



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 | Southern Cross University Gold Coast

Monday 17 November Pre-Forum Special Interest Groups			
Time	Southern Cross University Gold Coast Campus Building A Level 2		
12:00pm – 3:30pm	Registration		Level 2, foyer
12.30pm -1.30pm	Lunch - Room A2.03		
	Room A2.14	Room A2.04	Room A2.13
1.30pm – 3:00pm	<p>Institutional Reporting Facilitator: Don Johnston, SIG Chair & AAIR Vice President</p> <p>Andrew Herd, Director Growth and Modelling, Student Profiles Branch, Australian Tertiary Education Commission</p> <p>Department of Education representatives will be available to discuss and respond to questions.</p>	<p>Business Intelligence and Analytics Presenter: Robert Wood, SIG Chair</p>	<p>Surveys and Evaluation Facilitator: Cassie Saunders, SIG Chair, AAIR Executive Committee member</p>
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea (Room A2.03)		
3.30pm – 5:00pm	<p>Load Management and Planning Facilitator: Gabrielle Harrison, SIG Chair</p> <p>Andrew Herd, Director Growth and Modelling, Student Profiles Branch Australian Tertiary Education Commission</p>		<p>Surveys and Evaluation Facilitator: Cassie Saunders, SIG Chair, AAIR Executive Committee member</p> <p>Social Research Centre representatives will also be providing updates on what's happening in the QILT space</p>
5.30pm –7:00pm	<p>Welcome Drinks, with thanks to Social Research Centre The Salty Fox, Rydges Gold Coast Airport</p>		

PROGRAM

Day 2: Tuesday 18 November 2025 | Rydges Gold Coast Airport

Tuesday 18 November		
8:30am	Registration and Arrival Tea and Coffee	<i>Pre-function foyer</i>
	Plenary Sessions	<i>Bilinga Room</i>
9.00am – 9.15am	Welcome Address and Acknowledgement of Country Ewa Seidel, Flinders University and AAIR President Don Johnston – Southern Cross University and Forum Chair	
9.15am – 10.15am	Keynote Speaker Presentation Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Southern Cross University	
10.15am – 10.45am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition	<i>Pre-function foyer</i>
10.45am – 11.25am	Platinum Sponsor Presentation, Explorance Sunshine and Surveys: Powering Institutional Insights with Explorance BlueX Arjoman Chatterji, Explorance 	
11.25am – 11.55am	2025 AAIR AGM	
11.55pm – 1.00pm	Panel Session – Preparing for the Data Tsunami <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Amy Cutter-Mackenzie-Knowles, Executive Dean, Faculty of Education, Southern Cross University • Professor Erica Wilson, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Innovation), Southern Cross University • Eva Seidel, Associate Director, IDS Education & Research Engagement & Success, Flinders University & AAIR President 	
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch	<i>The Salty Fox</i>
	Bilinga Room 1 & 2 Concurrent Sessions	Bilinga Room 3 Concurrent Sessions
2.00pm – 2.40pm	1.1 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	1.2 Decision-Driven Data-Making Rintaro Ohno Tohoku University
2.45pm – 3.25pm	2.1 A Collaborative Approach to Improving Survey Participation (<i>workshop</i>) Rachel Hamper, Emily Sellar University of South Australia	2.2 Diving Deeper: Enhancing Higher Education Benchmarking with VET Data Elements Dean Ward Edith Cowan University
3.25pm – 3.45pm	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition	<i>Pre-Function Foyer</i>
	Quick Round Presentations	
	Bilinga Room 1 & 2	Bilinga Room 3
3.45pm – 4.00pm	3.1 Beyond Benchmarking: Turning SES Results into Institutional Action Asta Tan, Ivy Hong University of South Australia	3.2 Empowering Institutional Insight: Developing a Highly Cited Researcher Dashboard Dr Chun Xiao, Lin Jiang University of Technology Sydney

Tuesday 18 November

4.05pm – 4.20pm	<p>4.1 Comparing Educator and Student Perceptions of Unacceptable and Risk of Harm Comments in Student Evaluation of Teaching Surveys</p> <p>Dr Sarah Dart, Queensland University of Technology</p>	<p>4.2 Interactive Dashboards for a New Era: Advancing Analytics in Higher Education</p> <p>Namisha Bansal, Rachel Hamper University of South Australia</p>
4.25pm – 4.40pm	<p>5.1 Institutional Research: Making Data Available to Drive Strategic Decision Making</p> <p>Brooklyn Coyle University of the Sunshine Coast</p>	<p>5.2 Measuring Researcher’s Publication Excellence with an Innovative Composite Metric</p> <p>Irwan Krisna Australian National University</p>
4.40pm – 5.10pm	<p>Networking, Discussion Groups and Trade Exhibition <i>Join our valued supporters!</i></p>	
6.00pm – 9.00pm	<p>Forum Dinner The Homestead - Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Buses depart from Rydges at 6pm to venue (please meet in the hotel lobby) Buses departing The Homestead from 9:10pm.</p>	

PROGRAM

Day 3, Wednesday 19 November 2025 | Rydges Gold Coast Airport

Wednesday 19 November		
	Plenary Sessions	<i>Bilinga Room 1&2</i>
9.00am - 9.15 am	Welcome to Day 3 Don Johnston, Southern Cross University and Forum Chair	
9.15am – 10.30am	Plenary Presentation	
10.30am – 11.00am	Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition	<i>Pre-Function Foyer</i>
	<i>Bilinga Room 1 & 2 Concurrent Sessions</i>	<i>Bilinga Room 3 Concurrent Sessions</i>
11.00am – 11.45am	6.1 From Experience to Retention: Powerful Insights from the Student Voice Emmanuel Mnatzaganian Social Research Centre	6.2 Catching the Innovation Wave: Power BI, AI, and the Challenge of Keeping Up Jan Lettrich University of Tasmania
11.50am – 12.30pm	7.1 From Keywords to Context: Implementing an AI-enhanced workflow for Moderating Student Feedback at Scale Hui Zhou, Lizzie Li University of Queensland	7.2 From Whiting to Groper: A Scalable AI Framework for Growing Team Capacity Etienne Viljoen Charles Darwin University
12.30pm – 1.30pm	Lunch	<i>The Salty Fox</i>
1.30pm – 2.10pm	8.1 Out with the old and in with the Blue! (Episode 2) Sharon Liddell University of Technology Sydney	8.2 The Dashboard Paradox: Interactive Dreams, Static Realities Dr Wayne McLean University of Tasmania
2.15pm – 2.55pm	9.1 Enhancing Student Experience with NPS and AI Generated Actionable Feedback Kate Bramich University of Tasmania	9.2 Wave of Discovery through our TCSI Dashboard Jacob Crisp Southern Cross University
3.00pm – 3.40pm	10.1 Fairer Comparisons in the Student Experience Survey: A Contextualised Benchmarking Approach Sam Slamowicz Social Research Centre	10.2 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	<i>Bilinga 1&2</i>