

CISWA Annual Conference Presenters



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Conference Host – CISWA Celia Cornwell President, CISWA and Principal at Osprey Professional Consulting



Celia Cornwell has over 20 years of experience in international relations across business, government, and higher education and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. She has held senior international-focused roles with the WA State Government, Curtin University, and Murdoch University, where she led teams developing international partnerships, student mobility programs, and collaborative teaching and research initiatives. As Principal of Osprey Professional Consulting, Celia continues to support organisations in building global engagement strategies. Through CISWA, she is passionate about sharing her knowledge and contributing to the growth of skilled professionals in Western Australia's international education sector.

Venue: Boola Katitjin 360.4.003, Murdoch University

Friday 14th November

9:00AM–4:00-PM

0411 913 730

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Hon. Dr Parwinder Kaur MLC **Deputy Chair of Committees**



The Hon Dr Parwinder Kaur MLC is a trailblazing scientist, advocate, and political leader deeply committed to advancing science, community, and inclusive leadership. Her journey from the lab bench to the Western Australian Legislative Council—as a first-generation migrant, mother, and woman of color—reflects her passion for innovation and transformative change. Elected in May 2025 as a Member of the Legislative Council for the Australian Labor Party, she brings a powerful voice for progress and inclusion.

Recognised with prestigious awards—including the Australian Academy of Sciences' Science and Innovation Award (2013), Microsoft's AI for Earth Award (2019), and induction into the Western Australia Women's Hall of Fame (2023)—Dr Kaur champions diversity in STEM and evidence-based policy.

As Deputy Chair of Committees and member of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, she inspires others to believe that science and service together can create a better future for all.

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Hon Phil Honeywood CEO – International Education Association of Australia



The Hon Phil Honeywood has been IEAA's Chief Executive Officer since November 2011. Previously, he was a Member of the Victorian State Parliament (1988–2006), Minister for Tertiary Education, Training and Multicultural Affairs (1996–1999) and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (2002–2006). Since leaving politics, Phil worked at Stott's Business College and Cambridge International College. Phil is the Co-Convener of the Federal Government's National Council for International Education, Chairman of the Roundtable of International Education Peak Body CEOs, Deputy Chair of the Tuition Protection Services Board and a member of the Education Visa Consultative Committee. He also sits on the New South Wales and StudyPerth International Education Advisory Boards.

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Liz Behjat

WA State Manager – Ageing Australia



Liz Behjat – WA State Manager

Prior to commencing in her current role as State Manager WA/NT, Ageing Australia, Liz Behjat spent eight years as a member of the Legislative Council in Western Australia and served in the former Liberal government. During her time in Parliament Liz was an Acting President and Chair of the Public Administration Committee and conducted a number of high-level enquiries as Chair of that Committee. During her years in politics Liz developed a passion for issues involving health and multiculturalism. Her extensive networks built up over many years helps her in her current role with Ageing Australia to ensure that the issues facing the aged and community care sector are given the prominence and attention they require.

Liz was also elected as Board Member of Palliative Care WA in late 2022.

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Charlene Ellison – EY Assistant Director – Early Careers Talent Attraction & Acquisition Manager



Charlene Ellison is an Early Careers Talent Attraction & Acquisition Manager at EY with over 13 years' experience in student recruitment, international education, and early careers. Charlene designs strategic programs that connect top student talent with transformative opportunities in professional services. As a Murdoch and Notre Dame alumni, her career began at StudyPerth, followed by leading international recruitment at The University of Notre Dame. Passionate about the student journey, Charlene champions hiring for potential and the value international students bring to workplaces and communities.

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Laurie Fletcher– Westgold Resources Manager Resourcing



Laurie Fletcher is the Resourcing Manager at Westgold Resources, where she oversees the recruitment and mobilisation activities across five mining operations and four processing plants. With over 12 years of experience leading graduate recruitment within Western Australia's gold mining sector, Laurie has played a pivotal role in shaping workforce strategies and building strong talent pipelines.

At Westgold, Laurie leads the company's Graduate Program, working closely with Graduate Champions to manage recruitment, program delivery, coordination, and reporting. Her approach goes beyond filling vacancies or meeting KPIs, she is deeply committed to matching the right people with the right roles, ensuring alignment with team culture, values, and long-term organisational vision.

