

ONE DAY CONFERENCE : QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE : FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

2019 Conference CPR : (Connect, Protect, Respect)

Breathing life back into school communities through best practice active student empowerment and engagement.

This one-day conference brings together leading academics, practitioners, students, school leadership, school wellbeing staff, and school parents/carers from around Australia.

The leaders will share and celebrate Australian and international best practice, where students contribute meaningfully to rich educational decision making and create primary and secondary schools where all students can thrive.

The aim of this conference is to support schools in empowering students to have an authentic role in ensuring all students remain meaningfully engaged and thrive.

Workshops will be divided to cater separately for school staff, students and parents/carers. Shared sessions will also be provided. Workshops will be based on the themes of Connect, Protect and Respect.

Target: We recommend teams of 4-5 people from a school made up of 2 adults and 2-3 students.* Individual registrations are welcome.

***Student representatives – Strictly in the following age cohort:** Year levels 5 to Year 10. Schools should consider bringing a broad range of students, not simply those in traditional leadership roles.

***Adult representatives:** School leader, school governance (Board/Council), parent/carer rep, school staff, broader community/agency/local council.

WHEN Friday 20 September 2019
Registrations from 8am
Conference start time 8.45am

WHERE Mercure Hotel, 85-87 North Quay, Brisbane

COST \$50 Student Registration
\$315 Single Registration
\$570 School Team of 2
\$1050 School Team of 4 – 5 staff

Price also includes conference resource pack and refreshments upon arrival, morning tea and lunch.

REGISTER NOW HERE →

OR to register manually contact Linsey Hart
0421 343 137 or email Linsey@wisawellbeing.com.au

● OPENING ADDRESS

International best practice on the critical importance and benefits of engaging student voice in shaping education in Australian schools.

Video Prof. Emeritus Brian Caldwell, The University of Melbourne, Australian leading educator.

● KEYNOTE

1 Connect: Understanding lived experiences of student voice (in)action

Dr Jenna Gillett-Swan: Senior Lecturer & Researcher – Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology; Child Rights Research Strand Leader – QUT Student Engagement, Learning and Behaviour Research Group; Co-founder #ChildRightsChat.

Despite the increasing body of research affirming the benefits for students and schools of seeking and eliciting student voice, the relative experiences of (in)action resulting from voice expressions can differ remarkably for different students and in different contexts. The subsequent potential for tokenistic or no consultation with students may then result in an opposite effect to the well-meaning intentions of connecting and engaging with student perspectives on matters that affect them. This keynote presentation offers a snapshot into the lived expectations and realities of school-based voice inclusive practices from the perspective of students following their active involvement in participatory school-based research. Throughout the research, the students were placed in an empowered participatory position and provided a platform for their voices to be heard and acted upon by those with the power and opportunity to instigate (in)action. To what extent does student expectation match their experienced realities and what are the lessons that can be taken from this moving forward?

2 Protect: Being safe, healthy and ready to learn!

Dr. Andrew Wicking, CEO Resilient Youth Australia

The findings from the Australian Resilience Survey of more than 1,000 schools and 300,000 young people aged 8-18, across every state and territory in Australia, has affirmed that young people thrive when they feel “Connected Protected Respected”. This is the “CPR of Wellbeing in schools”. He will demonstrate how this international best practice resilience

measure has been successfully applied and share the findings that resulted from this large-scale data collection and analysis. This exciting tool is an invaluable aid to Principals, schools and local communities to build an ongoing process to measure, identify and focus on areas to work with students and young people to improve their resilience. In addition, Andrew will demonstrate how student voice data helps school leaders build a school culture where young people feel ‘Protected’: safe, healthy and ready to learn.

3 Respect: School transformation through student voice, agency and participation – International best practice.

Roger Holdsworth, Educator, Editor ‘Connect’ a 40-year old practice journal supporting student participation; Honorary Research Associate, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne

Approaches based in student voice, agency and participation are seen as means to increase student engagement and learning. It is also a way to draw on partnerships between students and adults to transform education and improve school practices for the benefit of all students. This keynote will summarise the key concepts involved, the evidence for their outcomes, and outline international best practice. It will provide some practical examples and stories from primary and secondary schools and make available some simple tools that assist us to listen to students’ voices, and to audit practices within our classrooms and across whole schools. Are we ready to respect all students as knowledgeable, expert, informed, active partners? This is the challenge facing us if we are to breathe life back into our school communities together.

REGISTER NOW HERE →

OR to register manually contact Linsey Hart
0421 343 137 or email Linsey@wisawellbeing.com.au

Morning workshops provide a Student Stream and School Staff/Broader Community Streams

- **STUDENT WORKSHOP STREAM**

CPR – How Students can be Effective Partners in Improving Schools for All

Roger Holdsworth, Educator, Editor Connect a 40-year old practice journal supporting student participation; Honorary Research Associate, Melbourne Graduate School of Education, The University of Melbourne

The aim of the student workshop stream is to enable students to share information and advice about ways in which they can increase their capacity to have voice, agency and participation/partnerships in overall school and student wellbeing. It will also provide input to them about possible models, strategies and processes that enable them to do so. The workshop will be active and fast-paced, enabling students to work with other students from the participating schools to develop visions, plans and priorities. Students will take away some ideas for further initiatives at their schools, and the beginning of action plans.

- **SCHOOL STAFF/ BROADER COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STREAM**

1 Fostering Voice-Inclusive Teacher-Student partnerships.

Dr Jenna Gillett-Swan

Meaningful engagement with students on matters that affect them is important. It is their right and it can also influence their experiences of wellbeing. However, student voice can sometimes be met with resistance when considering an apparent tension between balancing an already overburdened curriculum with what some may consider nice, but ultimately unessential practice. There is need to go beyond thinking about voice elicitation in terms of it being an add-on to regular practice to critically considering how the inclusion of student perspectives can be achievable, authentic, and integrated into existing everyday school life. This workshop builds on the participatory principles of children's rights through a practical exploration of ways to foster and incorporate voice through everyday practices and offers workshop participants facilitated opportunities to explore and consider how multiple diversities of experience may be enabled in their own contexts.

2 Student Agency – Equipping school staff with practical tools and options to provide students with authentic engagement and leadership opportunities.

Jac Van Velsen WISA Wellbeing in Schools Australia.

In this workshop we will look at a variety of ways for schools to provide skills and authentic leadership opportunities to enable all students to be actively engaged in education. Student agency refers to learning through activities that are meaningful and relevant to learners, driven by their interests, and often self-initiated with appropriate guidance from teachers. To put it simply, student agency gives students voice and often choice in how they learn and participate at school. This workshop we will look at Student Action Teams, Student Leadership training, Peer mediation, Games Leaders Training, and Peer Support and Buddy Training.

- **AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

Joint Student/Staff/Other professionals' session: How do we go forward?

In School groups – share information from students and staff sessions; Discuss and decide in school groups 'what will we do next Monday (quick wins) where do we want to be in 1 year? What have we taken away from the day? Feedback to whole group. Immediate actions/Quick wins and planning school implementation.

Summary of CPR Connect Protect Respect and Q&A session.

Information fed back that we have gathered regarding challenges, strengths, opportunities and the big themes we have harnessed from the day.

REGISTER NOW HERE →

OR to register manually contact Linsey Hart
0421 343 137 or email Linsey@wisawellbeing.com.au