



## August 2026 Newsletter

### President's Message

Welcome to our Term 3 AASE newsletter. Our 2026 AASE National Conference in Darwin, *Beyond Boundaries*, is now only weeks away, and I look forward to connecting with many of our members in the Top End.



So far, 2026 has been a busy year for our association. With members firmly at the centre of our thinking, we have offered AASE Professional Learning webinars — immensely popular, with registrations reaching capacity in a short period of time — and are soon to launch our updated and redesigned website. We continue to progress our strategic action plan, focusing on the aims of AASE and building our long-term vision.

Through this work, our commitment remains unchanged: to advocate for and support quality education for all learners with disability and additional learning needs.

This newsletter is one way we hope to stay in closer, more regular contact with our members — sharing relevant news and opportunities and helping keep you connected to AASE between our larger events. We hope you find this newsletter useful, and as always, we welcome your feedback and any suggestions for future editions. Please email us at [executiveofficer@aase.edu.au](mailto:executiveofficer@aase.edu.au).

**Dr Tracey Chamlin**

AASE National President



AASE National News

Teacher Training for Special Schools

The ABC recently reported on the concerns raised as allocations are unfulfilled. AASE were consulted in their advocacy role. Read more here [ABC interview](#)

AASE Webinars

As part of our increased offerings to our members, AASE Professional Learning webinars have been offered regularly this year. Our sessions are targeted at educators and focused on practical takeaways, high quality, current, and evidence-based learning for the classroom. For example;

- **Matthew Esterman** - *AI for All – an explanation of Artificial Intelligence in diverse classroom environments*
- **Dr Siobhan Lamb** – *Supporting Neurodivergent Young People in the classroom*
- **Gillian Andrikos** – *Co-regulation and development of self-regulation skills for students with intellectual disabilities*

Take advantage of **free sessions** as an AASE member.

Further information and upcoming Professional Learning webinars are available on our LinkedIn page.

[AASE LinkedIn](#)

#### Membership Fee Increase

We greatly value your membership and recently wrote to all members to advise that membership fees will increase from **1 October 2026**.

This was not a decision made lightly. In fact, AASE has not increased membership fees for more than 10 years. However, rising operating costs, together with changes to payment processing arrangements, mean that a modest increase is now necessary to ensure we can continue to provide valuable services and opportunities for our members.

The new annual membership fees, effective from 1 October 2026, will be:

- **Individual Membership** - \$180 (increase of \$15)
- **Group Membership** - \$370 (increase of \$30)

- **Student Membership** - \$70 (increase of \$5)

We remain committed to delivering value to our members through regular communications, professional learning opportunities, member discounts for our annual conference, and opportunities to contribute to the ongoing advancement of inclusive and special education across Australia.

#### AASE Website

The AASE website is being re-designed and hence some of the features including the Member area are not currently functioning correctly. If you have any queries regarding your membership, please contact us at [office@aase.edu.au](mailto:office@aase.edu.au).

Other queries can be directed to [executiveofficer@aase.edu.au](mailto:executiveofficer@aase.edu.au)



#### 2026 AASE National Conference Update



With just over two weeks until the 2026 AASE National Conference, the countdown is well and truly on.

This year's plenary program brings together an exceptional lineup of researchers, school leaders and practitioners, all committed to advancing inclusive and special education.

We are shining a spotlight on two plenary sessions that offer thought-provoking research, evidence-informed insights and inspiring leadership.

Whether you're looking to better understand the experiences of teachers supporting students with disability or be inspired by a compelling vision for inclusive educational leadership, these sessions are not to be missed.



### **Des English Memorial Lecture**

*Carrying the Legacy Forward*

**Presented by Virg Hughes, Principal of Namarluk School, NT,** the Des English Memorial Lecture offers an opportunity to reflect on the enduring legacy of one of Australia's most influential advocates for students with disability and consider what his vision means for educational leadership today.