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Brett Hutchison
Executive General Manager
University Partnerships Australasia
NAVITAS



Brett has been with Navitas since 2016. He started his journey in various Group Finance roles and then moved into operational roles within the Australasia University Partnerships Division as an Executive General Manager/ Chief Operating Officer. Brett's current role covers all aspects of Finance, IT, Projects, Property, Strategy and working in Partnership with various University Partners across Australia and Southeast Asia. Prior to Navitas Brett worked in various Executive/ Strategy/ Commercial roles across the Telecomms sector in Australia and the United Kingdom. Brett comes from a family of educators and is passionate about the life changing outcomes for students that Navitas together with our University Partners can create.

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Derryn Belford
CEO – StudyPerth



Derryn is the Chief Executive Officer of StudyPerth, the destination marketing organisation for Western Australia's international education sector. Since joining in February 2022, she has focused on raising Perth's global profile as a study destination and connecting international students with educational, cultural, and work opportunities. Before StudyPerth, Derryn spent 13 years at Tourism Western Australia, where she led the development of quality hotels, the cruise industry, and Aboriginal tourism. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from UWA, an MBA from Edith Cowan University, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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David Cresp
Partner – URBIS



David Cresp is a Partner at Urbis with over 30 years' experience providing market insights across all property sectors in Perth. Well regarded as a trusted voice on market trends, David has advised on major development and redevelopment projects and is passionate about the residential sector. He recently been part of the team who has developed the Urbis Student Accommodation Benchmarks, Australia's first comprehensive dataset tracking the performance of purpose built student accommodation. Covering over 130,000 beds nationally, the benchmarks equip investors, universities and operators with the information needed to make informed decisions, improve quality, and support sustainable growth in the student accommodation sector.

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Cema Santos **Strategic Career Consultant**



Cema Santos is a Strategic Career Consultant and Startup Mentor with a background in Career Development, Epidemiology, and Clinical Hypnotherapy. Recognised among Perth's Top 15 Coaches of 2024, she was one of the leading minds behind the original Kaleidoscope Mentoring Program, a recipient of five national awards for innovation and inclusion. A published researcher on migrant workforce integration, Cema applies evidence-based insights to her work supporting skilled newcomers. As the creator of the Life Career Roadmap app and Ready4Work course, and as Honorary Vice Consul of Brazil in WA, she champions wellbeing, belonging, and future-ready careers. She currently serves as Career Advisor at StudyPerth, helping international students thrive in Western Australia.

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Dr James Kent Principal – Ocean Reef Senior High School



Dr James Kent is the Principal of Ocean Reef Senior High School, bringing over 30 years of experience as a Mathematics teacher and extensive senior leadership experience across several schools. He has served in Principal positions for numerous years, demonstrating his dedication to educational excellence.

James completed his doctorate in education through the University of Western Australia. His dissertation focused on the strategies teachers use to engage students with mathematics. In addition to his role at Ocean Reef, James has been a member of multiple school boards along with various collegiate and advisory groups. His expertise in education and leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping the strategic direction and growth of the school.

James is deeply committed to enhancing opportunities and outcomes for students by providing strong educational foundations and career pathways.

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Dr Linda Yang
Managing Director –ICDI



Dr Linda Yang is the Managing Director for the Intercultural Development Institute (ICDI), a research-led and practice-oriented intercultural training and consulting organization based in Perth, WA.

With over 25 years' experience working in China, U.K., France, Ireland and Australia, Linda has extensive experience in delivering intercultural consultancy and training to diverse participants from more than 100 nationalities from higher education and business sectors. Linda is an energetic educator with a PhD in intercultural studies who brings dynamism to every discussion. She works hard to effectively enhance the performance of individuals and teams across disciplines, cultures and borders. Linda is well known for her research-led, engaging training and out-of-the-box thinking.

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Danielle Rock **Campus Manager – Kaplan Business School** **Alumni Panel Chair**



Danielle Rock is the Campus Manager at the largest school within the Kaplan Business School network, overseeing the two Perth campuses in their delivery of business and industry-related Undergraduate and Postgraduate programs, ranging from AQF 5 to 9.

Having worked for over a decade in a number of senior academic and professional roles within ELICOS, Pathways and Higher Education, she understands the need for international students to feel welcomed, supported and empowered with the confidence to succeed in Higher Education, and aims to create a rich and holistic study experience for all students.

Alongside supporting students to reach their full potential, she is particularly passionate about developing high-performing teams, one of the many reasons which has led Danielle to enrol in a HDR program at UWA, within the School of Psychological Science. Her research interests are leadership and leadership development, supporting junior leadership emergence with individuals from culturally and racially marginalized backgrounds, leadership identity and Self-Determination Theory.

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