

Latest News

Curriculum and Pedagogy



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION



Welcome to the final CAP news for the year!

In this edition we are excited to provide advance notice of a **NEW** Professional Learning program for implementation in 2026. Facilitated by Professor Glenn Savage from the University of Melbourne, the AISWA Teaching Innovation Fellowship is designed to empower educators to become innovators and leaders within and beyond the classroom. The fellowship is open for all educators at all stages of their career. More information will be shared soon.

If you are looking to build assessment literacy and formative assessment practices, look no further than AISWA's partnership with Nurture. Read on about an upcoming information session to learn more about the Educator Innovator programme, also for implementation in 2026.

In addition to these two exciting projects, the year ahead looks full of promise and possibility. We are looking forward to continuing our support for our vibrant community of educators, strengthening networks and celebrating achievements. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and we look forward to working together in 2026.

Wishing everyone a restful break and wonderful start to the new year.

Kris Stafford

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any [general enquiries](#) or [PL Requests](#) for your school.

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2026 Professional Learning Calendar

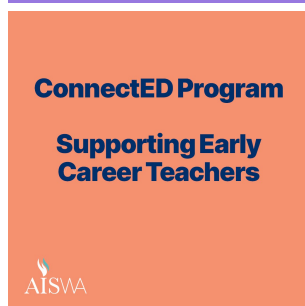


We're delighted to share the [2026 AISWA Professional Learning Calendar](#), created to inspire growth, collaboration, and connection across Western Australia's Independent school community.

Guided by AISWA's five core pillars of Curriculum and School Improvement, Leadership, Governance and Business Operations, School and Student Support, and Technology and Learning Innovation, this calendar reflects our commitment to delivering professional learning that is practical, relevant, and responsive to member needs.

To stay up to date, we encourage you to complete our [Expression of Interest](#) form. By sharing your details, you'll receive an email alert when registrations open in early 2026 so you won't miss out on our popular, limited-space events.

ConnectED Program: Supporting Early Career Teachers



The transition from pre-service training to full-time teaching is both exciting and demanding. Early career teachers are tasked with translating theory into practice while developing their professional identity and refining instructional expertise. Recognising the importance of this formative stage, the ConnectED program was developed by Richard Spence (Head of Teaching and Learning, Scotch College), Laura Rutherford (Dean of Student Learning, Penrhos College), and Sarah Wells (School Improvement Consultant, AISWA).

Grounded in AISWA's *High Impact Practices* framework and supported by expertise from AISWA consultants across directorates, the program provides teachers with research-informed strategies proven to lift student learning and strengthen classroom practice. Launched as a two-year pilot initiative, the ConnectED program currently involves 40 early career teachers from eight Independent schools: Hale School, Penrhos College, St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls, Scotch College, Methodist Ladies' College, Aquinas College, Wesley College, and Trinity College. Combining structured professional learning, a practical workbook, and opportunities for collaboration and reflection, the program complements school-based induction while building teacher confidence, resilience, and long-term capacity in the profession.

The program was showcased at the EduFest 2025 conference, where Richard, Laura, and Sarah presented its design and early impact. This highlights ConnectED's growing role in supporting the next generation of teachers and strengthening the future of education across WA's Independent schools. If you would like to know more, email us at cap@ais.wa.edu.au.

Strengthening Formative Assessment and Feedback Practices



AISWA and Nurture are partnering to deliver an Innovator Programme focused on Formative Assessment and Feedback in selected AISWA schools in 2026. Nurture is a research-based formative assessment and feedback solution built into Microsoft Teams. Guided by Professor Dylan Wiliam, Nurture helps teachers ensure feedback is timely, actionable, and used effectively by students. Join us for a demonstration and online information session this **Thursday 20 November**. Find out more or register [here](#). If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact cap@ais.wa.edu.au.

