHINE COMEGNA (Queensland) is a senior secondary educator and qualified barrister and solicitor with professional experience spanning both education and legal practice in Australia and Canada. She currently teaches Civics and Citizenship, Law, and Legal Studies in Queensland, where she is actively involved in whole-school improvement and faculty development. Prior to entering education, Josephine practised as a civil and commercial litigator, working on complex, high-value matters at leading global law firms. Her legal background informs her classroom practice, with a strong emphasis on legal reasoning, civic literacy, and real-world application. Josephine is passionate about building coherent Years 9-12 civics and legal pathways that engage students, strengthen democratic understanding, and support post-school futures in law, business, and public service.

For full list of presenters, visit our [BEA Conference website](#)

# PRESENTERS CONTINUED...



NICOLE PEDERSEN-MCKINNON is a long-time money commentator and financial literacy campaigner and educator across newspapers, online and on television, and in high schools around Australia. Nicole has been writing a money column for The Sydney

Morning Herald/Sun-Herald and The Sunday Age newspapers, and on all related websites, for 22 years. She was formerly editor then editor-at-large of The Australian Financial Review's Smart Investor magazine.

Nicole has 'spoken for' Australia, on behalf of The Australian Financial Review, at investment conferences in both the U.S. and UK. She has won the top award for investment and personal finance journalism in the United Kingdom and Australia (respectively). Nicole is the author of the best-selling *How to Get Mortgage-Free Like Me*, in which real Aussies reveal how they've accomplished the real Australian dream faster, smarter and cheaper. She is also the creator and author of one-off, newsstand bookazine *Money Secrets*, a financial success template designed to take Aussies from worry to wealthy.



DR STEPHANIE SMITH is the Head of Learning and Museum Experience at the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD). With over 20 years' experience working in primary schools and cultural institutions nationally, she is a dedicated advocate for education and

learning, with a particular focus on play-based learning, student voice, learner agency and media literacy.

In her current role, Steph is responsible for leading the front-of-house teams who engage with schools and visitors to the museum. She also leads delivery of online experiences, outreach programs and teacher professional development. Steph is committed to fostering an innovative approach to education for all, regardless of age. She is currently involved in a collaborative Australian Research Council Grant focused on supporting adults to identify misinformation, has recently led a pilot engagement program *Democracy in a Box* for regional and remote schools, and has delivered a series of digital events with leading authors / illustrations to over 120,000 students nationally in the past 18 months.



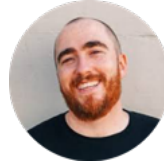
DR ADAM BRODIE-MCKENZIE is a Lecturer and Researcher in the School of Education at La Trobe University. He is a recognised expert in Humanities education, particularly civics and citizenship. Adam won a Fellowship to study Civics and Citizenship at the Harvard

Graduate School of Education in 2016 and since then has striven to promote civics and citizenship education in Australian schools, as a school teacher and leader, to professional learning and policy development. Adam is a trusted expert on civics and citizenship education, working with ACARA, the VCAA and other education authorities, parliaments, non-profits and teachers' associations. His research is committed to bridging theory, policy, and classroom practice to promote student engagement and teacher professionalism.



BRYCE LESKE is the co-founder of Equity Mates Media. Equity Mates has emerged one of the largest providers of financial education in Australia, speaking to more than half a million Australians every month across podcasts, video and social media. Bryce has

built a reputation for educating retail investors on principles of sensible, long-term investing.



ALEC RENEHAN is the co-founder of Equity Mates Media. Alec, along with his cofounder Bryce, has authored two best-selling investing books *Get Started Investing* and *Don't Stress, Just Invest*. Over the 8 years of building Equity Mates into one of Australia's largest providers

of financial education, Alec has become known for his ability to distil complex financial information into digestible accessible language.



HETAL RANIGA (Queensland) is an experienced educational leader and currently serve as the Head of Faculty-Humanities and Social Sciences at Sheldon College. In this role, she leads curriculum design, staff development, and student learning

across Humanities, Business Education, and senior subjects including Accounting, Economics, Legal Studies, Geography, Ancient History and Modern History. Hetal holds a Master of Education (Leadership and Management), a Diploma of Education (Secondary), and a Bachelor of Management Studies in Accounting and Economics. Prior to entering education, she worked in the accounting industry as a senior analyst at Deloitte and later as a finance team leader at YFS Ltd. This professional experience continues to shape her authentic, practical approach to teaching and curriculum design.