### **Exclusive ACARA sessions**

*Learn Directly with the Experts*

**Presented by Danielle Cavanagh, Curriculum Support Resources and Primary Years, Stuart Burns, Manager Formative Assessment Resources, Kim Vernon, Senior Manager Curriculum, Alison von Dietze, Curriculum Specialist Language and EAL/D and Julie King, Senior Manager Curriculum.**

One of the highlights of this year's conference is our partnership with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), offering

delegates direct access to curriculum leaders shaping the future of Australian education. On Day One, begin with a keynote exploring whole-school curriculum planning and curriculum-aligned formative assessment, providing practical strategies to strengthen teaching practice and improve outcomes for all learners. Then continue the conversation on Day Two with 'A Conversation with ACARA About the Australian Curriculum'.

These interactive sessions provide a unique opportunity to engage directly with ACARA curriculum specialists, share your experience, ask questions, and gain practical insights that can be implemented immediately in your school or classroom.

[View 2026 Program](#)

[Visit Conference Website](#)

Check Out the AASE Journal

The **Australasian Journal of Special and Inclusive Education (AJSIE)** is a Gold Open Access journal that publishes articles for a readership professionally engaged or interested in the education of students with special needs or the education of those who will work with these students.

The journal features an applied section **Special Education Perspectives** to inform practicing teachers in regular and special education settings and others interested in the education of students with special needs. The journal is freely available online.

[View Journal](#)

## Amplify Teachers Voices - Support the Australian Teacher Workforce Survey

The **Australian Teacher Workforce Survey** is now open – and it's an important opportunity to support the profession by encouraging participation.



The survey captures teachers' and school leaders' experiences across Australia, including workload, employment conditions, career intentions, and work-related wellbeing. The results help shape national policies and supports for schools.

The survey takes around 15 minutes, and all responses are anonymised to protect privacy. All registered teachers receive their unique survey link via email from their teacher regulatory authority.

We encourage all education stakeholders to:

- Share information about the survey with teachers and leaders in your networks
- Promote it through newsletters, social media and other communications to the profession
- Complete it yourself if you're a registered teacher or leader

Head to AITSL's [Promote the Survey](#) page to download resources to help encourage survey participation in your networks.

### Is my survey live?

When the survey is open in your state or territory, your teacher regulatory authority will send you a unique survey link via email. You'll also get a few reminders.



|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                              |                                                                                           |                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACT</b><br>Commencing August<br>Keep an eye out! Your unique link lands in your inbox on 13 August. | <b>NSW</b><br>Survey Open<br>Check your inbox! Your unique link is waiting.                                  | <b>NT</b><br>Survey Open<br>Check your inbox! Your unique link is waiting.                | <b>Qld</b><br>Survey Open<br>Check your inbox! Your unique link is waiting.                           |
| <b>SA</b><br>Commencing August<br>Keep an eye out! Your unique link lands in your inbox on 13 August.  | <b>Tas</b><br>Commencing September<br>Keep an eye out! Your unique link lands in your inbox on 22 September. | <b>Vic</b><br>Survey Open<br>On registration completion, then unique link sent 20 August. | <b>WA</b><br>Commencing August<br>Keep an eye out! Your unique link lands in your inbox on 17 August. |

You can find out more information about the survey and check launch dates below.

[Learn More](#)

### Calling all Educators - Do You Teach People with Disability About Consent?

We want to hear from you. Our short, anonymous survey asks what helps, what is challenging, and what resources you use when teaching consent to people with disability. It is open to developmental educators, teachers, clinicians, community and justice educators, and parents or guardians who educate at home.

- ✓ Anonymous and voluntary
- ✓ About 10-15 minutes

[Learn More](#)

For Educators



Curtin University

# Do you, or have you taught consent to people with disability\*?

\*diagnosed, non-diagnosed, neurodivergent

We want you to share your experience in a  
short, anonymous survey.

