

PROGRAM

**2025
LEADERS
TO
LEGENDS
FORUM**

PRESENTED BY



AUSTAFE
Queensland

PROGRAM

ABOUT AUSTAFE QUEENSLAND

AUSTAFE Queensland is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit professional association with a commitment to promoting excellence in VET. Our mission is to provide networking and professional development opportunities to members and VET professionals, with a strong focus on emerging and aspiring leaders.

2025 LEADERS TO LEGENDS FORUM

8:15-8:45am REGISTRATION

8:45-9:00am & 4:00-4:15pm

OPENING & CLOSING REMARKS

Lyndal Carter

AUSTAFE Queensland President

Oliver Campbell

AUSTAFE Queensland Vice-President

SESSION BREAKS

ALL DAY TEA AND COFFEE

8:15-8:45am REGISTRATION

9:45-10:00am MORNING TEA

12:00-12:45pm LUNCH

2:15-2:30pm AFTERNOON TEA

4:15-4:45pm NETWORKING SOCIAL

9:00-9:45am

TIM FERGUSON

Director and Facilitator Leading Teams

Tim Ferguson has a strong background in senior management, leadership, and vocational education and training.

He is passionate about fostering high-performing teams with strong relationships and a shared purpose.

Tim joined Leading Teams in 2012 after witnessing the transformative impact of the program while in senior management at the Gordon Institute of TAFE in Geelong, which he helped lead to become the most successful TAFE commercially in Australia.

Tim helps clients take ownership and be accountable for their behaviour at both an individual level and as a part of a team.

Guided by his belief in the power of determination and self-reflection, Tim has helped countless teams and organisations across Australia improve their culture and build high performance.

9:45-10:00am **MORNING TEA**

10:00am-12:00pm

MATT RUNNALLS

**CEO and Founder
Mindfull Aus**

Matt Runnalls is a passionate mental health advocate dedicated to fostering awareness, acceptance, and education to combat the global stigma surrounding mental health and suicide.

He founded Mindfull Aus in 2016 and has studied under renowned experts like Tony Robbins, Brené Brown, and Simon Sinek.

An award-winning speaker and best-selling author of *Nobody Can Save Me*, Matt's workshops have sold out across Australia, Canada, and America.

He shares his compelling personal story and diverse lifestyle practices to empower audiences with practical tools for true well-being and an unstoppable future.

Matt aims to create open platforms for communication, encouraging individuals, communities and organisations to address and manage their wellbeing.

Matt was awarded an Australia Day Medallion in January 2018 and was a 2021 Australian of The Year Nominee.

12:00-12:45pm **LUNCH**

12:45-1:30pm

KATE VENABLES

General Manager

TAFE Queensland South West region

With over two decades of leadership experience in the social services sector across Central Queensland, the Darling Downs, and South West Queensland, Kate Venables is dedicated to enhancing rural, regional, and remote Australia.

Her commitment to diversity, inclusion, and excellence has enabled Kate to successfully lead diverse teams, achieving positive outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

She has a proven track record of developing and sustaining productive, financially successful organisations that value individuals and enhance performance.

Kate serves on several boards and committees, including Jobs Queensland, Queensland Care Consortium, Vanguard Laundry, and Duchesne Residential College at the University of Queensland.

She holds a Masters in Education, a Graduate Certificate in Leadership, and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a Fellow of the Institute of Leaders and Managers.

1:30-2:15pm

SHAWN O'SULLIVAN

**Executive Director
TAFE Centre of Excellence Clean
Energy Batteries**

Shawn O'Sullivan has a wealth of experience in emerging industries education and training, shaped from a diverse career as a bush mechanic turned educator, to his current position as Executive Director, TAFE Centre of Excellence Clean Energy Batteries at TAFE Queensland.

The Centre, a \$20M joint initiative by the Queensland and Australian Governments, thrives under Shawn's leadership, focusing on equipping the nation's workforce to meet the current and emerging needs of the clean energy batteries sector.

Passionate about accessible education, Shawn is committed to ensuring quality training is available to everyone, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds.

With a degree in vocational education and training and extensive experience in curriculum design and industry engagement, Shawn has been instrumental in developing innovative training opportunities that address both community and industry demands.

2:15-2:30pm **AFTERNOON TEA**

2:30-3:15pm

PANEL SESSION

Q&A session with AUSTAFE Queensland Legends, offering leadership and management advice and discussing the challenges and opportunities facing the VET sector

MARY CAMPBELL VET advocate

Mary Campbell, a former CEO of TAFE Queensland, has dedicated over 35 years to the vocational education and training sector. In 2020, Mary received the Australian Training Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award and in 2024, she was honoured with a Public Service Medal.

JODY RIDGEWAY Faculty Director, Technology, Manufacturing and Creative Industries, TAFE Queensland East Coast region

Jody Ridgeway has over 30 years of vocational education and training experience, with her career advancing from teacher to faculty leadership. She has operated successful small businesses and is passionate about quality skills training and apprentice mentorship, evidenced by her involvement in WorldSkills since 1988.

2:30-3:15pm

PANEL SESSION

JONATHAN TODD

**Director, Educational Strategy and
Support Services, TAFE Queensland
SkillsTech**

From his beginnings as a teacher to his current leadership role, Jonathan Todd has consistently championed educational excellence across Queensland and the Pacific. With more than 25 years' experience, Jonathan drives and supports technological advancements in training delivery and flexible learning models.

JOHN TUCKER

CEO, TAFE Queensland

John began his vocational education and training career as a teacher and more than 30 years later serves as TAFE Queensland's Chief Executive Officer. He is also a board member of WorldSkills Australia, TAFE Directors Australia and the Queensland Overseas Foundation.



3:15-4:00pm

RADMILA DESIC AM

**Australian Institute of Building
Queensland Chapter President and
NAWIC Life Member**

Radmila Desic AM migrated to Australia at seven after an earthquake destroyed her family home in the former Yugoslavia. With a family history in construction, Radmila began her career as an apprentice carpenter joiner in 1992.

As a woman working in a male-dominated industry, Radmila faced challenges but discovered her voice could be influential and drive change.

She has expanded her career to include a broad range of knowledge regarding the training system, apprenticeship and traineeship models and guidelines, and retention of women in construction.

In 2021, Radmila was named a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to women in the construction industry and to unemployed youth.

She is the Australian Institute of Building Queensland Chapter President and National Association of Women in Construction Life Member.

4:00-4:15pm CLOSING REMARKS

4:15-4:45pm NETWORKING SOCIAL

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