JULIE CAIN (Victoria) has been a teacher for over 40 years. During this time she taught many Business & Economics subjects from Year 7 to VCE and had leadership roles in schools, the most recent as a Campus Principal overseeing Teaching & Learning in

a large secondary school. Julie has also taught adults at TAFE and university as well as preservice teachers. She has authored many textbooks for Years 7 to 9 Humanities, Year 10 Business & Economics, Year 11 & 12 Legal Studies and Year 11 & 12 Business Management. In addition, Julie has been a regular contributor to *Compak*, presented at Comview since 2001 and presents teacher professional learning in VCE Business Management. Julie was on the VCTA Board of Directors for 10 years and served as president for two. She has chaired the VCTA Advisory Groups for Business Management and Years 7-10 Business & Economics. Julie is currently working with VCTA and schools delivering professional learning and mentors new teachers.

For full list of presenters, visit our [BEA Conference website](#)



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# PROGRAM - THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026 (DAY 1)

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8:45am - 9:10am	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening</b> Debbie Perrett, BEA President		
9:10am - 11:10am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Session 101] Plenary: Keynote &amp; Call to Action</b></p> <p>Hosted by Nicole Pedersen-McKinnon, this national Business Educators Australasia panel will bring together expert educators and industry voices to discuss the critical role teachers can play in shaping the civic, economic and financial futures of young people. Aligned with the conference theme Educate for Impact, this session will explore why these learning areas matter to our young people now more than ever and how the education system can empower students to become financially capable, economically informed and civically engaged citizens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <b>KEYNOTE &amp; PANEL CHAIR: Nicole Pedersen-McKinnon, Author &amp; Media Personality</b>  <b>PANELISTS:</b>                      Naomi Walsh, President of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ)                      Roset Khair, Financial Education Manager, Ecstra Foundation                      Michelle Wright, Deputy Head of Communications, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA)                      Dr Adam Brodie-McKenzie, Lecturer, La Trobe University                      Dr Carly Sawatzki, Senior Lecturer in Education, Deakin University                      Joy Russell, Councillor (Tasmania), Business Educators Australasia                      Dr Hugh Gundlach, Commerce Coordinator, Faculty of Education, The University of Melbourne                 </p>		
11:10am - 11:40am	<b>MORNING TEA / EXPO</b>		
11:40am - 12:30pm	<p><b>[Concurrent Session 111] Teaching Money That Matters: Practical Strategies Students Actually Use</b>                      Jazmin Nardelli &amp; Bianca Drum, Marrayville High School (South Australia)                      Dr Carly Sawatzki, Senior Lecturer in Education, Deakin University</p> <p>Why are we still leaving financial literacy to chance? This session begins by confronting the reality: financial stress is rising and most curriculums still fail to equip students with the tools they need. We will unpack how our Money Matters electives for Year 9 Financial Literacy and Year 10 Investing and Futures have transformed student confidence and capability, and how this model can be scaled across a whole school approach. You will explore lesson examples that blend wellbeing, values and real world data, and see how students connect emotionally and practically with money concepts like budgeting, investing and financial decision making. Grounded in the Australian Curriculum and shaped by student voice, our approach empowers learners to navigate their futures with clarity and confidence. Attendees will leave with practical strategies and classroom ready tools to help make financial literacy a core part of every students education, not just an optional extra.