

2026

Christian Schools National Policy Forum and Symposium

Faithful Engagement in a Changing Political Landscape

NATIONAL POLICY FORUM PROGRAM

Monday, 25 May 2026

All Sessions held in the Federation Ballroom

8:00am	Registration & Exhibition opens, Hyatt Gallery/Atrium
9:00am	Welcome from MC, Tracy Holmes, Director of Education, Carey Baptist Colleges
9:15am	Praise & Worship, with the team from Emmaus Christian School
9:30am	Morning Devotions, with Jack Ryan, National Director, Adventist Schools Australia
9:45am	Table Prayer
9:55am	K1: How to Engage with the Federal Government, with Simon Banks, Managing Director, Hawker Britton
10:50am	Sponsor Highlight (The School Photographer), followed by Morning Tea
11:25am	K2: Advocating for Choice: Policy, Growth and the Future of Independent Schooling, with Graham Catt, CEO, Independent Schools Australia
12:15pm	Table Discussion
12:25pm	Sponsor Highlight (Resolve Consulting), followed by Lunch
1:25pm	Panel Session 1: Engaging with members of Parliament
2:15pm	Table Discussion
2:25pm	Christian Teacher of the Year Presentation, followed by Afternoon Tea
3:00pm	Optional Workshop Sessions (select from 4 workshops)
Main Conf. Room	» W1. Pursuing Excellence Through Contemporary Collaborative School Policy Practices, with John Steenhof and Daniel Simon
Mount Ainslie	» W2. Speaking with Influence: Engaging Local Politicians with Wisdom and Grace, with Ps. Az Hamilton
Black Mountain	» W3. Governing Christian Schools with Prudence in a Changing Legal Landscape, with Dr. Mark Fowler
Murrumbidgee	» W4. Victorian Election Roundtable, with Dr. Rachel Carling
4:00pm	Day sessions conclude

Forum Gala Dinner held at Parliament House

5:30pm	Bus transfer to Parliament House. Meet Hyatt Atrium Foyer
5:35pm	Security screening for all guests
6:00pm	Pre-Dinner Drinks served in Great Hall Foyer
6:30pm	Guests seated for Dinner in Great Hall of Parliament House
	Welcome from MC: Dr. Daniel Pampuch, Christian Schools Australia
	Sponsor Highlight: NGS Super
	Brief Address by Julian Leaser MP, Shadow Minister for Education
	Christian Teach of the Year Award Presentation
	Brief Address by Senator Deborah O'Neill, Senator for New South Wales
	Special Guest: Ethan Beer
	Closing Remarks from MC
9:30pm	Formal Dinner Program concludes
	Return bus transfer to Hyatt Hotel



Gala Dinner Proudly Sponsored by:



2026

Please note this program is subject to change

K=Keynote

W=Workshop

S=Session

NATIONAL POLICY FORUM PROGRAM (cont...)

Tuesday, 26 May 2026

All Sessions held in the Federation Ballroom

- 8:00am Registration and Exhibition Opens, Hyatt Gallery/Atrium
- 9:00am Welcome from MC: Mark Steyn, CEO, Christian Education National
- 9:10am Praise & Worship, with the team from Emmaus Christian School
- 9:25am Morning Devotions with Karen Hooper, Director, CITE Alliance Victoria
- 9:45am K3: Good Intentions, Complex Consequences: Faith, Rights and Responsibility in a Shifting Legal Landscape, with Lorraine Finlay, Human Rights Commissioner
- 10:30am Table Discussion
- 10:40am Sponsor Highlight (Empatia), followed by Morning Tea
- 11:15am K4: Ever Vigilant: Faith, Life and Staff Expectations in Christian Education, with Mark Sneddon, Director, Sneddon Legal and Consulting
- 12:05pm Table Discussion
- 12:20pm Christian Schools Global Connect Highlight
- 12:35pm Lunch (*last chance to visit exhibitors*)
- 1:30pm Panel Session 2: The Impact of Public Policy on Christian Schools
- 2:20pm Prize Draw and Closing Remarks
- 2:40pm Forum concludes with afternoon tea

Symposium open to all Christian schools sectors

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

Symposium Proudly Sponsored by:

Wednesday, 27 May 2026



- 8:00am Registration opens with Tea & Coffee
- 8:30am Welcome from MC: Dr. Rachel Carling, Director of Public Policy, Christian Schools Australia
- 8:50am S1: Australia's Legal and Human Rights Framework for the Religious Freedom of Christian Schools, with Dr. Alex Deagon, Associate Professor, QUT
- 9:30am S2: When Conviction Meets the Courtroom: Insights for Christian Schools, with Sall Grover, Australian Founder and CEO, Giggle
- 10:30am Morning Tea
- 11:00am S3: The Victorian Pronouns Case: Implications for Christian Schools, with John Steenhof, Human Rights Law Alliance
- 12:10pm Sponsor Highlight (Greenline), followed by Lunch
- 1:15pm Panel Session: Christian Schools Before the Courts: Lessons from the Front Line
- 2:20pm Closing Remarks and final questions/discussion, with Dr. Rachel Carling, Christian Schools Australia
- 2:30pm Symposium concludes with Afternoon Tea

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