New in 2026! Teaching Innovation Fellowship Pilot

AISWA's new Teacher Innovation Fellowship Pilot Program supports educators to become innovators and leaders within and beyond their classrooms. Through

Teaching Innovation Fellowship Pilot



the Fellowship, participants design and implement a project that responds to a challenge or opportunity in their school, driving meaningful improvement in teaching and learning. Fellows develop skills in project design, action research, evaluation and collaborative inquiry, while building strong professional networks with like-minded colleagues. This program is suitable for teachers and leaders at any career stage who are seeking to strengthen their professional impact and contribute to whole-school improvement. More information coming soon!

Are You a HALT-Certified Teacher? We'd Love to Hear From You

Research

Are You a HALT-Certified Teacher?



A new research project from the University of Melbourne is looking for certified Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers (HALTs) who are interested in sharing their experiences via a focus group. The research is being conducted as part of ethically approved Doctoral of Education studies (Project ID: 33154). Participation is voluntary and confidential. Participants will have a chance to review their contributions before anything is used in the research. For more information, please contact [Meika Pfeiffer-Gough](#), AISWA Leadership and Teaching Excellence Manager.

Member Survey - Key Findings

AISWA Member Survey Key Findings



Thank You for Your Feedback – 2025 Membership Survey Results

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in AISWA's 2025 Membership Survey. With insights from more than 400 staff across a wide range of schools, roles, and sectors, we gained a clear understanding of what Members value most about AISWA and how we can continue to improve our support.

Your feedback highlighted areas of strength including advocacy, professional learning, and the responsiveness of our team, along with opportunities for continued growth. This input is helping shape our future priorities and guide improvements to the services and programs we offer. View the survey results and key insights, [here](#).

Middle Leaders Pilot Program

WEBINAR

Middle Leaders Pilot Project Information Session

Monday, 24 November



Information Session

Monday 24 November, 11.30am–1.00pm

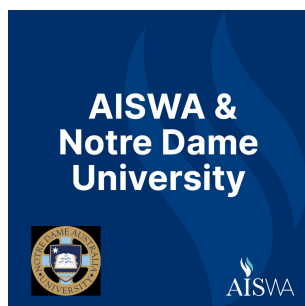
In partnership with the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), AISWA will launch a Middle Leaders Pilot Project in 2026 to strengthen the capabilities of school leaders and support the implementation of the Professional Standards for Middle Leaders.

The pilot project includes a one-day launch workshop and optional online sessions exploring how the Standards can guide leadership development and enhance student outcomes. Leaders or their delegates are invited to attend this information session to learn more and consider whether their school would like to participate in the pilot project.

To find out more, contact [Meika Pfeiffer-Gough](#), AISWA Leadership and Teaching Excellence Manager. Register for the webinar, [here](#).

Notre Dame and AISWA Partnership

AISWA is thrilled to announce a partnership with Notre Dame University to provide recognition of prior learning (RPL) in the form of Advanced Standing upon being admitted to a UNDA Program for Students who have completed the Highly Accomplished or Lead Teachers (HALT) program at AISWA. RPL is for the Graduate Certificate of Education and/or Masters of Education post graduate qualifications. For information, contact us at cap@ais.wa.edu.au.



Social Media Age Restrictions



AISWA has representation on the National Online Safety Education Council (NOSEC), a forum that brings together stakeholders from across Australia's school sectors.

We encourage schools to visit the [Social Media Age Restrictions \(SMAR\) Hub](#), which provides valuable resources for educators, parents, carers, and young people to help prepare for the new social media age rules.

[Educator Advice](#): Access education-specific guidance, available to print and share with colleagues and networks. Please note this material may be updated.
[Professional Learning](#): Explore 30-minute webinars designed for educators.
[Stay Updated](#): Subscribe to the eSafety Newsletter for the latest updates and resources.

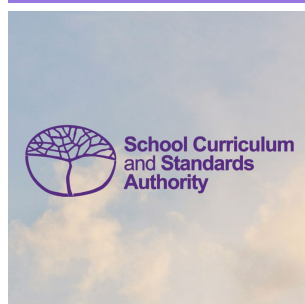
For more information, please contact [Lucy Sabatini](#), AISWA Wellbeing Manager.

