2025 Conference Program - *Higher Education in the Age of AI*

Wednesday 2nd April, 9.00 – 5.30pm State Library of Victoria, hosted by La Trobe University

8.30 am	Arrival and registrations
9.00-9.15 Welcome	**Session 1 - Welcome, acknowledgements and outline of day**: Martin Betts, CEO and Co-founder of HEDx Professor Theo Farrell, Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University
Strategies and Leadership for Higher Education in the Age of AI	
9.15-9.45 Global best practice fireside chat	**Session 2 – What is an AI-first university starting to look like globally?** Paul LeBlanc of Human Systems - by live cross Interviewed by Professor Theo Farrell Vice-Chancellor and Dr Susan Zhang, Vice-Chancellor's Fellow of La Trobe University
9.45-10.30 Tertiary Providers Leadership Panel	**Session 3 - How will AI impact Australian tertiary education?** led by John Dewar, Partner, KordaMentha with Professor Pascale Quester, Vice-Chancellor, Swinburne University of Technology Professor Andrew Parfitt, Vice-Chancellor, University of Technology Sydney Dan Cockerell, CEO of Torrens University Australia Professor Jessica Vanderlelie, DVC Academic, Deakin University
10.30-10.45	**Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Mathews and Professor Marcia Devlin**
10.45 am	Morning tea
The skills challenge: AI and the future workforce	
11.15-11.45 Business Fireside Chat	**Session 4 – What can tertiary education learn from how industry is reskilling for AI?** led by Patrick Kidd, CEO, Future Skills Organisation with Melinda Cilento, CEO CEDA
11.45 – 12.35 Future Skills Panel	**Session 5 – How can a harmonised tertiary education sector work together with employers to deliver future skills needs?** led by Patrick Kidd, CEO, Future Skills Organisation with Megan Lilly, Deputy Commissioner, Jobs and Skills Australia Yasminka Nemet, Future Skills Lead of Microsoft Sally Curtain CEO, Bendigo Kangan Institute Colin Gniel, Transformation Executive, LinkedIn
12.35-12.50	**Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Mathews and Professor Marcia Devlin**
12.50 pm	Lunch

How do we better support students to thrive and succeed in an AI age?	
1.40 - 2.10 Students Fireside Chat	**Session 6 – What does best-practice student support look like**? Dr Tim Renick, Director, National Institute of Student Success, Georgia State University and Professor George Williams Vice-Chancellor of Western Sydney University with Veronica Pritchard, University of Queensland
2.10 - 2.55 Student Support Panel	**Session 7 – How can AI and data improve our future student support?** led by Sue Kokonis, Chief Academic Advisor, OES with: Charlsey Pearce, CEO of MortarCAPS Data Standard, Sarah Bendall First Assistant Ombudsman, National Student Ombudsman Associate Professor Gemma Cadby, Data Program DIrector, ACSES Will Stubley, CEO, Year13
2.55-3.10	**Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Mathews and Professor Marcia Devlin**
3.10-3.20	**Session 8 - Riding the tiger of AI feedback: an AIinHE project update reporting on 7,000 students comparing teacher and AI feedback.** Professor Margaret Bearman, CRADLE, Deakin University Professor Michael Henderson, HEDI, Monash University
3.20 pm	Afternoon tea
How can the sector transform using AI?	
3.45-4.15 CIO Fireside Chat	**Session 9 - Driving AI transformation in HE: lessons from the US** Manuela Franceschini, Adobe Pedagogical Evangelist in conversation with Lev Gonick, CIO, Arizona State University and Shainal Kavar, CIO, La Trobe University
4.15-5.00 AI Futures Panel	**Session 10 - What are the priorities for Australian tertiary providers seeking to embrace AI?** led by Sam Jacob, CEO of Collarts (Australian College of the Arts) with Professor Danny Liu, University of Sydney Professor Phil Laufenberg, Head of AI at Macquarie University Dr Susan Zhang, Vice-Chancellors Fellow, La Trobe University Professor Jason Lodge, The University of Queensland
5.00-5.15	**Q&A with slido, Professor Kelly Mathews and Professor Marcia Devlin**
5.15 – 5.30	What's next and closing call for action - Martin Betts and Professor Kris Ryan, DVC Academic, The University of Queensland Words of thanks from networking sponsor Manuela Franceschini, Adobe
5.30 – 6.15	Closing reception and networking