</p>	<p><b>[Concurrent Session 112] Strategies, Resources, and Assessments for Embedding Civics and Citizenship Education</b>                      Lara Porczak, Loyola College (Victoria)</p> <p>This session will showcase a variety of practical strategies, resources, and assessments to support the embedding of Civics and Citizenship education in Years 9 and 10. It will present future-focused approaches to strengthen students' understanding and confidence in Australia's political and legal systems, enhance literacy, and shape engaged, informed future citizens. The session also outlines pedagogical strategies for scaffolding key skills and knowledge that support progression into senior Civics and Citizenship subjects, offering educators effective techniques to enrich teaching practice and support meaningful student learning.</p>	<p><b>[Concurrent Session 113] Not Just Numbers: Creating Critical Thinkers in Economics and Finance</b>                      Heidi Cornelissen, Brentwood Secondary College (Victoria)</p> <p>Economics and finance can feel overwhelming to students, often reduced to graphs, formulas and abstract concepts. This session shows how educators can make these subjects more relevant by linking them to everyday financial and economic decisions (e.g. concert ticket purchases include supply and demand, trade-offs and opportunity cost). With a focus on modelling critical thinking, we will explore how students can engage with generative AI outputs to spark questioning, challenge assumptions and perspectives and evaluate provided outputs to make their own financial decisions now and in the future. Grounded in the Victorian Curriculum 2.0, the session highlights strategies for equipping students with the capacity to make informed decisions and navigate an increasingly complex financial landscape with confidence and curiosity.</p>
12:30pm - 12:35pm	<b>MOVING TIME / BREAK</b>		
12:35pm - 1:25pm	<p><b>[Concurrent Session 121] Financial Literacy Resources, Activities &amp; Assessment</b>                      Julie Cain, Education Consultant (Victoria)</p> <p>This session will focus on providing ideas for teachers to use with their students centred on financial literacy. The session will provide resources, class activities &amp; suggested assessment (with ideas for differentiation) to use in the classroom at Years 7 &amp; 8.</p>	<p><b>[Concurrent Session 122] Bringing Civics and Citizenship to Life Through Contemporary Issues</b>                      Rachele Willington, Manager, National Priority Projects, ACARA</p> <p>How can Civics and Citizenship education inspire informed, active participation in Australian democracy? This session explores how Version 9.0 of the Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship (Years 7–10) supports students to connect what they learn in the classroom with the world around them. Participants will examine how to use age-appropriate contemporary issues—such as community decision-making, local leadership, and civic participation—to build critical thinking and deepen understanding. Through practical examples of how contemporary issues are used to teach Civics and Citizenship, along with sharing free curriculum aligned resources, this session will demonstrate how real-world contexts make Civics and Citizenship meaningful and engaging for young Australians as they develop the knowledge and skills to become active, informed citizens.</p>	<p><b>[Concurrent Session 123] The Pizza Challenge</b>                      Clare Rafferty &amp; Megan Dyring, Ringwood Secondary College</p> <p>In this session, Megan and Clare will guide participants through the Year 7 Business and Economics unit based on the Victorian Curriculum V2.0, as delivered at Ringwood Secondary College. This engaging unit challenges students to create, design, and market an original pizza, giving them a hands-on introduction to key economic and entrepreneurial concepts.</p>
1:25pm - 2:25pm	<b>LUNCH / EXPO</b>		