World Teachers' Day 2025



Two weeks ago, AISWA proudly celebrated World Teachers' Day, acknowledging the dedication, expertise, and care that teachers bring to their students and school communities every day. To mark the occasion, we invited schools to take a moment to reflect on the impact of great teaching, and we are pleased to share a video capturing this celebration and honouring the vital role teachers play in shaping learning across Western Australia. Watch the video [here](#).

SCSA - Key Updates



Adopting and Adapting the Australian Curriculum (Version 9)

This year, as part of the curriculum familiarisation process, SCSA have been holding online focus meeting to support educators before the new Maths, HASS, Science and Technologies PP-10 curriculums are implemented in 2026. There are still a few opportunities to attend online sessions, register [here](#).

2026 NAPLAN Writing Marking

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) marking is a great professional development opportunity to enhance your skills and experience marking scripts using an analytical writing rubric. [Apply today](#) if you,

- Have sound knowledge of literacy and English grammar,
- Are available from mid-March to late-April 2026 (day and after school marking available),
- Want to accrue professional development hours.

Learning in London and Barcelona 2026

We are very close to finalising a draft tour schedule for the AISWA Learning in London and Barcelona Study Tour, scheduled for 27 September – 12 October 2026. For Senior Leaders, the agenda includes Leadership Masterclasses, school visits to a variety of different school environments, cultural activities and invaluable networking opportunities. An approximate cost will also be shared very



soon. It is not too late to express your interest (without commitment), [here](#).

For enquiries, contact [Kris Stafford](#) or [Helen Aguiar](#).

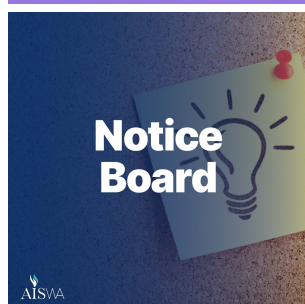
Professional Learning Opportunities

Curriculum and Pedagogy

For further information on the upcoming Professional Learning opportunities listed below, please click the links provided in the table. For additional information and a full list of 2025 PL and Event opportunities, you can also search the calendar [here](#).

Event Date	Title	
Curriculum and School Improvement		
20 November	Strengthening Formative Assessment and Feedback Practices: An AISWA and Nurture Collaboration	Register by 19 November
24 November	Middle Leaders Pilot Project with AITSL - Information Session	Register by 20 November
Technology and Learning Innovation		
26 November	Leading AI Adoption	Register by 19 November

Notice Board



- [Register](#) your school to participate in **Jump Rope for Heart 2026** before 19 December 2025, to receive a free red Jump Rope for Heart bucket hat.
- **Mercedes College** is excited to host world-renowned educator **Tom Sherrington** for an exclusive *Big Classroom* professional learning day on **Thursday 5 March 2026**. Designed for primary and secondary teachers and leaders, this rare Perth event offers a practical, hands-on exploration of instructional excellence. **Seats are limited, [book now!](#)**
- **Generative AI Research** - Are you a teacher interested in finding out what generative AI tools other teachers are using in their teaching and how they are using them? Then please consider completing this 5-10 minute [survey](#).
- Invitation from the Primary English Teaching Association Australia (PETAA) to take part in the National Teaching of Writing [Survey](#). This short 7–10 minute survey aims to build a clearer national picture of how writing is currently taught in primary classrooms, the supports teachers use, and the challenges faced.
- **The 2025 STAWA Future Science Conference** – Friday, 28 November 2025 at the University of Western Australia (E-ZONE) is designed specifically for secondary teachers and lab technicians in Western Australia. Register [here](#).
- The **University of Notre Dame Australia** is introducing a new professional learning pathway to help secondary mathematics teachers upskill to teach **ATAR Mathematics Methods**. Contact [Gregory Hine to register](#).

For any inquiries or assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team [here](#) or call us on (08) 9441 1600.

Thanks to our Pillar Partners

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