

# **AISSA 2017 GOVERNANCE PROGRAM**

## **Strategic Foresight Opportunities and Challenges for School Boards**

Saturday 27 May 2017

Pembroke School

Dorothy Yates Hall

18 Holden Street, Kensington Park



## AISSA GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE



Welcome to the 2017 Governance Conference, Strategic Foresight – Opportunities and Challenges for School Boards.

*‘Students will be globally oriented in a way we never conceived of in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and what they must learn at school has changed dramatically.’ (Emeritus Professor Headley Beare)*

Schools operate in a world that is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous and they must chart a steady course through these challenges. This conference has been planned to assist Board members and leaders to reflect on their unique school context and to explore what might be desired futures which enable students to survive and indeed thrive in the 21st Century.

The conference will build on the ideas presented during the 2016 conference. It will provide opportunities to develop skills in areas which arose in last year’s discussion and continue to develop the critical capacity for Board members to ensure their school thrives. It is clear that Board members need to understand and be able to respond to the external threats and opportunities all schools currently confront if they are to serve their school communities effectively.

A range of outstanding keynote speakers will provide insight into the local, national and global contexts which impact on all independent schools.

We are delighted that Dr Ron Ritchhart from Project Zero, Harvard University, is our keynote speaker. Dr Ritchhart provides a different lens through which Boards might consider contemporary education. Like last year’s speaker Prof Yong Zhao, Dr Ritchhart believes schools must change in order to remain relevant to our students’ futures. However, it is his belief that a focus on critical and creative thinking will best prepare students for the future.

In addition, the Federal Education Minister, the Honourable Senator Simon Birmingham has accepted our invitation to speak. Board members would be aware that the Commonwealth Government plays a critical role in funding our schools and determining accountability for that funding. Given that compliance is an essential element of the work undertaken by school Boards, understanding the funding environment is essential.

Mr John Gardner MP, Shadow Minister for Education, the Arts and Multicultural Affairs will also have an opportunity to share the State Opposition’s views on education.

A highlight of the program will be Dr Kristin Alford’s session on scenario thinking. This is a critical skill for contemporary school Boards if they are to ‘future-proof’ their schools. Dr Alford will provide participants with the opportunity to investigate scenarios that are likely to challenge our schools in

the future. Participants will be able to identify personal and organisational actions that enable prosperous and sustainable future schools.

The conference will be facilitated by Mr Anthony Mackay AM, CEO of the Melbourne-based Centre for Strategic Education, Co-Director of the Global Education Leaders Programme (GELP) and Chair of the Innovation Unit Ltd, England.

After each workshop session Mr Mackay will guide reflection and table discussions to ensure participants have time to consider the ways the information presented might apply to their individual school context. For this reason, it is recommended that schools ensure as many Board members as possible attend the conference.

It is clear that leading our schools into the future requires adaptable and agile leaders with strategic foresight and the ability to generate new insights. I would encourage all members of school Boards to make the most of this professional learning opportunity.

To register for this conference go to the AISSA Events page [www.ais.sa.edu.au/events](http://www.ais.sa.edu.au/events). Cost per individual participant is \$125 (incl GST). Maximum charge of \$1,250 per school.

Carolyn Grantskalns  
Chief Executive  
Association of Independent Schools of South Australia

## PROGRAM

8.45am	<b>Registration and coffee</b>
9.15am	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> - Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, Chief Executive, AISSA
9.30am	<b>Keynote address: 8 Beyonds - How the world of education is changing to meet the needs of the future</b> - Dr Ron Ritchhart, Senior Research Associate, Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Director Worldwide Cultures of Thinking Project
10.30am	<b>Questions and discussion</b> - Facilitator - Mr Anthony Mackay AM, CEO, Centre for Strategic Education
11.00am	<b>Morning tea</b>
11.30am	<b>The National Education Landscape</b> - Senator The Honourable Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training
12.15pm	<b>Panel Discussion - The National Education Landscape</b> Mr John Gardner MP, Shadow Minister for Education, the Arts and Multicultural Affairs, Mr Anthony Mackay AM, CEO, Centre for Strategic Education, Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, Chief Executive, AISSA
12.45pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.45pm	<b>Strategic Foresight Workshop</b> – Dr Kristin Alford, Futurist, Director of Museum of Discovery (MOD.), University of South Australia
3.15pm	<b>Questions and discussion</b> - Facilitator - Mr Anthony Mackay AM, CEO, Centre for Strategic Education
3.30pm	<b>Vote of thanks</b> - Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, Chief Executive, AISSA
3.45pm	<b>Close</b>

# KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

9.30am-10.30am

## **8 Beyonds: How the world of education is changing to meet the needs of the future**

**Dr Ron Ritchhart**

**Senior Research Associate**

**Project Zero**

**Harvard Graduate School of Education**

**Director Worldwide Cultures of Thinking Project**

Dr Ron Ritchhart contends that the 21st Century demands that we rethink the purpose and promise of schools. He believes that school leaders must allow themselves to dream outside the well-worn constraints of the school bureaucracy in order to equip students for the future. Dr Ritchhart's view is that schools must become places where a group's collective as well as each individual's thinking is valued, visible and actively promoted.

His address will focus on the need for schools to go:

- 1 Beyond covering content to developing character
- 2 Beyond the local to global competence
- 3 Beyond learning "about" to learning to do and act
- 4 Beyond the disciplines to interdisciplinary work
- 5 Beyond academic engagement to cultivating passion and purpose
- 6 Beyond testing and ranks to competence and creation
- 7 Beyond knowledge to understanding
- 8 Beyond individual performance to the group accomplishment

11.30am-12.15pm

**The National Education Landscape**

**Senator The Honourable Simon Birmingham  
Minister for Education and Training**

The Commonwealth Government plays a critical role in funding our schools and for determining accountability for that funding. Given that compliance is an essential element of the work undertaken by Boards, understanding the funding environment is essential. Senator Birmingham will discuss the federal Government's funding and government priorities.

# PANEL DISCUSSION

12.15pm-12.45pm

## **The National Education Landscape**

- Mr John Gardner MP, Shadow Minister for Education, the Arts and Multicultural Affairs
- Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns, Chief Executive, Association of Independent Schools of South Australia
- Mr Anthony Mackay AM, CEO, Centre for Strategic Education

This panel discussion will consider the national education landscape from a range of perspectives. Mr John Gardner MP, Shadow Minister for Education, the Arts and Multicultural Affairs will share the State Opposition's view on education. Given the national context, panel members will discuss strategies that will build the capacity of Boards to work strategically and cohesively to ensure a sustainable future for their school.

1.45pm-3.15pm

## **Strategic Foresight Workshop**

**Dr Kristin Alford**

**Futurist**

**Director of Museum of Discovery (MOD.)**

**University of South Australia**

This session will workshop a process which school Boards can use to help address likely challenges our schools will face in the future. Strategic foresight is a critical skill for leaders and school Boards. Foresight concepts like scanning widely, understanding deep drivers of change, and acknowledging different images of the future can all be applied to deepen understanding and broaden possible responses to complex environments.

The workshop will utilise a process known as scenario thinking, which is a structured way for organisations to think about how the future might unfold and how this might affect them. Through the study of a range of scenarios, this process encourages opportunities for new types of thinking and new ways of working together in order to approach future challenges imaginatively and effectively and create the future we want.

This is a creative and dynamic process for future planning that can assist in the development of a strong and robust future for our schools.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Conference Facilitator



#### **Mr Anthony Mackay AM**

Mr Anthony Mackay AM, is CEO, Centre for Strategic Education (CSE) Melbourne, Inaugural Chair, Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), and Inaugural Deputy Chair, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Mr Mackay is Chair of the Global Education Leaders Partnership (GELP) and Inaugural Chair of the Innovation Unit Ltd, England. He is a consultant advisor to OECD/CERI and is Chair, National Institute for School Leadership, NCEE, Washington DC. He is Deputy Chair of the Education Council, New Zealand and is an Honorary Fellow in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. He is Deputy Chair of the Australian Council for Educational Research, and Board Director of the Asia Education Foundation, the Foundation for Young Australians, and Teach for Australia. Mr Mackay is Deputy Chancellor, Swinburne University, Melbourne, Australia.