# PROGRAM - THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026 (DAY 1) CONTINUED...

2:25pm - 3:10pm	<p align="center"><b>[Session 131] Plenary: A Business Case Study Jala Jala Treats Business Case Study with Sharon Brindley</b></p> <p>Jala Jala is the largest 100% First Nations female-owned food manufacturer in Australia, built on a strong commitment to native ingredients, provenance and community. In this candid case study, founder Sharon Brindley shares the story behind the brand's growth, the realities of scaling a purpose-led business, and the challenges faced by First Nations entrepreneurs. Sharon explores how Jala Jala balances cultural integrity with commercial success while actively championing Indigenous businesses within a competitive national market.</p>		
3:15pm - 4:05pm	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 141] First Steps in Finance: Age-and-Stage Essentials</b> Melody White, Senior Advisor - People Capability and Leadership, Brisbane Catholic Education (Queensland)</p> <p>This session will focus on age-and-stage financial literacy for students, aligning with the Australian Curriculum. It introduces practical strategies for managing money, including budgeting basics, saving habits, and understanding needs versus wants. We will explore real-life scenarios to build confidence for our students in handling money for the first time. The session will also share tips and tricks for making informed financial decisions, fostering independence and resilience. Melody will provide actionable insights to support responsible money management and lifelong financial wellbeing.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 142] First Nations Content for Year 7 &amp; 8 Civics &amp; Citizenship</b> James Gibson, Social Media and Content Director, Naarm Law Students Beth Woodhead, Education Officer, VCTA</p> <p>Naarm Law Students have worked closely with the VCTA team to develop comprehensive First Nations resources to support teachers and students in Year 7 &amp; 8. This session will showcase the resources and provide teachers with activities to use in the classroom that meet the standards in the Year 7 &amp; 8 Victorian Curriculum V.2.0. This session will also provide an overview on First Nations materials that may assist teachers delivering other, related First Nations content.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 143] There Is No Such Thing as a Free Lunch - Engaging Students in Real World Economic and Financial Literacy from Years 7-10</b> Mary Pettinger, St Peter's College (South Australia)</p> <p>This session explores practical, engaging ways to build economic and financial literacy in Years 7-10 using real world scenarios that genuinely matter to students. Participants will examine activities that help learners analyse everyday financial decisions, understand the cost of living, evaluate trade offs, and consider how economic choices affect different stakeholders and perspectives. The session features inquiry based tasks, simulations, budgeting challenges, and problem solving activities that promote critical and creative thinking. Emphasis is placed on inclusive, culturally responsive approaches that help students connect economic concepts to their own lived experiences—whether navigating personal spending, interpreting national or global events, or exploring future pathways.</p>
4:05pm - 4:10pm	MOVING TIME / BREAK		
4:10pm - 5:00pm	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 151] Free Financial Literacy Micro-Credentials, Videos and Games</b> Damian Nicholson, National Manager, Digital Learning and Program Development, Financial Basics Foundation Marianne Riley-Dunstan, Harrisdale Senior High School (Western Australia)</p> <p>Financial Basics Foundation (FBF) offers free, ready-to-use financial literacy education resources to support teachers and build students' real-world financial skills. This session will showcase practical tools to boost engagement in Commerce, and Economics &amp; Business without adding to teacher workload. We'll explore Cashed Up, our new series of on-demand online short courses where students earn financial literacy micro-credentials while teachers remain in the driver's seat. We'll also introduce Cashed Up Boot Camp, a flexible option that allows students to self-enrol and learn online with support from specialist FBF educators. The session will cover the refreshed ESS1 Money Game, an award-winning, interactive simulation where students earn, save, spend and invest, experiencing real consequences in a safe and entertaining way. We'll also highlight MoneyIQ, a library of quick animated videos designed to help teens navigate the financial responsibilities that come with growing independence. All resources are free and mapped to the Australian Curriculum.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 152] Engaging Young People in Civics Through Local Community</b> Stephanie Smith, Head of Learning and Museum Experience, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House</p> <p>Democracy in a Box aims to inspire young people to be informed and active citizens within their local communities and consider ways to implement meaningful change. This new resource, developed by the Museum of Australia Democracy Education team, led by Dr Stephanie Smith, includes teacher notes, lesson plans, games, activities, videos, picture books and posters to engage students in the civics and citizenship. Linked to the Australian Curriculum, this initiative aims to educate students about the history and principles of democracy in Australia, promote active participation and civic engagement in their local communities. During this session we will explore some of the resources available in Democracy in a Box which teachers can pick up and use in their classrooms immediately.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 153] Building Solid Foundations – The Critical Role Years 7-10 Play in Shaping Economic Literacy</b> Emma Chow, Economist, Reserve Bank of Australia</p> <p>The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) is committed to supporting economic literacy in Australia. From the Bank's perspective, economic literacy is focused on the capability of someone to understand their own situation, its broader economic context and thereby the situation of others. This session examines why early exposure to economic concepts in Years 7-10 is a powerful lever for lifting economic literacy and boosting senior year economics enrolments. The session will explore recent RBA research, and share classroom-ready strategies to introduce economic concepts to junior students.</p>
5:30pm - 6:30pm	 <p><b>SOCIAL HOUR @ PLATFORM 28</b> (Limited spots by Registration only) Sponsored by: Chartered Accountants Australia &amp; New Zealand (CA ANZ)</p>		
From 6:30pm	<p><b>CONFERENCE DINNER @ PLATFORM 28</b> (By Registration only, optional at extra cost, drinks pay-as-you-go)</p>		

