



PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ALLIANCE

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE 2026

Open to ALL Queensland Public Schools



publicschoolsalliance.au



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About the Public Schools Alliance (PSA)

Thank you for your interest in joining our vibrant community. The Public Schools Alliance (PSA) extends a warm invitation to all Queensland Public Primary, Secondary, and Special Education Schools, wherever you may be on your school improvement journey. We believe that diversity is our strength, and we celebrate the unique essence of every school.

PSA is a responsive, practitioner-informed network, shaped by current contexts, real challenges, and direct feedback from leaders in schools. We operate as a neutral space, free from political or industrial affiliations, committed to provoking fresh thinking and courageous conversations in educational leadership.

Our programs are deliberately relevant, challenging, and future-focused. We bring leadership lessons from beyond the education sector, connecting members with world-class speakers and thinkers whose insights strengthen strategic, relational, and authentic leadership capabilities. Delegates never walk away empty-handed by ensuring every event equips leaders with practical tools, frameworks, and ideas they can action immediately.

Members gain access to high-quality professional learning, bold and thought-provoking speakers, and a space to explore

innovative and evidence-informed solutions for improving student outcomes. PSA pushes boundaries, sparks innovation, and empowers schools to grow beyond expectations. We connect leaders to “warts and all” stories of practice, offering insights from real world challenges and triumphs.

School membership is designed for Executive and Senior Leadership Teams. Membership is

flexible and transferable across school leaders, ensuring your team can adapt to changing demands while remaining engaged with PSA’s opportunities and resources.

We also extend opportunities for your student and aspiring leaders to support the next generation of courageous, community-minded changemakers.



Watch the our short testimonial video to find out more.



CONNECTED LEADERSHIP

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF: A LIVING MOSAIC OF CONNECTED STRENGTH

Stretching 2,300 km along Australia's coast, the Great Barrier Reef is a breathtaking example of interconnected life. Though made up of countless corals and species, it thrives as one vast, interdependent ecosystem. Coral colonies grow together, share nutrients, and protect one another. When one area is stressed, healthier sections help regenerate it through the flow of larvae, nutrients, and biodiversity. Its beauty lies in this collective harmony: a shimmering mosaic that survives, adapts, and flourishes through connection.

The Great Barrier Reef shows us that the most beautiful outcomes emerge when individuals connect deeply and collaborate intentionally.



Signature Leadership Days

Our flagship Leadership Days continue to bring experienced school leaders together to deepen practice, challenge thinking, and strengthen the work already happening in Queensland's public schools. In 2026, each event builds on the expertise within our community and is anchored by a bold, future-focused theme designed to extend and elevate the leadership capabilities.

2026 Themes

This year's Leadership Days are centred around:

- **Leading with Courage, Connection and Clarity**

Build on your existing leadership strengths as we explore how courageous, connected practice reinforces trust, nourishes culture, and provides clarity in complex moments. Together, we'll refine strategies that help leaders act with purpose and confidence while navigating change.

- **Relational Leadership in a Complex System**

Drawing on deeper relational work, this theme invites leaders to examine how influence, empathy, and collective efficacy continue to shape sustainable improvement. It offers space to reflect, recalibrate, and further evolve the human-centred approaches that drive your school communities.

- **Performance Through People**

Continue to investigate how high-performing teams are grown, supported, and inspired. Strengthen the leadership capabilities that empower people, elevate practice, and unlock a culture where everyone thrives.

Key Take-aways for 2026

Collaborative Processes: Engage students, staff, and the broader community in shaping and connecting with your school's vision. Foster a collaborative environment that aligns your school's ambitions for learning with actionable outcomes.

Tools for Strategic Leadership: Access proven tools to effectively lead your school's continuous improvement agenda. Transforming your vision into actionable strategies that drive positive change and measurable results.

Professional Learning Guidance:

Receive expert insights to maintain focus and sustain momentum on your leadership improvement priorities. Stay ahead with professional development tailored to the ever-changing demands of school leadership.