He is the Moderator of the Annual International Summit on the Teaching Profession and moderates Informal Ministerial Meetings for OECD.

He was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to education in 2015.

## Conference Presenters



### Dr Ron Ritchhart

Dr Ron Ritchhart is a Senior Research Associate with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he directs the worldwide Cultures of Thinking Project. He is also a Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching.

His work focuses on the development of school and classroom culture as prime vehicles for developing students as powerful thinkers and learners. His research and writings have informed the work of schools, school systems, and museums throughout the world. His book *Making Thinking Visible*, co-written with Mark Church and Karin Morrison, has popularised the use of thinking routines to facilitate learning and engagement.

Dr Ritchhart's latest book, *Creating Cultures of Thinking*, takes readers inside a diverse range of learning environments to show how teachers create classrooms where thinking is valued, visible and actively promoted as part of the day to day experience of all group members. Howard Gardner has called the book "a tour de force" for Dr Ritchhart's ability to seamlessly merge theory, research, practice and application together in a highly accessible and engaging manner.



### **Senator The Honourable Simon Birmingham**

Senator The Honourable Simon Birmingham has served as a Liberal Party Senator for South Australia since May 2007

After less than three years in the Senate he was appointed to the Shadow Ministry, serving as Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Murray-Darling Basin and the Environment until the 2013 election.

In 2013 he served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, with responsibility for water policy. In 2014 he was appointed to serve as the Assistant Minister for Education and Training in the Abbott Ministry, with specific responsibility for vocational education, apprenticeships, training and skills and in September 2015 was appointed to the position of Minister for Education and Training.

Prior to entering the Senate, Minister Birmingham worked for a number of industry bodies, establishing particular experience in the wine, tourism and hospitality sectors.

### **Mr John Gardner MP**

Mr John Gardner was elected as Member for Morialta in March 2010 and currently serves as Opposition Whip. He worked as a successful advocate for his local community and has successfully fought for the restoration of funding for the Norwood-Morialta High School – which initially saw its funding cut by over half a million dollars per year in the 2010 Budget. He regularly champions local causes to ensure that issues important to the Morialta community are heard in the Parliament.

Prior to entering Parliament, Mr Gardner worked in his family's small water treatment business while studying at the University of Adelaide. Since graduating, he has also worked in policy areas of health (particularly illicit drug prevention and rehabilitation), and education.





### **Mrs Carolyn Grantskalns**

An experienced educational leader, Mrs Grantskalns began her teaching career in what was then known as the Education Department of South Australia moving to the independent sector in 1988. In 1990 she was appointed Principal of Wilderness School, a position she held until 2006. During that time she was variously Chair of the Industrial Relations Committee of AISSA, President of AISSA, and a member of the Boards of a tertiary residential college, St Ann's, the teacher credit union then known as SATISFAC and the National Council of Independent Schools of Australia.

In 2006 she was appointed Principal of Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School in Essendon, Victoria. In addition to that role, she also held the positions of Chair of the Victorian branch of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) and membership of the AHISA Board, Treasurer of Girls Sport Victoria and Board member of the Centre for Strategic Education.

Mrs Grantskalns has been the Chief Executive of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia since 2013.



### **Dr Kristin Alford**

Dr Kristin Alford is a futurist and the Director of Museum of Discovery (MOD.) at the University of South Australia. MOD. opens in 2018. It is an immersive museum of discovery and will showcase the edge of knowledge and emerging technologies, opening new possibilities and pathways so that we can all live prosperously and sustainably.

Prior to this role, Dr Alford was the founding director of foresight agency Bridge8, facilitating futures and engagement on water sustainability, nanotechnology, health, advanced manufacturing, clean technologies and climate futures for government, corporates and not-for-profits.

She is a member of the Board of the Australian Institute of Urban Studies, the Inspiring South Australia Steering Group, and the Annesley College Council. She was the inaugural licensee and host of TEDxAdelaide.

Dr Alford has had various careers in engineering, human resources, strategy and product development. She holds a PhD in process engineering and a Masters of Management in Strategic Foresight. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Governor's Leadership Foundation and an Adjunct Lecturer in foresight at the University of Adelaide.





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