# PROGRAM - FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2026 (DAY 2)

8:30am - 10:30am	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 211] Port of Melbourne Tour &amp; Breakfast</b></p> <p>Enjoy breakfast and explore how commerce and international trade operates, where goods are stored once they arrive and how they are shipped into other states from the Port of Melbourne. If time permits, there will be a bus tour around the Port.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 212] Old Melbourne Gaol Tour &amp; Breakfast</b></p> <p>Explore the Old City Watch House over breakfast and then head to the Old Melbourne Gaol to discover the crimes, criminals and consequences of days past. A presentation from RMIT Law Faculty covering modern day issues in legal curriculum is included in this tour.</p>	
10:30am - 11:00am	<p><b>MORNING TEA / EXPO</b></p>		
11:00am - 11:50am	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 221] Law Starts Early - Reviving the Legal Studies Pipeline</b> Josephine Comegna, Redbank Plains State High School (Queensland)</p> <p>Enrolment in Legal Studies is at a crossroads — but what if the solution starts earlier? This session tells the story of how one Queensland state high school is rebuilding its senior Legal Studies pathway from the ground up. By introducing Year 9 Civics &amp; Citizenship and redeveloping a dynamic Year 10 Law program, students are discovering that law is not just for lawyers – it's for citizens. Participants will gain practical insights into unit sequencing, skills alignment, and assessment design that progressively build civic literacy and legal reasoning. Attendees will leave inspired with adaptable strategies to cultivate the next generation of civic-minded legal thinkers.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 222] The Australian Curriculum- Embedding Civics &amp; Business Education in Years 7-10</b> Hetal Raniga, Sheldon College (Queensland)</p> <p>This session explores practical strategies for integrating business education into Years 7-10 within the Australian Curriculum. Participants will discover how short, engaging units can meet curriculum requirements while fostering essential economic and civic understanding. Topics such as entrepreneurship in Year 7, market dynamics and innovation in Year 8, global trade and financial literacy in Year 9, and advanced economic concepts in Year 10 will be explored. Hands-on activities—such as running classroom elections, simulating housing auctions, and playing the share market game and more—will be showcased to demonstrate how theory connects to real-world applications. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to design dynamic lessons that build students' knowledge of economics, business, and civics, while developing critical thinking and decision-making skills. This session is ideal for teachers seeking to make business education relevant, interactive, and impactful.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 223] Equity Mates: Navigating Financial Education in Low-Socio Economic Schools</b> Alec Renehan &amp; Bryce Leske, Co-Founders, Equity Mates Ryan Dodson, Deception Bay State High School (Queensland)</p> <p>The Equity Mates team are on a mission to make teaching financial literacy a part of our national curriculum. Join us as we share how we created a bespoke unit to teach Deception Bay SHS students the skills of investing in the share market.</p>
11:50am - 11:55am	<p><b>MOVING TIME / BREAK</b></p>		
11:55am - 12:45pm	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 231] Interdisciplinary and Literacy Approaches to Business Education</b> Team from St Peters Lutheran College (Queensland)</p> <p>In this session, attendees will be taken through one school's journey of broadening Business education through two approaches. One approach is a focus on financial and economic literacy through interactive games. The second approach is through an interdisciplinary lens. We will present semester units created on Finance (personal and business literacy), Economics (economic literacy), Rational Consumer (interdisciplinary subject combining Economics, Business and Psychology), and Criminology (combining Legal Studies and Psychology).</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 232] Our Indo-Pacific: Engaging Students in Australia's Development Partnerships</b> Katrina Davey, Content Manager, Digital Teaching and Learning &amp; Rachel Flenley, Digital Teaching and Learning Specialist, Education Services Australia</p> <p>Australia is committed to working in partnership with our Indo-Pacific neighbours to build a prosperous, stable, and peaceful region. As educators our aim is to nurture these values in young Australians to ensure sustainable opportunities for all. This session explores how global perspectives relate to the Civics and Citizenship and Economics curricula. With a focus on how the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports international development, invests in our region's future, and upholds its legal and ethical responsibilities to the UN. We will introduce the new Australian Government 'Global Education' learning modules, suitable for Years 3-10 students. These modules are grounded in civic and economic principles and mobilise a range of pedagogies including explicit instruction, independent inquiry, and collaborative problem solving involving real world dilemmas. We outline how the modules can build students' understanding of the world and foster the social competencies required to engage in global affairs confidently.</p>	<p align="center"><b>[Concurrent Session 233] Teaching Social Cohesion and Controversy in the Civics and Citizenship Classroom</b> Dr Adam Brodie-McKenzie, Lecturer, La Trobe University</p> <p>There is a growing call for social cohesion to be explicitly taught in Australian classrooms. Social cohesion is already a mandatory component of Civics and Citizenship in the Australian and Victorian Curricula. With a focus on scaffolded deliberation, this session suggests effective ways social cohesion and controversy can be taught in the classroom to promote students' active and informed citizenship.</p>
12:45pm - 1:45pm	<p><b>LUNCH / EXPO</b></p>		