Signature Leadership Days

Key Dates for Executive and Senior Leadership Teams

- Monday 16 March, 8.45 am to 2.45 pm
- Monday 27 July, 8.15 am to 2.30 pm
- Monday 02 November, 8.45 am to 2.45 pm

Venue

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre,
South Bank, Queensland

Accommodation

Special accommodation rates are available at:

RYDGES SOUTH BANK BRISBANE

10% off the best available rate via booking link
9 Glenelg St, South Brisbane





Alliance Networking Breakfasts



Foster collaboration, celebrate leadership, and strengthen your school community by joining our Alliance Networking Breakfasts. These events are where school leaders, emerging talent, and student captains come together to share insights, spark ideas, and build powerful connections.



These breakfasts offer principals a valuable opportunity to bring their full leadership team, including aspiring, emerging, and student leaders, into meaningful conversations about the educational challenges and opportunities shaping our schools. Connect with colleagues from across Queensland, broaden your professional network, and explore innovative solutions that lift collective capability.



Hosted early in the day so teams can return to campus before the first bell. For maximum impact and time efficiency, Leadership Days are held immediately after each breakfast.

Key Dates for Principals' Invitational Breakfasts – 2026

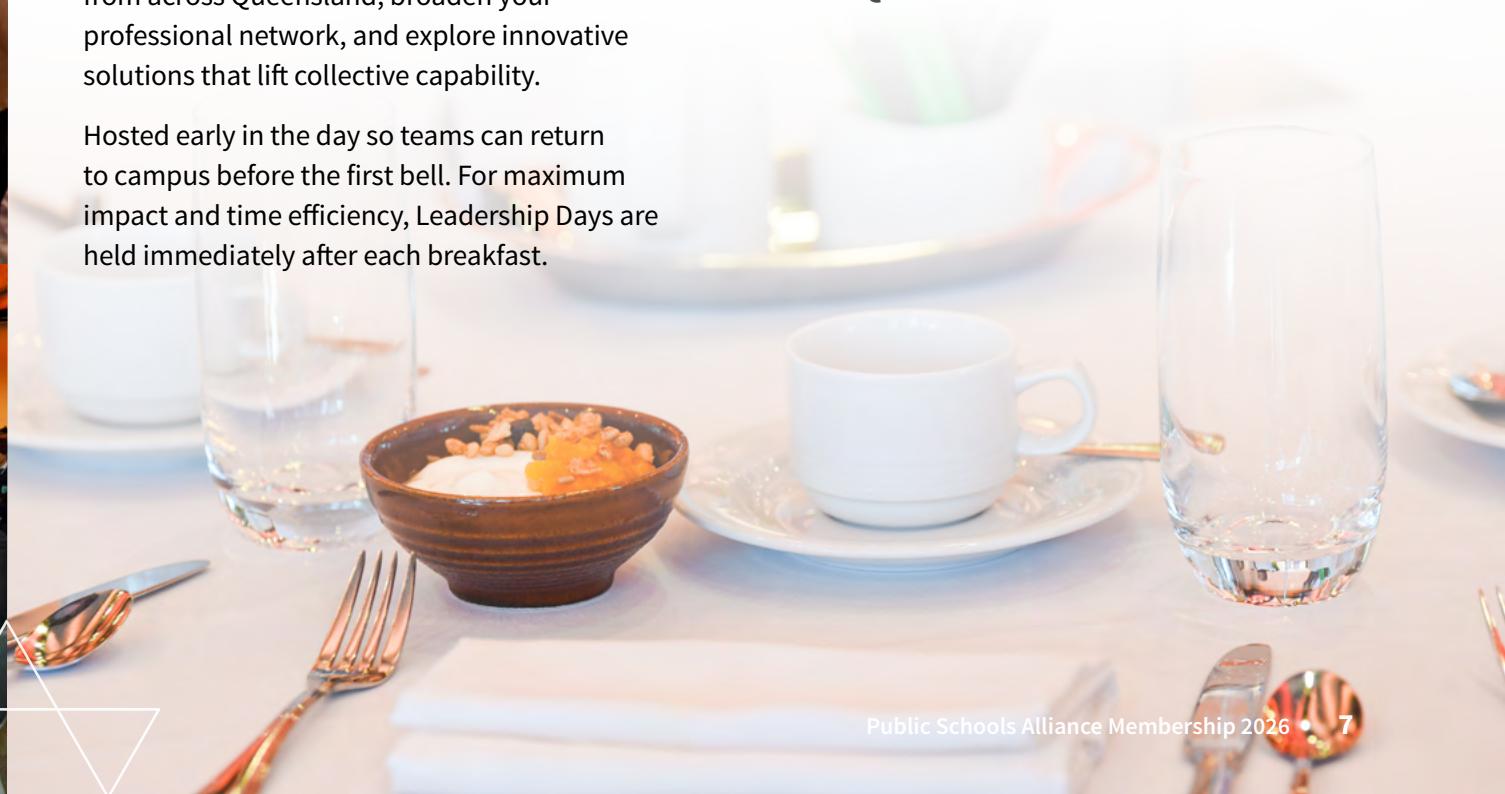
- **Year 12 Student Captains join school executive teams**

