

# NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Where does Australia stand in the inclusive education space? Where is it heading?

Hear from international and national speakers on inclusive education, change management and education policy implementation.

A leadership event for people with disability, families, educators and decision makers in the inclusive education space.

Booking is essential - register at [family-advocacy.com/events](https://family-advocacy.com/events)

Other countries around the world have led change to create fully inclusive education systems; backed up by legislation, policy and change management protocol. This symposium will provide a rare opportunity to have these examples of implementation showcased. Highlighting the vision and commitment required for successful implementation, this event will provide Australian stakeholders in education insight into the necessary steps to move towards a fully inclusive system.

#### Event Highlights:

- The catalysts for change
- The considerations and implications of systems change
- What leadership needs to look like to implement change
- How this can be achieved in the Australian context



# Event details

Date: Monday November 13, 2017

Time: 9am to 5pm

Venue: The Westin 1 Martin Pl, Sydney NSW 2000

Cost: Professional \$195  
Families, people with disability, students \$55

Sponsorship: If you are a person with disability or a family member of a person with disability and would like to be sponsored to attend this event, please register and tick the sponsorship request box on the payment page. We will contact you to try and meet your needs.

## Cancellations:

- Cancellations by close of business on 20 October 2017 incur no penalty.
- For organisations, cancellations between 23 October - 3 November 2017 will incur a 50% administration fee. For families, cancellations between 23 October - 3 November 2017 will incur a 15% administration fee.
- No refund can be given for a cancellation after 3 November 2017
- Substitute registrations can be made without penalty. Any changes must be advised prior to the event.

# Confirmed speakers



NSW Minister for Education, The Hon. (Rob) Robert Gordon Stokes. Rob is a member of the Liberal party and was elected Member for Pittwater in 2007. Rob will officially open the Symposium.



Ms Emma Husar MP. Emma was elected to the Australian Federal Parliament as the Member for Lindsay in 2016 after years of serving the Penrith community. She has used her parliamentary profile to advocate for improved services and awareness for victims of domestic violence. Emma maintains a strong interest in education and disability policy, and is a member of the Joint Committee on the NDIS and the House Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs.

Before entering parliament, she was fighting to improve local disability services as a member of Penrith Council Access Committee. She has led community fundraising drives supporting people with serious illnesses; served on local school P&C committees, on the boards of charities, and Chaired the Penrith Homelessness Interagency Committee.

Emma received the Penrith City Council Carer of the Year award in 2010 for her work on behalf of people with disabilities. She has previously worked as a fundraising and events manager for the Australian Paralympic Committee, Telstra Child Flight and Tech Aid Disabled.

Emma was born in Nepean hospital, and is raising three children, aged 9, 10, and 15 in South Penrith.



# Confirmed speakers



Alastair McEwin is Australia's current Disability Discrimination Commissioner. His educational background is in arts, law and business administration. He was the Executive Director of Community Legal Centres NSW, the peak body for Community Legal Centres in NSW. Previous roles include CEO of People with Disability Australia and Manager of the Australian Centre for Disability Law.

Alastair also spent 5 years as the President of the Deaf Society of NSW. From late 2015 to mid 2016, he was also the Chairperson of the Disability Council NSW - the official advisory board to the NSW Government on disability issues.

He was Chairperson of Australian Theatre of the Deaf and coordinator of the World Federation of the Deaf Expert Group on Human Rights. He was also an adjunct lecturer for the Masters of Community Management degree at the University of Technology Sydney.

# Confirmed speakers



Jihad Dib is the Member for Lakemba, NSW. In March 2015, Jihad was elected as the Labor Member for Lakemba and was made the Shadow Minister for Education in March 2016. He is the state's first lower house Muslim MP in the NSW Parliament.

His purpose is to 'make a difference'.

At the age of 33, Jihad Dib was appointed as the Principal of Punchbowl Boys' High School; a school that had been on the verge of closure. Under his leadership, the school made highly significant and externally recognized improvements in educational and social outcomes for students and the school community through a systematic and practical approach to educational reform.

Jihad is a former: Australia Day Ambassador; Commissioner on the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW; and, board member of the Together for Humanity Foundation.

Jihad was recognised as the 2011 P&C NSW Secondary Principal of the Year, received the Director NSW Public Schools Principal Award and was conferred an honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of NSW in June 2014. In 2013, Jihad was awarded the NSW Pride of Australia Medal in the inspiration category.

# Confirmed speakers



Jody R. Carr, BBA, MLA, Canadian Politician, Former Minister of Education and Post Secondary Education

Jody has nearly 25 years experience in political, government, and legislative policy development and implementation. He is currently an elected politician in the Canadian province of New Brunswick. He was first elected in 1999 at age 23, one of the youngest in the province's history. He served as Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development between 2010-2013 and Post Secondary Education, Training and Labour in 2006 and 2014.

He has a passion for universal, inclusive education where all children learn together in common learning environments as a means to achieve better outcomes for all students, regardless of background and diversity.

