

Elevate Educator Symposium 2026

Call for speakers: guidance to prepare your Expression of Interest

Do you have an idea, innovation, project or lesson learned that could help other educators navigate the opportunities and challenges of AI?

The **Elevate Educator Symposium 2026** is seeking speakers from across the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Adult Community Education (ACE) sectors to share practical experiences, insights and innovations that are shaping the future of teaching, learning and workforce development.

You do not need to be an AI expert, researcher or experienced presenter to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

We're looking for real-world examples from educators, trainers, assessors, learning designers, practitioners, leaders and providers who are exploring what AI means for learners, teaching practice, assessment and workforce readiness.

Whether you've implemented a successful initiative, trialled a new approach, conducted research or learned valuable lessons through experimentation, we'd love to hear your story.

Event details:

- Date: 13 November 2026
- Location: TBC (Adelaide CBD)
- Delivery: In person and online.

Why present?

Your experience could inspire change well beyond your own organisation.

Presenting at the Elevate Educator Symposium provides an opportunity to:

- showcase your work and expertise
- share practical ideas that improve teaching, learning and learner outcomes
- contribute to sector-wide conversations about the future of VET and ACE
- connect with educators, practitioners and leaders from across the sector
- build your professional profile and expand your network.

1. What we're looking for

The 2026 symposium theme, **Beyond the Bot: VET Teaching in the Age of AI**, explores how educators and providers can harness AI and emerging technologies while maintaining quality, integrity, inclusion, sustainability, transparency, responsible data use and learner success.

We're seeking sessions that are:

- practical and relevant
- grounded in experience, evidence, research or evaluation
- focused on improving teaching, learning or learner outcomes
- transferable across different organisations and settings
- honest about successes, challenges and lessons learned
- likely to leave participants with ideas they can apply in their own practice.

Participants will include VET and ACE educators, student and learner support practitioners, learning designers and other RTO and ACE staff from across South Australia.

You might be:

- using AI or digital tools in teaching, training or learner support
- redesigning assessment approaches
- exploring authentic assessment and academic integrity
- supporting diverse or neurodivergent learners in innovative ways
- leading organisational change or capability development
- undertaking practitioner research
- developing resources that others could adopt or adapt
- exploring how AI is changing industry and workforce expectations
- preparing learners for emerging jobs and future workforce needs.

Individual, joint and panel presentations are welcome.

The next page identifies some suggested topics. These topics are intended to inspire ideas rather than limit them. If your proposal aligns with the symposium theme and offers valuable insights for participants, we encourage you to submit an EOI.

Suggested topics

Teaching and learning

- Practical uses of generative AI and AI technologies in teaching and learning
- AI-supported learner engagement and feedback
- Digital literacy and critical thinking
- Preparing learners for an AI-enabled workforce
- Building educator confidence with AI and emerging technologies.

Assessment and integrity

- Assessment in the age of AI
- Authentic assessment approaches
- Academic integrity and responsible AI use
- Balancing innovation with quality standards
- Lessons learned from assessment redesign.

Inclusion and learner success

- Accessibility and inclusive learning design
- Supporting neurodivergent learners with AI and technology
- Learner engagement and achievement
- Digital inclusion and equitable access
- Learner support innovations.

Leadership and organisational change

- Organisational approaches to AI adoption
- Workforce capability development
- Change management and implementation journeys
- Policies, governance, ethics, privacy and risk management
- Sustainability considerations
- Building a culture of innovation, transparency and responsible use of AI.

Research and future directions

- Emerging trends in AI and education
- Future skills and workforce trends
- Industry perspectives on AI
- The evolving role of educators and trainers.

2. Session formats

When submitting your EOI, you'll be asked to nominate your preferred presentation format.

Please note: *To maximise participation and learning, we may group presentations that address similar topics or use similar formats.*

Inspire (15-30 minutes)

Share a big idea, emerging trend, research finding or thought-provoking perspective.

Format: Short presentation followed by audience questions and discussion.

Ideal for:

- research findings
- future-focused topics
- emerging trends
- thought leadership presentations.

Explore (30-45 minutes)

Help participants learn by doing.

Format: Highly interactive, participant-focused sessions that encourage discussion, experimentation and collaboration.

Ideal for:

- practical workshops
- guided discussions
- hands-on experimentation
- problem-solving sessions.

Apply (10-20 minutes)

Share something you've implemented and what others can learn from it.

Format: A short, practical showcase focused on what you did, what worked, what didn't and what participants can take away.

Ideal for:

- case studies
- AI implementation stories
- innovative teaching and assessment examples and demonstrations
- practitioner research projects.

3. Support for speakers

We want the symposium to showcase diverse voices from across the sector, including first-time presenters.

Successful speakers will receive:

- an honorarium in recognition of their expertise, preparation and contribution
- support and guidance to prepare their session
- opportunities to connect with educators, practitioners and leaders from across the sector
- complimentary tickets for representatives from their organisation to attend the symposium.

Presenters can participate in person in Adelaide CBD, or online.

Successful speakers will be asked to:

- provide a short biography, photograph and session outline for the symposium program
- attend two speaker briefing sessions
- submit slides, handouts or other presentation resources before the symposium.

Further information about honorariums and event logistics will be provided to successful speakers.

4. How to express your interest

Submit your EOI by **5.00 pm ACST, Monday 28 September 2026** to

<https://mybusiness.smartygrants.com.au/EducatorSymposiumSpeakerEOI>.

To apply, you will need to set up an account in SmartyGrants or log in to an existing account. The EOI form will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Your EOI should tell us:

- who you are
- what you would like to present
- your preferred session format
- why the topic matters
- what participants will learn or be able to apply after attending your session.

Individual and joint EOIs are welcome.

Not sure whether your idea is suitable or don't have a fully developed idea yet? If your session will help educators improve teaching, learning, assessment, learner support or workforce readiness in an AI-enabled world, we'd encourage you to submit an EOI.

We are committed to creating an accessible and inclusive event. If you require adjustments or support to deliver your session, please let us know in your EOI.

Approximately 5-8 presentations will be selected through the EOI process, alongside a small number of invited keynote and featured speakers.

5. How EOIs will be assessed

We are seeking a balanced program that reflects a range of sectors, industries, learner cohorts, organisations and perspectives from across the VET and ACE sectors.

EOIs will be assessed against the symposium objectives and speaker selection criteria.

The panel will consider:

- relevance to the symposium theme, Beyond the Bot: VET Teaching in the Age of AI
- value to participants and practical application
- evidence of impact or lessons learned
- quality and clarity of the proposed session
- transferability to other educators, providers or settings
- presenter experience, expertise or lived experience relevant to the topic
- innovation and fresh perspectives.

Tip: Strong EOIs clearly explain the challenge or opportunity, what you did, what you learned and what participants will be able to apply in their own practice. We value practical examples and honest reflections, including lessons learned and what you might do differently next time.

6. Key dates

- EOIs close: 28 September 2026
- Successful speakers notified: 9 October 2026
- Speaker briefing and preparation support: October 2026
- Presentations finalised: 6 November 2026
- Elevate Educator Symposium: 13 November 2026

7. Questions?

For enquiries about the symposium or speaker EOI process, contact dsd.seed@sa.gov.au.