Monday, 16 March, 6.45 – 8.15 am

- **Aspiring School Leaders join school executive teams**

Wednesday, 02 November, 6.45 – 8.15 am

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Bank, Queensland





Collegial Dinners

Take a well-deserved break and connect with colleagues at our relaxed Collegial Dinners. These informal dinners offer a space to share stories, celebrate successes, and reflect on the real challenges of school leadership.

Enjoy soft networking, genuine conversations, and the chance to recharge with people who truly understand the role.

Key Dates

- **Sunday, 15 March, 6.00 – 9.00 pm**
- **Sunday, 26 July, 6.00 – 9.00 pm**
- **Sunday, 01 November, 6.00 – 9.00 pm**

This event is subsidised by the Public School Alliance. Hosted the evening before the Leadership Days to maximise travel and time out of school. Consider staying overnight in Brisbane's South Bank Precinct, special rates available at Rydges South Bank.



Year 12 Student Leadership Conference

Creating Impact, Building Your Future

Event Details

Date: Thursday 5 February 2026

Time: 9.30 am – 2.00 pm

Location: Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Gardens Point Campus

Lunch included, participants encouraged to BYO their own snacks.

This event will bring together Year 12 school leaders from across Brisbane to explore the mindset and skills needed to shape their futures with purpose and impact.

Guiding Question: *Where do you want to be, and how do you want to get there?*

Through interactive activities and meaningful discussion, students will be challenged to think beyond traditional pathways and apply an entrepreneurial mindset to their leadership, studies, and post-school goals.

Led by a Nationally Recognised Leader in Entrepreneurship

Facilitated by **Professor Rowena Barrett**, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Entrepreneurship) at QUT, giving students rare access to an academic leader with global expertise in entrepreneurial thinking and innovation.

Future-Focused and Practical

This event equips students with a tangible **Year 12 action plan** and a clear vision for life after school. It's about doing, not just listening.

Exclusive Networking Opportunities

Students connect directly with QUT academics, industry professionals, and peers from other Brisbane schools – fostering valuable networks they wouldn't otherwise access at this stage.

Entrepreneurial Mindset Framework

The event is built around QUT's three-phase entrepreneurial mindset model (**Curiosity – Connections – Creating Value**) – a structured, research-informed approach that can be applied to leadership, study, and career planning.

Ongoing Engagement Opportunities

Students who attend the event will be offered exclusive follow-up opportunities (once a term catch up afternoons and Open Day), ensuring sustained inspiration and connection throughout Year 12.

Personalised and Reflective

Each student is encouraged to map their own questions, networks, and goals, making the experience highly individualised rather than a "one-size-fits-all" leadership program.

Bridge Between School and University

Positions QUT as a partner in students' leadership and future pathways, helping schools demonstrate they are giving their leaders access to cutting-edge university learning and resources.



Year 6 & Year 9 Student Leadership Conference

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 25 February
OR Thursday 26 February

Time: 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

Location: Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Kelvin Grove Campus

Morning tea and lunch included.

Get ready for an inspiring, future-focused experience as the Alliance once again partners with QUT Kelvin Grove to deliver our **Student Leadership Day**. A dynamic program designed to ignite student agency, sharpen leadership mindsets, and strengthen community impact.

This energising event gives young leaders the chance to step outside their everyday roles and step into a space that challenges their thinking, broadens their perspective, and amplifies their voice.

Target Audience

- **Year 6 Primary School Leaders**
- **Year 9 Secondary School Leaders**

Each Alliance member school may send up to four students from their student leadership cohort.

