

ACTA-ATESOL NSW CONFERENCE 2026

DRAFT PROGRAM OUTLINE, v3

The conference will bring together national and international educators, researchers, and leaders to explore emerging challenges and opportunities in the TESOL field in early childhood education, schools, universities, and industry. Areas will focus on developments in policy, pedagogy and research in:

- national and international state of English as an additional language or dialect education, leadership and teacher education
- multilingual learner populations – child and adult Indigenous, immigrant, refugee, transnational and foreign English language learners
- English as a second language and literacy learning in education, including in English medium instructional and bilingual/multilingual settings.

This program outline was last revised 8/11/25 and is subject to change. Each paper session is 20 minutes plus 10 minutes Q&A, each workshop and colloquium 60 minutes including Q&A, each keynote and ACTA-convened colloquia 60 minutes, and each invited featured symposia 80 minutes, including intros and at least 10 mins Q&A.

THURSDAY 1st October 2026

10.00 -12.00 AM ACTA Council Meeting and Brunch

1.00 - 4.00 PM EALD K-12 managers' forum

1.00 - 4.00 PM Concurrent session: Optional workshop on classroom based research

1.00 - 4.00 PM Concurrent session: Optional workshop on journal writing

4.30 Registration Opens

5.00-7.00 PM

Opening Session

5.00 Welcome, ACTA President
Welcome to Country

5.20 Opening of Conference
Guest speaker, tba. Introduced by Michael Michell, President, ATESOL NSW (Chair)
(20mins)

5.45 Opening Keynote
Shaping your future: Enacting EAL/D policy through both-ways practice in First Nations contexts
Professor Rhonda Oliver, Curtin University
(Chair: Chris Davison)

6.45-7.00pm Welcome from Committee Chair
and outline of conference program, Michael Michell, President, ATESOL NSW (Chair)

7-8 Welcome function + guest speaker

FRIDAY 2nd October 2026

8.30 Registration Opens

9.00-10.20 Featured symposium 1

Equity, justice and care through English language education
(Chair: Alice Chik)

10.20-10.50 Morning Tea

10.50-12.30 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by ACTA Teacher Ed CG
(Convenor: Ronan Kelly)

Concurrent sessions 1-3 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover),

Concurrent session 1: 10.50-11.20

Concurrent session 2: 11.25-11.55

Concurrent session 3: 12.00-12.30

12.30 -1.00 Lunch

Concurrent sessions 4-7 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover),

1.00-2.05 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by Adult ESOL CG
(Convenors: Helen Moore/Gillian Edmiston)

Concurrent session 4: 1.00-1.30

Concurrent session 5: 1.35-2.05

2.10-3.15 Featured ACTA/ATESOL colloquium on ESOL in TAFE (Chairs: tba)

Concurrent session 6: 2.10-2.40

Concurrent session 7: 2.45-3.15

3.15-3.40 Afternoon tea

3.40-5.00 Featured symposium 2

Empowering EALD students through generative artificial intelligence
(Chair: Andy Gao)

5.00 Close

6.30-9.00 Conference dinner

SATURDAY 3rd October 2026 (Schools-focus)

8:30 Registration Open

9.00-10.20 Featured symposium 3

How long does it take to learn EAL alongside the curriculum?

(Chair: Marg Turnbull)

Morning Tea

Concurrent sessions 8-10 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover)

10.50-12.30 Featured ACTA/ATESOL colloquium showcasing the work of the Language and Literacy in Education Network, [LLEN Network](#)

Concurrent session 8: 10.50-11.20

Concurrent session 9: 11.25-11.55

Concurrent session 10: 12.00-12.30

12.30 -1.00 Lunch

Concurrent sessions 11-14 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover)

1.00-2.05 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by ACTA Indigenous EALD CG

(Convenor: Helen Moore/Liz Easton)

Concurrent session 11: 1.00-1.30

Concurrent session 12: 1.35-2.05

2.10-3.15 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by ACTA Schools CG

(Convenor: Michael Michell)

Concurrent session 13: 2.10-2.40

Concurrent session 14: 2.45-3.15

3.15-3.40 Afternoon tea

3.40-5.00 Featured symposium 4

Shaping critical writers in multilingual classrooms

(Chair: Honglin Chen)

5.00 Close