He is a member of Inclusion International's expert advisory panel for Catalyst in Inclusive Education and an Associate with Inclusive Education Canada.



Dr Carol Quirk is one of the founders of the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education (MCIE). Carol serves on the Executive Team for the SWIFT Center, a National Inclusive School Reform Center funded by the US Dept. of Education in partnership with the University of Kansas. Previously, Carol was the Executive Director of an adult services agency in Baltimore City, a consultant to Philadelphia Public Schools, and Early Intervention Specialist for Maryland State Department of Education. Carol served on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

# Confirmed speakers



Leanne Woodley works as a senior education consultant for the Association of Independent Schools, NSW (AISNSW). She has taught students with additional support needs and learning difficulties for over twenty years. She has a Masters of Education with a focus on adolescents with additional support needs. She also has qualifications in gifted education and working with students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Leanne works collaboratively with teachers to support in diversification of learning and teaching, assessment experiences and programs to cater for students with learning difficulties, disabilities and challenging behaviours in a variety of educational settings. She has co-authored books and publications to support teachers in this work.

Her passion in education led her to explore the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework to improve and optimise learning for all students. In 2015, she was awarded an academic scholarship to travel to the USA to study and develop a deeper understanding of UDL implementation.

Leanne has also worked with the University of Kansas to explore the School Wide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT) as a process to support schools develop their inclusive practices. Leanne's work has culminated in the SWIFT Fidelity Integrity Assessment (SWIFT-FIA) being adapted by AISNSW for use in Australian schools context.



# Confirmed speakers



Professor Roger Slee was appointed as a Vice-Chancellor's 100 Professors initiative at the University of South Australia. He is also the Founding Editor of the International Journal of Inclusive Education published by Taylor and Francis. Roger's most recent book was *The Irregular School: Exclusion, Schooling and Inclusive Education*.

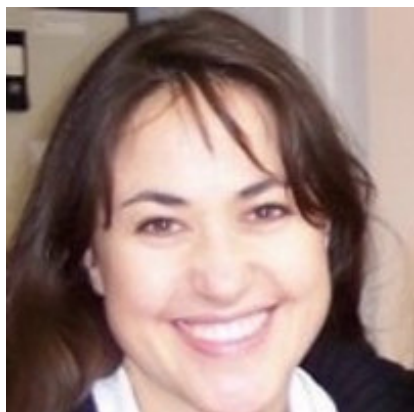
Roger was formerly Deputy Director-General of Education Queensland. He has been adviser to governments and led consulting and development projects in Australia, England, Canada, New Zealand, India, Iraq, Kosovo, the Republic of Montenegro, Ethiopia, Singapore and Greece.



Gina Wilson-Burns is an unapologetic advocate for her son and promotes the life changing experience of parenting a child with multiple severe disabilities not as a 'traumatic or crushing experience' but one of hope and possibilities, love and laughter. Gina acknowledges we need to remove much of the red-tape and perceived limitations to empower families to do what families do best... live, love and grow. She is the author of the inclusive education blog Inky Ed! (<http://inkyed.wordpress.com>).

Gina is a former Chairperson of Family Advocacy and management committee member and a founding board member of All Means All - Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education.

# Confirmed speakers



Professor Simona D'Alessio is a researcher, teacher, and activist in the area of inclusive education, disability studies in education (DSE) and policy analysis. Since 2013 she has been an Honorary Research Fellow at the UCL/Institute of Education, University of London.

Simona is currently collaborating with the Università degli Studi 'Roma Tre', Department of Education within the Research Unit for Disability Studies (Prof. Fabio Bocci). As an independent researcher, she is the leader of a team of researchers working in the area of disability studies in Italy.

From 2006 to 2013 she worked for the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education specifically focusing on research and analysis activities. During this time Simona carried out projects in 28 member countries, developing a broad understanding of the complexity of studying inclusive education and special needs education policies and practice in multiple contexts.

Simona has a wide experience in school practice and teaching learners with disabilities in mainstream settings. She has published extensively in the area of inclusive education and special needs education in English, Italian and French.

# Confirmed speakers



Loren Swancutt is Head of Special Education Services at a state high school in Queensland. Her role involves the leadership and management of inclusive education experiences for all students and the facilitation of inclusive interactions with families and the broader community. Loren has a Bachelor of Education (Primary and Special Education) and a Masters in Inclusive Education and is the appointed National Convenor of the school inclusion network for educators which operates under All Means All - the Australian Alliance for Inclusive Education.



Yolande Cailly is a parent who is passionate about equity in education. When her daughter who has an intellectual disability started school in a segregated unit she discovered a world of subtle ableism. After educating herself on disability rights and inclusive education she decided to challenge attitudes and practices by moving her daughter out of a segregated unit into a mainstream classroom. Drawing on this challenging but successful experience she is now committed to advocating for an inclusive education for all students.