What to Expect

Collaboration & Design Thinking

Students will work closely with peers from their own school and others across Queensland, exploring real leadership challenges through design thinking, teamwork, and shared problem-solving.



Inspiring Voices

Hear from engaging, credible speakers who understand the power of student voice. Their stories and practical insights will help spark new ideas and broaden each student's leadership lens.

A Confidence-Building, High-Energy Program

The day is intentionally designed to build confidence, stretch thinking, and encourage students to lead with purpose and positivity, both in their classrooms and across their school communities.

Leadership Beyond the Ordinary

We move far beyond fundraising ideas and time capsules. Students will reflect deeply on their agency, influence and responsibility, exploring how leadership can shape school values, community connection, positive cultural change and student voice in staff decisions.

Practical, Action-Ready Initiatives

Every student leaves with clear next steps and concrete leadership actions they can bring to life back at school—turning ideas into impact and shaping their own leadership legacy.



Facilitated by:
Maddie Smith-Jones

Alliance Membership

Open to all Queensland Public Schools

Alliance Membership packages are priced to suit the size and needs of your school leadership team. Reward your team and take advantage of this exceptional value for multiple leaders:

- \$2,500 – Registration for 1 Leadership delegate
- \$3,700 – Registration for 2 Leadership delegates
- \$4,800 – Registration for 3 Leadership delegates
- \$5,500 – Registration for 4 Leadership delegates
- \$6,400 – Registration for 5 Leadership delegates
- \$7,100 – Registration for 6 Leadership delegates
- \$550 – Registration for regional Queensland livestreaming only



CLICK HERE

TO REGISTER YOUR PREFERRED
MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE



Please register and Brisbane State High School will invoice on behalf of the Alliance:

- School leadership colleagues from the same school may share membership to maximise their team's availability.
- All member schools will have access to livestreaming.
- All members will have access to presentations and event recordings via SharePoint.
- Member schools must register their team members for each event.

For further information contact –
Charlotte Chamier Alliance Project Manager
Email: cdupr9@eq.edu.au

2026 MEMBERSHIP INCLUSIONS

TERM 1

Up to 10 Student Registrations for the Year 12 Student Leadership Conference – *Creating Impact, Building Your Future*
Thursday 05 February, 9.00 am – 2.30 pm
QUT Gardens Point, Brisbane

Up to 4 Student Registrations for the Year 6 & Year 9 Leadership Day
Wednesday 25 February OR
Thursday 26 February
9.30 am – 2.30 pm
QUT Kelvin Grove, Brisbane

Access to subsidised rate Collegial Dinner
Sunday 15 March, 6.00 – 9.00 pm

Registration to the Leadership Breakfast celebrating with Year 12 Student Captains
Monday 16 March, 6.45 – 8.15 am
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Registration to Alliance Leadership Day
Monday 16 March, 8.45 am – 2.45 pm
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

TERM 3

Access to subsidised rate Collegial Dinner
Sunday 26 July, 6.00 – 9.00 pm

Registration to Alliance Leadership Day
Monday 27 July, 8.15 am – 2.45 pm
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

TERM 4

Access to subsidised rate Collegial Dinner
Sunday 01 November, 6.00 – 9.00 pm

Registration to the Leadership Breakfast celebrating Aspiring Leaders
Monday 02 November, 6.45 – 8.15 am
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Registration to Alliance Leadership Day
Monday 02 November, 8.45 am to 2.45 pm
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Alliance Committee

Our voluntary team of dedicated school leaders



John Thornberry

*Executive Principal
Kelvin Grove State College*



Nigel Hughes

*Executive Principal
Varsity College*



Phillip Savill

*Principal
Gumdale State School*



Luke Ferdinands

*Executive Principal
Wavell State High School*



Anne McLaughlan

*Principal
The Gap State High School*



Jason Smith

*Principal
Tamborine Mountain State School*



Elizabeth Foster

*President
Australian Council for Educational
Leaders (ACEL)*



Greg Pierce

*Executive Principal
Brisbane State High School*



Sandra Wright

*Principal
Lake Clarendon State School*



Jo Hughes

*Executive Principal
Calamvale Community College*



Paul Robertson

*Executive Principal
Kenmore State High School*



Charlotte Chamier

*Project Manager
Public Schools Alliance*