AAIR FORUM 2026

He ritenga pai, he mātauranga pai
Good systems enable good education

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
AUCKLAND | 25-27 NOVEMBER 2026

2026 AAIR Forum Preliminary Program

Please note this is a preliminary program and is subject to change

Wednesday 25th November | Pre-Forum Special Interest Groups		
Time	**Sir Neil Waters Building, Massey University Albany Campus**	
10:00am – 4:00pm	Registration	*Main Foyer*
	SW200	**SNW2.35**
11:00am – 12:30pm	**Institutional Reporting** David Cawthorne and Don Johnston, SIG Co-Chairs	**Business Intelligence & Analytics** Robert Wood, SIG Chair
12:30pm – 1:15pm	**Lunch**	
	SW200	**SNW2.35**
1:15pm – 2:45pm	**Load Management and Planning** Gabrielle Harrison, SIG Chair	**Surveys & Evaluation** Cassandra Saunders, SIG Chair, AAIR Executive
2.45pm – 3.45pm	**Global University Rankings** Lin Jiang, SIG Co-Chair	**Data Governance** Tanya Parker and Louise Branch-Smith, SIG Co-Chairs NZ Representation
3:45pm – 4:00pm	**Afternoon Tea**	
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Explorance Interactive Session	
5.30pm –7:00pm	**Welcome Drinks, Massey University Albany Campus**	

Day 2 | Thursday 26th November

Sir Neil Waters Building, Massey University, Albany Campus

Thursday 26th November			
8:15am	Registration and Arrival Tea and Coffee		
	Plenary Sessions		*SNW200*
8:45am – 9:00am	**Welcome Address and mihi whakatau** Ewa Seidel, AAIR President Rossana D'Couto, Massey University and Forum Chair Mr Paora Ammunson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Maori		
9:00am – 10:00am	**Keynote Speaker: Driving high level strategic goals through tertiary education systems – some reflections for practitioners** Mr Paora Ammunson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Māori Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University		
10:00am – 10:30am	**Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition**		*Main Foyer*
10:30am – 11:15am	**Platinum Sponsor Presentation, Explorance**		
11:15am – 11:40am	AAIR AGM		
	Concurrent Sessions	***Concurrent Sessions***	
11:45am – 12:25pm	AI in the middle, humans at the gates: Building and tracking learning outcomes at scale in Canvas and Power BI **Ken Nelson** *Loma Linda University*	Counting disability differently: How institutional practices shape disability data across Australian universities **Dr Bret Stephenson** *Curtin University*	
12:30pm – 1:20pm	**Lunch**		
	Concurrent Sessions	***Concurrent Sessions***	
1:20pm – 2:00pm	Quick wins for busy staff: Data needs to be useful **Dr Vicent Botella Soler & Ms Elyse Thompson** University of Canterbury	Explore earlier, validate deliberately: What synthetic audiences add to institutional research **Miss Kate Bramich & Mr Salem Lassoued** *University of Tasmania, Muja*	
2:05pm – 2:45pm	From data to planning insight: A unified approach to quota management and evidence-based decision-making **Dr Hong H & Dr Le Hoa Phan**	Beyond the hype: Building responsible AI for real university impact **Mr Craig Napier**	

Thursday 26th November

	University of Southern Queensland	*University of Technology Sydney*
2:50pm – 3:30pm	When foundations shift…? Developing an alternate student load forecasting model using cohort flow curves **Ms Renee Lu & Mr Kevin Hart** *University of New South Wales*	From student voice to action: Transforming course feedback through standardisation and AI-supported analysis **Chilwin Soh** *RMIT University*
3:30pm – 4:00pm	**Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition**	
	Quick Round Presentations	
4:00pm – 4:15pm	From fragmented assurance to an informed institution: Building a qualification lifecycle process through evidence, insight and collaboration **Mrs Jean Jacoby & Ms Fiona Coote** *Massey University*	What are students really rating? Bringing evidence to survey interpretation at scale **Mrs Maaike Bendall** *Massey University*
4:20pm – 4:35pm	Back to the classroom: When students build a student load forecast **Mr Kevin Hart** *University of New South Wales*	From comments to insight: Using GenAI to analyse student voice at scale **Ms Sian Wright** Monash University
4:40pm – 4:55pm	It's not about ability: Exploring confidence to engage among first-in-family learners **Dr Stuart Terry** *Otago Polytechnic*	Simplifying surveys, strengthening student voice **Ms Zaneta Park** *Massey University*
5:00pm – 5:15pm	Rethinking institutional BI around the semantic model **Miss Lillian Wen** *University of Tasmania*	After reaching the top of the ivory tower: Academic socialization of first-generation college students in Chinese doctoral education **Mr Xin Xie** *Renmin University of China*
6.30pm – 9.30pm	**Forum Dinner @ Officer's Mess** *Return coach transfer Massey University / selected accommodation venues*	

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PROGRAM

Day 3 | Friday 27th November 2026

Friday 27th November			
	Plenary Sessions		*SNW200*
8:30am – 8:45 am	**Welcome to Day 3**		
8:45am – 9:30am	**Keynote Speaker Presentation:** *A Lifetime of Practical Data Analysis* Emeritus Professor Tim Maloney, Auckland University of Technology		
9:30am – 10:15am	**Panel Session:** *Good systems, changing expectations: What Higher Education can learn from global practice* *Panellists to be announced*		
10.15am – 10:45am	**Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition**		
	Concurrent Sessions	***Concurrent Sessions***	***Concurrent Sessions***
10:45am – 11:25am	[*Workshop*] Taming the TCSI extract: Building curated data assets for institutional planning and analysis **Ms Gabrielle Harrison** *University of Melbourne*	Assuring learning in the age of AI: Making the ownership inference explicit in assessment **Dr Anh Vu T. P.** *Hong Bang International University*	From data to action: Using student experience survey insights to strengthen students' experiences **Dr Qian (Jessie) Jin & Ms Anaelle Medioni** *University of New South Wales*
11:30am – 12:10pm	Inside insights and simulations: Creating an internal UAC simulation tool for managing domestic Commonwealth-supported enrolments **Ms Renee Lu** *University of New South Wales*	The art of favours – Navigating university politics with the IR sledgehammer **Mr Rintaro Ohno** *Tohoku University*	Navigating eVALUate at Deakin: A journey to improving student feedback response rates **Elizabeth Campbell** *Deakin University*
12:15pm – 12:55pm	Building the informed institution: Massey University's data-enabled student support journey **Dr Khalid Bakhshov & Mr Jamie Hooper** *Massey University*	Beyond the league tables: Using rankings intelligence to inform strategic planning and decision-making **Ms Lin Jiang** *University of Technology Sydney*	Beyond the dashboard: Turning response rate data into coordinated action **Ms Lifen Sudirjo** *RMIT University*
12:55pm – 1:40pm	**Lunch**		

Friday 27th November

	Concurrent Sessions	*Concurrent Sessions*
1:40pm – 2:20pm	Early academic risk detection for student success **Mr Colin Smithies & Dr Evelize Culpi Mann** *Victoria University of Wellington*	Augmentation or substitution? How generative AI and supervisory guidance jointly shape doctoral students' research competence development **Dr Fen Cai** *University of Science and Technology Beijing*
2:25pm – 3:05pm	From lag indicators to early signals: Using student data to inform and validate institutional action **Mr Majedul Huq** *RMIT University*	From student voice to student success: Using SES and student services data to understand and reduce equity gaps **Heidi Wilkinson & Lisa Bolton** *University of the Sunshine Coast*
3:05pm – 3:30pm	**Forum Wrap-Up and Presentation of Awards**	*SNW200*