
Dr Fiona Longmuir – Keynote

ENHANCING BELONGING TO THE PROFESSION - REDISCOVERING JOY AND CONNECTION IN TEACHING WORK

The wonderful profession of teaching has had an image problem of late. Schools around the world are dealing with staff shortages. In Australia we have a well-documented concern over attracting and retaining teachers, with many schools already facing ongoing issues recruiting teachers, and the impact of the shortages expected to increase over coming years. The challenges of teaching in busy, modern schools have been well researched and we know many of the reasons that teachers decide to leave the profession. This session will share findings from a national survey of teachers that investigated teacher satisfaction, safety, and belonging. Participants will consider some of the major narratives that are shaping teaching work in Australia and reflect on ways that these are being experienced by teachers. To think about potential positive responses to teacher dissatisfaction and attrition, we will focus on the notion of belonging to the profession, which the research suggested was a powerful positive force for teachers. The session will include an opportunity to work together to think about ways that school leaders might support teachers to feel more connected and joyful as they undertake their important work in our schools, and we will reflect on how to amplify a more positive public narrative about the teaching profession.