

# Community of Practice

## Inclusion Through Collaboration

### Event schedule

18 March 2026 9am–3:30pm

### Welcome

15 mins

**9:00am** **Maryanne Gosling**  
National Director, Aspect Education **Welcome and acknowledgement of country**

**9:10am** **Katie Fleet**  
Education Programs Evaluation Manger **Overview of the day**

### Session 1: Presentations + Q&A

90 mins

**9:15am** **Theme 1**  
**Building a shared understanding of autism as a neurodevelopmental difference**

**Jess Dawes**  
Dean of Inclusive Education, Pacific Online Christian School

**Enhancing inclusion framework**  
The session explores the innovative Enhancing Inclusion (EI) framework built around representation, celebration, flexibility, and student voice. Drawing from mainstream, specialist, and online settings, this session establishes shared language and a neuro-affirming foundation for the day.

**9:45am** **Theme 2**  
**Designing inclusive, neuro-friendly classroom and school environments**

**Jess Hammond and Jo Cordukes**  
Leader of Learning and Teacher at Aspect South East Sydney School

**PDA-informed classroom practice**  
This session explores demand-reduction, relational pedagogy, and trauma-informed adjustments for students with PDA profiles and complex school histories. Practical, emotionally resonant, and grounded in classroom implementation.

**10:15am** **Theme 3**  
**Embedding universal support and reasonable adjustments within high-quality teaching**

**Craig Smith**  
Positive Partnerships

**Embedding effective Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**  
This explores the tools teachers can use to plan and implement effective UDL principals within their classroom to better support Autistic students. During the session Craig will demonstrate how teachers can select key principles of UDL and how they can be applied in creative and innovative ways.

**10:45 am Morning tea**

30 mins



Scan the QR code for the full program

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### Session 2: Workshops Run concurrently – attendees to select one workshop

75 mins

11:15am–  
12:30pm

#### Theme 1

Building a shared understanding of autism as a neurodevelopmental difference

#### Amelia Collins

National Training and Resource Manager, Elevate Education

#### Workshop 1A: Neurodiversity in secondary contexts

This session will explore inclusive language, systemic barriers, and practical adjustments to improve understanding and support for Autistic students and neurodivergent staff in secondary schools.

#### Jo-ann Osborne

Assistant Principal, Arranounbai School

#### Workshop 1B: Supporting Autistic students with integration within primary classrooms

The session will present key inclusion strategies for primary aged students within mainstream classrooms. It will look at how best to engage Autistic students in their learning, whilst ensuring teachers feel confident in supporting these individuals.

#### Theme 2

Designing inclusive, neuro-friendly classroom and school environments

#### Suzanne Donnelly

Education Consultant, Student Services – Independent Schools NSW

#### Workshop 2A: Everyday adjustments for students who mask

A collaborative workshop exploring how masking presents, how it is missed, and how early, sustainable classroom adjustments can prevent burnout. Participants co-develop practical, flexible strategies embedded into daily routines.

#### Alma George

Manager High Support Learning Centres, Catholic Schools – Parramatta Diocese

#### Workshop 2B: Designing neuro-inclusive environments

This session will look at providing practical input on designing neuro-inclusive classroom and school environments where access, regulation and engagement are built in from the start. Drawing on high support and mainstream experience, the focus is on Tier 1, whole school approaches that strengthen high quality teaching and reduce reactive adjustments.

#### Theme 3

Embedding universal support and reasonable adjustments within high-quality teaching

#### Jill Hellemans

Board Certified Behaviour Analyst and Certified Special Educator

#### Workshop 3A: From universal protocols to classroom practice

A practical deep dive into implementing universal, relationship-centred behaviour supports. Participants explore how to embed functional skill instruction, regulation supports, and predictable responses within everyday teaching while maintaining student dignity and autonomy.

#### Tracey O'Connor

Head of Learning and Wellbeing, Aspect Western Sydney School

#### Workshop 3B: Knowing the learner and maintaining academic rigour

Explores how understanding each learner's strengths and needs allows teachers to embed evidence-based adjustments while maintaining syllabus alignment and high expectations.

12:30 pm Lunch

60 mins

### Session 3: Workshop feedback + Q&A

120 mins

1:30pm

Workshop representative

Workshop feedback sessions – 10 mins per workshop

2:40pm

Katie Fleet

Education Programs Evaluation Manger

Q&A session

3:20pm

Maryanne Gosling

National Director, Aspect Education

Closing remarks and information about the next Community of Practice