



A QSA conference

VISION TO REALITY

Queensland's new education landscape

27–29 April 2011 • Brisbane

BRINGING PERFORMANCE INTO FOCUS

VIEWS ON THE NEW ERA OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2009, the Australian Government announced that information about all schools' results, workforce, finances and students would be made publicly available, enabling valid comparisons of schools. The government claims this new era of transparency and accountability will improve the way Australians understand and access educational services.

But sceptics say the kind of accurate, properly contextualised information needed to inform decision-making and debate will become diluted in a confusing mass of data and subjective interpretation. They question whether greater openness and information sharing will bring positive changes:

- Will teachers have better information to diagnose learning needs and target assistance in the classroom?
- Will principals become more accountable to the school community?
- Will parents and families become more able to make informed choices?
- Will community members better understand the reasons for government decisions and initiatives?
- Will decision makers be able to monitor school performance and target resources?

In this two-hour symposium, delegates will witness a lively discussion between high-profile experts and commentators as they explore the implications of the transparency agenda for school education in Australia.

PROGRAM

Participants each deliver a 10 minute address in which they identify what they consider are the most significant implications – positive or negative – of the transparency and accountability agenda in education. Following each address, the chair will invite a response from a panel member. The symposium closes with a general discussion in which audience participation is encouraged.

DATE AND TIMES

Thursday 28 April

11am–1pm

VENUE

**Brisbane Convention
& Exhibition Centre (BCEC)**

Corner Merivale and Glenelg Streets
South Bank, Brisbane
Queensland 4101

ROOM

Mezzanine level, room one, BCEC



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SPEAKERS



Jane Caro*

Jane Caro is a freelance copywriter, lecturer, author, media commentator and regular panellist on *The Gruen Transfer*. She is a public education advocate and author of *The Stupid Country: How Australia is Dismantling Public Education* (with Chris Bonner).



Justine Ferrari

Justine Ferrari is currently education writer for *The Australian*, focusing on school issues. She has covered the emerging debate on national curriculum, national testing and the publication of school results on the MySchool website.



Denis Masseni

Denis Masseni has spent a career latching onto emerging industries. He is currently a teaching associate at Monash University who has written on the potential for social media to be used to build and strengthen school communities.



Margaret Wu

Margaret Wu is an Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne where she teaches a number of educational measurement courses. Margaret's work on interpreting NAPLAN results has attracted a great deal of media attention in recent months.



Peter Renshaw

Peter Renshaw is Professor of Education and Head of School at The University of Queensland. Peter is an expert on classroom teaching and learning who has often commented on the Australian Government's accountability agenda.

* Jane Caro appears by arrangement with Claxton Speakers International.