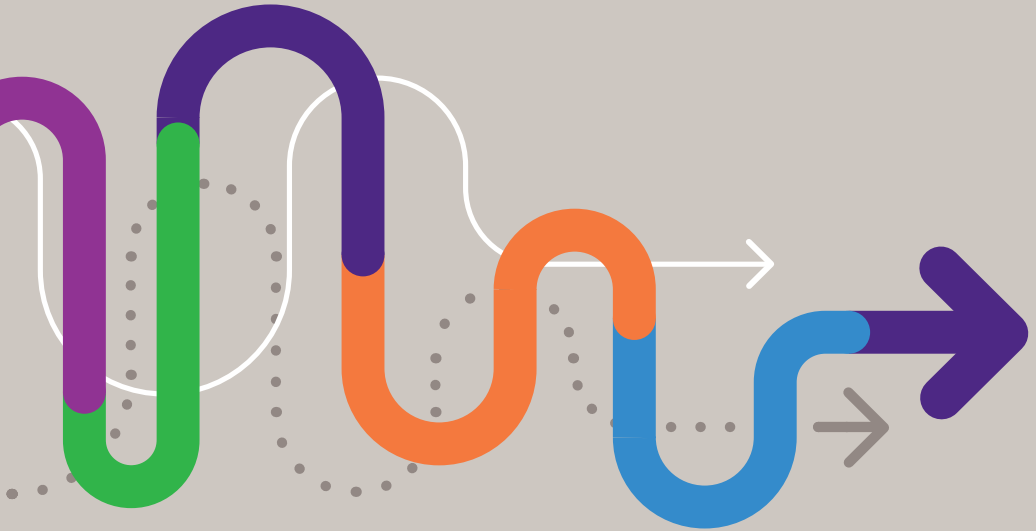




THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE



Bridging past and future Celebrating 80 years of innovation and impact at the School of Education

Monday 10 November 2025

Thank you for joining us to honour
8 decades of transformative education
and look ahead to the future we're
shaping together at The University
of Queensland School of Education.

Our panellists

Amy Thomson

Amy Thomson is a proud Mandandanji woman who was born and raised in Brisbane.

Amy is a Lecturer (English curriculum and Pedagogy) in the School of Education at the University of Southern Queensland. Amy is approaching the submission of her PhD at The University of Queensland (UQ); her research explores how the principles of self-determination and codesign can influence the embedding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in private schools.

At UQ, Amy worked as a sessional academic and a Senior Research assistant and previously worked as secondary English and Music teacher. Amy was Chief Investigator in the Australian Government's Diversity in STEM review: "Big mob STEM it up!" project. Amy was awarded the Australian Association for Research in Education's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Post Graduate Student Researcher Award in 2022 and received both first prize and the people's choice award for UQ's inaugural Indigenous three-minute thesis competition.

Aishya Zalfara Saleh

Aishya Saleh is in her third semester of the Master of Educational Studies, specialising in Guidance, Counselling, and Careers.

With a background in Psychology, she has cultivated a strong passion for education, believing it to be a powerful force in shaping individuals and communities.

Her academic interests span guidance counselling, curriculum development, and global education, reflecting her dedication to supporting learners in diverse contexts. Driven by this purpose, Aishya also serves as a student representative for the UQ Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, where she actively contributes to enhancing the student experience and fostering a supportive academic environment.

Dr John Davis

John Davis has worked as a lead educator in schools including positions as Principal, Head of Department, and Subject Area Coordinator for Indigenous Education.

He has also held lectureship positions with The University of Queensland and James Cook University, and has worked as a QCAA and ACARA Advisor.

In 2016, John completed his PhD in Indigenous Community Models of Education – Community Durithunga, with the Queensland University of Technology. Other research interests include Indigenous languages as LOTE, embedding Indigenous Knowledges and Indigenous ways to multimodal literacy. John is passionate about our people, our languages and culture and working and moving our ways forward as best practice in education and community development.

Professor Bob Lingard

Bob Lingard is Emeritus Professor at The University of Queensland.

He has been Professor at UQ (2001–2004; 2008–2017), Sheffield University (2004–2006), Andrew Bell Professor at the University of Edinburgh (2006–2008) and Professorial Fellow at ACU (2018–2024).

He first worked at UQ, 1973–1975, as Research Assistant to Professor Betty Watts on an Evaluation of the Aboriginal Secondary Grant Scheme for the Whitlam Government. He was for a time Head of the School of Education at UQ (2002–2003) and chaired the Queensland Studies Authority for the Minister for Education (2002–2004).

He has edited/authored 35 books, including, *Exploring Education Policy through Newspapers and Social Media*, with Aspa Baroutsis (Routledge, 2023), selected works, *Politics, Policies and Pedagogies in Education* (Routledge, 2014), and *Globalizing Education Policy*, with Fazal Rizvi (Routledge, 2010). He has published more than 200 book chapters/journal articles with more than 36,000 citations.

He is a Life Member of the Australian Association for Research in Education for contributions to education research, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in the UK, Honorary Life Member of the Queensland Teachers Union and Life Member of the Institute of Modern Art.

Acknowledgment of Country

Aunty Denise Proud

Aunty Denise Proud is a proud Aboriginal woman who was born and raised in Cherbourg (Wakka Wakka Country).

She has connections to the Koa people of the Winton area through her grandmother, and to the Kuku-Yalanji people of North Queensland through her father and grandfather. Her mother was a member of the Stolen Generations.

As a consultant, Aunty Denise delivers cultural and educational workshops across a range of sectors and industries to better support organisations in engaging and collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. Aunty Denise is a board member at Reconciliation Queensland, an Honorary Senior Fellow of the University of the Sunshine Coast and an Honorary Research Senior Fellow of The University of Queensland. She is on the publications committee of Early Childhood Australia. In 2023, Aunty Denise was given the ECA Barbara Creaser Award for her work in the early childhood sector and in 2024 was awarded an honorary doctorate from Queensland University of Technology. In 2025 she was made an Honorary Professor at The University of Queensland.



Message from the Head of School

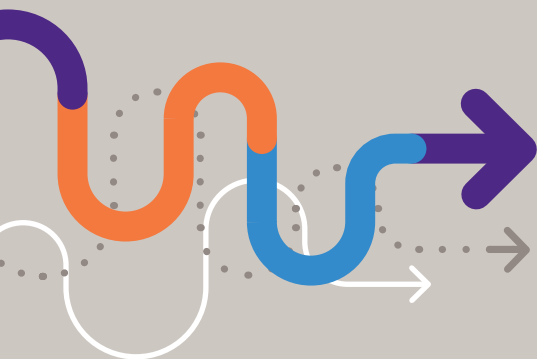
Thank you for joining
The University of Queensland
School of Education to celebrate
80 years of innovation and impact.

Since its inception in 1945, the School has been a cornerstone of education in Queensland and beyond – contributing to excellence in the teaching profession and ensuring that all children are supported to learn and flourish.

As we mark this milestone, we are mindful of the vital role educational innovation plays in addressing future challenges and creating a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable world.

Building the bridge to this future is a collective effort that depends on the commitment and collaboration of past and present UQ staff, the broader education community, and our local and global partners. We hope that you will continue to walk with us on this journey.

Professor Robin Shields



Donate to the UQ School of Education

Your donation will support for the next generation of teachers and help shape policies and practices in both the local and global education communities.

education.uq.edu.au