10-15 minutes



Survey Link: [https://curtin.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8qNjIuEI8LO2wce](https://curtin.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qNjIuEI8LO2wce)

This study has been approved by the Curtin University Human  
Research Ethics Committee (HRE2025-0135).

Spotlight on our  
National Secretary  
Dr Ying Sng



This term I caught up with our super organised and very passionate National Secretary - Dr Ying Sng.

***What has been your past educational experience and what is your current role?***

Teaching is my second career. I worked in the corporate sector straight out of university and trained as a teacher after I had children. I currently work as a Lecturer with the Academy for the Science of Instruction and am also a Research Fellow with the MultiLit Research Unit.

***Talk about your involvement with AASE?***

It is all a bit foggy, but I think I started with AASE in 2011. I attended a professional learning event run by AASE and have been on the NSW Chapter's committee since. I joined the National committee as a Councillor in 2023.

***How did you develop your passion for Inclusive Education?***

Our job is to make sure students are provided with the opportunity to achieve their potential and this is usually done in the background. Students who struggle rarely want to be singled out! I do remember a few occasions when students have been pleased with the results they achieved and took the time to let me know that they felt the work we did together made a contribution.

***What is your vision for the future of AASE?***

I hope that AASE continues to advocate for research based best practice for students with disability nationally. There are fewer and fewer trained special educators but the need for expertise in this area continues. It would be wonderful if we can support our colleagues in the various school contexts and ensure instructional practices that work for students with disability are incorporated in schools as a matter of course rather than as an afterthought.

***And just for fun – your favourite movie or book you are currently reading?***

My interest started when I was helping out at my son's primary school. I went into the classroom as a parent helper with reading and was asked to read with a boy who was struggling. I had no idea what I was doing and thought it was very strange that the least qualified person was given the task of working with the student with the most need. So I decided to find out if there was a short course I could do to learn how to help him. Somehow that led to a Master of Special Education and a PhD!

***Is there a professional accomplishment that has made you proud of your work? A memorable time in your career?***

I love reading a physical book, but audiobooks are fabulous for long drives and walks. At the moment I am listening to Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett and would highly recommend it. If physical books are more your thing, I read Heart the Lover by Lily King and sobbed when I got to the end. It was so, so sad.

***A hobby or pastime you enjoy?***

I love a good cup of tea and a book. Yes, I am boring!

*\*Editor's note – Thank you Ying, you are definitely not boring!*

Australian Education Awards 2026

We are delighted to announce that our AASE President Dr Tracey Chamlin, was selected to be a judge for the Australian Education Awards.

[Learn More](#)

## Research Highlights

### **Inclusive Education for students with special education needs: A 30 year synthesis of the review-level literature (1994 – 2023)**

We are excited to share Stephen Hay and Wendi Beamish's research article with our members.

[Download Article](#)

## Stay Connected with AASE



Did you know that AASE members are warmly welcome to attend our Chapter meetings and events – Please join us!

**New South Wales Chapter** – meets on the first Tuesday of the month via Zoom

[NSW@aase.edu.au](mailto:NSW@aase.edu.au)

**Queensland Chapter**

[QLD@aase.edu.au](mailto:QLD@aase.edu.au)

**South Australia Chapter** – meets on the first Tuesday of the month (dinner meeting) at a Hotel in Adelaide 6.00 pm – 7.30pm. Enquiries to

[sa@aase.edu.au](mailto:sa@aase.edu.au)

**Victoria Chapter** – aims to meet online twice per school term. Any enquiries can be directed to the President Helen Hatherly: [hphatherly@gmail.com](mailto:hphatherly@gmail.com)

**Western Australia Chapter** – monthly meetings at the Catholic Education Office Leederville or online.

[WA@aase.edu.au](mailto:WA@aase.edu.au)

We invite you to share this newsletter with your colleagues and others who may be interested.

**For any membership queries - please contact** [office@aase.edu.au](mailto:office@aase.edu.au)

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