# PROGRAM - FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2026 (DAY 2) CONTINUED...

12:45pm - 1:45pm	<b>LUNCH / EXPO</b>		
1:45pm - 2:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Concurrent Session 241]</b>  <b>Developing a Senior Financial Literacy Course</b>            Sansha Johnson, Wesley College (Victoria)</p> <p>Finance and investment courses are popular electives at many schools today. I'll share our course and outline how I developed it, from considering the key ideas and concepts I want students to take away from the course, how to ensure the course prepares students for Yr 11/12 and ideas for assessment. I'll let you know what had worked, and what students still seem to struggle with. I am a AuDHD teacher, so I'll also include some tips for helping those students..</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Concurrent Session 242]</b>  <b>Problem-Solution Fit Using Business Tools</b>            Joy Pathmanathan-Bartsch, St Peter's Girls' School (South Australia)</p> <p>The focus of this session is to showcase the business tools that Year 7-10 students use to identify real-world problems and develop effective solutions. It will highlight entrepreneurship, local businesses and start-ups as vehicles for authentic learning. Framed around best practice in the classroom, the session will explicitly demonstrate how to create the action we need to drive meaningful learning outcomes. The program aligns with ACARA assessment criteria for Years 7-9 and the SACE performance standards for Years 10-12, ensuring both rigour and progression. Within this structure, students engage with practical tools such as problem identification frameworks, SWOT analysis, customer personas, market research techniques, value proposition design, and financial planning models. These tools are taught through explicit instruction, modelling, structured questioning, retrieval practice and formative feedback, ensuring students can apply theory to authentic contexts such as analysing community needs, develop innovative solutions and considering sustainable growth strategies that benefit the local economy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>[Concurrent Session 243]</b>  <b>Hack, Borrow, Build: Year 10 Civics That Sticks</b>            Maree McGinty, The Springfield Anglican College (Queensland)</p> <p>Designing engaging Year 10 Civics and Citizenship lessons can feel overwhelming, especially when starting with a blank page – yet many effective strategies and resources already exist. This session shares one teacher's journey of creating curriculum-aligned learning by blending original ideas with inspiration from what others have done well. We will explore ways to meet the Australian Curriculum: Civics and Citizenship (v9.0) achievement standards while designing meaningful lessons that spark student interest and build a foundation for senior Legal Studies. Participants will see examples of activities on the rule of law, justice and Australia's global connections, discuss how to adapt resources, and consider practical strategies for scaffolding critical and creative thinking. We'll also reflect on approaches that have supported student success in the NAP Civics and Citizenship Assessment. The focus is on sharing, learning together, and leaving with practical, confidence-building idea.</p>
2:30pm - 2:45pm	<b>[Session 251] Spotlight on the Plan Your Own Enterprise (PYOE) Competition</b>		
2:45pm - 3:15pm	<p><b>[Session 252] Closing Plenary: Student Voice in Commerce - From Classroom to Successful Futures</b>            Annie Zhou, Brighter Futures Youth Podcast Host, MoneyWise Founder            Taihan Rahman, Melbourne High School Student and 2025 Victorian Youth Premier</p> <p>Experience of studying commerce subjects during VCE and journey advocating for financial literacy and initiating entrepreneurial extracurriculars.</p>		
From 4:30pm	<b>BUSINESS EDUCATORS AUSTRALASIA (BEA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>		

# GETTING TO THE VENUE

## Monash University Melbourne City Campus - 750 Collins St, Docklands VIC 3008

Access 750 Collins Street via the Level 2 (Ground Floor)

The campus is conveniently located in the heart of Melbourne which means you'll find it easy to travel to the campus using train, tram or bus.

### By Train

Catch any Melbourne train that goes through the City Loop and hop off at Southern Cross station. 750 Collins Street is only a 300m walk from there.

### By Tram

Trams #11 and #48 from the north and east of the city stop on the doorstep of 750 Collins Street.

### By Bus

There's a bus stop directly in front of the building that services routes from the west of the city: 232 (Altona to City), 235 (Fishermans Bend via Williamstown Rd to City) and 237 (Fishermans Bend via Lorimer Street to City).

Visit the Public Transport Victoria website at <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au> for more information and connecting services in your area.

### Car Park

Wilson Parking located at 750 Collins Street is open Monday - Friday. This undercover car park offers Hourly and Early Bird Parking with exclusive discounts when you prepay online (from \$22). For more details, visit:

<https://www.wilsonparking.com.au/parking-locations/victoria/docklands/750-collins-st-car-park/>

