

ACTA-ATESOL NSW CONFERENCE 2026

DRAFT PROGRAM OUTLINE, v5

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 5 May 2026 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, with Aek Pakati

1.00 - 4.00 PM Concurrent session: Optional workshop on journal writing, with Andy Gao and Fiona Tang

4.30 Registration Opens

5.00-7.00 PM

Opening Session, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

5.00 Welcome, ACTA President

Welcome to Country

5.20 Opening of Conference, Introductions by Michael Michell, President, ATESOL NSW (Chair)

Welcome from Sana Zreika, Director, Multicultural Education, NSW Department of Education.

Opening of the conference, The Hon Pru Carr, NSW Minister for Education, tbc,

(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 Concluding remarks, and brief outline of conference program, Chris Davison, on behalf of the Program Committee

7-8 Welcome reception

FRIDAY 2nd October 2026

8.30 Registration Opens

9.00-10.20 Featured symposium 1, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Equity, justice and care through English language education. Featured speakers Angel Lin, Joana Duarte and Jacob Minniear (see website for a full description of the session)

(Chair: Alice Chik)

10.20-10.50 Morning Tea

Concurrent sessions 1-3 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover), Eastern Avenue Seminar rooms, tba

Concurrent session 1 a,b,c,d,e: 10.50-11.20

Concurrent session 2 a,b,c,d,e: 11.25-11.55

Concurrent session 3 a,b,c,d,e: 12.00-12.30

10.50-12.30 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by ACTA Teacher Ed CG, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Fading footprints: Tracing EAL/D Teaching Courses at Australian universities and investigating the state of EAL/D education in Australian schools

Featured speakers Toni Dobinson, Michael Michell, Margaret Turnbull, Kim Andreassen, Carly Steele, Julian Chen, Marisa Schiavi, Belinda Stewart, Leonardo Veliz, Stephanie Dryden, David Partridge (see website for a full description of the session)

(Chairs: Ronan Kelly & Russell Cross)

12.30 -1.00 Lunch

Concurrent sessions 4-7 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover), Eastern Avenue Seminar rooms, tba

Concurrent session 4 a,b,c,d,e: 1.00-1.30

Concurrent session 5 a,b,c,d,e: 1.35-2.05

1.00-2.05 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by Adult ESOL CG, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Shaping the future of the AMEP?: Decisions and directions. Featured speakers tba.

(Chairs: Helen Moore & Gillian Edmiston)

Concurrent session 6 a,b,c,d,e: 2.10-2.40

Concurrent session 7 a,b,c,d,e: 2.45-3.15

2.10-3.15 Featured ACTA/ATESOL colloquium on ESOL in TAFE, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Details coming!

(Chair: Michael Michell)

3.15-3.40 Afternoon tea

3.40-5.00 Featured symposium 2, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Empowering EALD students through generative artificial intelligence. Featured speakers Peter Crossthwaite, Lucy Macnaught and Benjamin Moorhouse (see website for a full description of the session)

(Chair: Andy Gao)

5.00 Close

Sign up sheets for various nearby venues for dinner led by a local host

SATURDAY 3rd October 2026 (Schools-focus)

8:30 Registration Open

9.00-10.20 Featured symposium 3, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

How long does it take to learn EAL alongside the curriculum? Featured speakers Jim Cummins, Sue Creagh and Lucy Lu (see website for a full description of the session)

(Chair: Marg Turnbull)

10.20-10.50 Morning Tea

Concurrent sessions 8-10 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover), Eastern Avenue Seminar rooms, tba

Concurrent session 8 a,b,c,d,e: 10.50-11.20

Concurrent session 9 a,b,c,d,e: 11.25-11.55

Concurrent session 10 a,b,c,d,e: 12.00-12.30

10.50-12.30 Featured ACTA/ATESOL colloquium, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

The Language and Literacy in Education Network ([LLEN Network](#)). Featured speakers Bev Derewanka and Pauline Jones (see website for a full description of the session)

(Chair: Michael Michell)

12.30 -1.00 Lunch

Concurrent sessions 11-14 (30 mins + 5 mins changeover), Eastern Avenue Seminar rooms, tba

Concurrent session 11 a,b,c,d,e: 1.00-1.30

Concurrent session 12 a,b,c,d,e: 1.35-2.05

1.00-2.40 Featured ACTA Colloquium organised by ACTA Schools and Indigenous EALD CGs, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Synthetic Phonics: An ACTA Position Paper & Launch. Featured speakers tba.

(Chair: Helen Moore & Chris Davison)

Concurrent session 13 a,b,c,d,e: 2.10-2.40

Concurrent session 14 a,b,c,d,e: 2.45-3.15

3.15-3.40 Afternoon tea

3.40-5.00 Featured symposium 4, Eastern Avenue Auditorium 201

Shaping critical writers in multilingual classrooms. Featured speakers Marg Turnbull, Emma Rutherford Vale and Erika Matruglio (see website for a full description of the session)

(Chair: Honglin Chen)

5.00 Conference close

