



AAIR FORUM 2025

*From Beach to Benchmark:
Surfing the Institutional Research Wave*
17 - 19 NOVEMBER 2025
GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND



PROGRAM

Day 1: Monday, 17 November 2025 | Pre-Forum Special Interest Groups

Southern Cross University Gold Coast Campus			
Time	Room A2.14	Room A2.04	Room A2.20
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Lunch (Room A2.03)		
1.30pm – 3:00pm	Institutional Reporting Facilitator: Don Johnston, SIG Chair & AAIR Vice President Department of Education representatives will be available to discuss and respond to questions.	Business Intelligence and Analytics Presenter: Robert Wood, SIG Chair	Surveys and Evaluation Facilitator: Cassie Saunders, SIG Chair, AAIR Executive Committee member Social Research Centre representatives will also be providing updates on what's happening in the QILT space
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea (Room A2.03)		
3.30pm – 5:00pm	Load Management and Planning Facilitator: Gabrielle Harrison, SIG Chair Department of Education representatives will be available to discuss and respond to questions.		Surveys and Evaluation Facilitator: Cassie Saunders, SIG Chair, AAIR Executive Committee member
5.30pm – 7:00pm	Social Event – Drinks and Nibbles Rydges Gold Coast Airport		

PROGRAM

Day 2: Tuesday 18 November 2025

Rydges Gold Coast Airport		
9.00am – 9.15am	Acknowledgements and welcome address Ewa Seidel, Flinders University and AAIR President Don Johnston – Southern Cross University and Forum Chair Welcome to Country	
9.15am – 10.15am	Keynote Speaker Presentation	
10.15am – 10.45am	Morning tea and Trade Exhibition	
10.45am – 11.25am	Platinum Sponsor – Explorance	
11.25am – 11.55am	2025 AAIR AGM	
11.55pm – 1.00pm	Panel Session	
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch	
	Room A	Room B
2.00pm – 2.40pm	From Sector Scan to System Change: Improving Student Evaluation Response Rates through Research-Informed Implementation (<i>workshop</i>) Dr Lizzie Li, Hui Zhou University of Queensland	Decision-Driven Data-Making Rintaro Ohno Tohoku University
2.45pm – 3.25pm	A Collaborative Approach to Improving Survey Participation (<i>workshop</i>) Rachel Hamper, Michael Crisp University of South Australia	Diving Deeper: Enhancing Higher Education Benchmarking with VET Data Elements Dean Ward Edith Cowan University
3.25pm – 3.45pm	Afternoon tea and trade exhibition	
	<i>Quick Round Presentations</i>	
3.45pm – 4.00pm	Beyond Benchmarking: Turning SES Results into Institutional Action Asta Tan, Ivy Hong University of South Australia	Empowering Institutional Insight: Developing a Highly Cited Researcher Dashboard Dr Chun Xiao, Lin Jiang University of Technology Sydney
4.05pm – 4.20pm	Comparing Educator and Student Perceptions of Unacceptable and Risk of Harm Comments in Student Evaluation of Teaching Surveys Dr Sarah Dart, Dr Sam Cunningham, Dr Sophie Coulon Queensland University of Technology	Interactive Dashboards for a New Era: Advancing Analytics in Higher Education Namisha Bansal, Michael Crisp University of South Australia

4.25pm – 4.40pm	<p>Institutional Research: Making Data Available to Drive Strategic Decision Making</p> <p>Brooklyn Cole University of the Sunshine Coast</p>	<p>Measuring Researcher's Publication Excellence with an Innovative Composite Metric</p> <p>Irwan Krisna Australian National University</p>
4.40pm – 5.10pm	Networking Time	
6.00pm – 9.30pm	<p>Forum Dinner</p> <p>The Homestead - Currumbin Bird Sanctuary</p> <p>Buses depart from Rydges at 6pm to venue.</p>	

Day 3, Wednesday 19 November 2025

	Rydges Hotel Gold Coast Airport	
9.00am - 9.15 am	Welcome to Day 2 Don Johnston, Southern Cross University and Forum Chair	
9.15am – 10.30am	Plenary Presentation or Panel Session	
10.30am – 11.00am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition	
	<i>Room A</i>	<i>Room B</i>
11.00am – 11.45am	From Experience to Retention: Powerful Insights from the Student Voice Emmanuel Mnatzaganian Social Research Centre	Catching the Innovation Wave: Power BI, AI, and the Challenge of Keeping Up Jan Lettrich University of Tasmania
11.50am – 12.30pm	From Keywords to Context: Implementing an AI-enhanced workflow for Moderating Student Feedback at Scale Hui Zhou, Lizzie Li University of Queensland	From Whiting to Groper: A Scalable AI Framework for Growing Team Capacity Etienne Viljoen Charles Darwin University
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm – 2.10pm	Out with the old and in with the Blue! (Episode 2) Sharon Liddell University of Technology Sydney	The Dashboard Paradox: Interactive Dreams, Static Realities Dr Wayne McLean University of Tasmania
2.15pm – 2.55pm	Enhancing Student Experience with NPS and AI Generated Actionable Feedback Kate Bramich University of Tasmania	Wave of Discovery through our TCSI Dashboard Jacob Crisp Southern Cross University
3.00pm – 3.40pm	Fairer Comparisons in the Student Experience Survey: A Contextualised Benchmarking Approach Sam Slamowicz Social Research Centre	Riding the Learning Curve: Building a Unified Load Forecasting Ecosystem with Power BI and Fabric Dr Penelope Nelson, Megan Chittenden University of New England
3.45pm – 4.15pm	Forum Wrap Up and Presentation of Awards Cassie Saunders AAIR Committee	