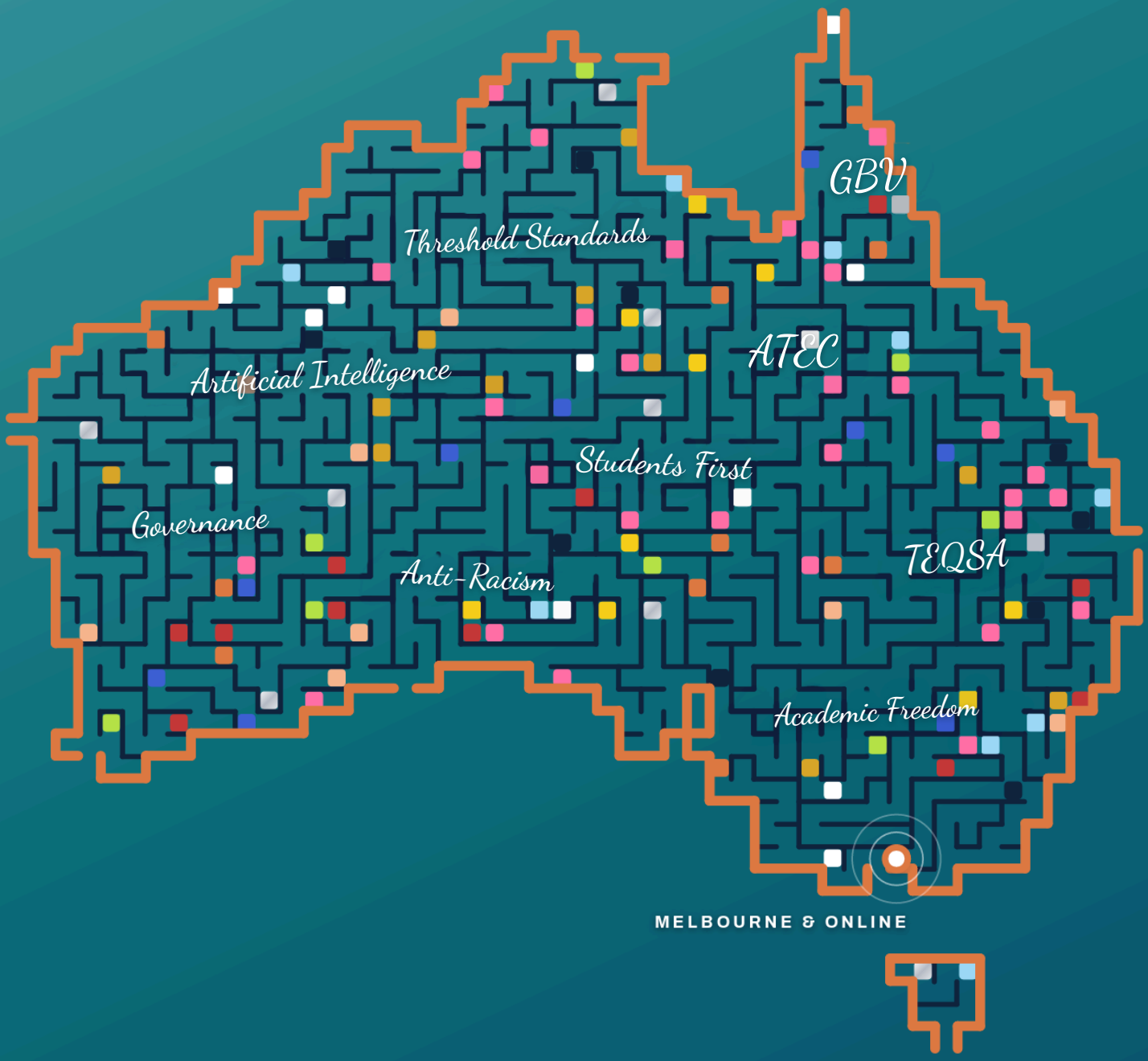
HEPQN
HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDER QUALITY NETWORK
SINCE 2015

23RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE
25–26 November 2026
Melbourne & online



HEPQN NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

Reform and Renewal

WHEN
Wed 25 – Thu 26
November 2026

WHERE
Monash Conference Centre
Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC

JOIN
In person
or online

MANY WAYS IN · ONE NETWORK

HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDER QUALITY NETWORK

Welcome

From the Founder and Convenor



Welcome to the 23rd National Conference of the Higher Education Provider Quality Network where we celebrate the theme of *reform and renewal*. In his address to Universities Australia, the Honourable **Jason Clare MP**, Minister for Education, set the goal for reform and renewal as a vision to build *"... something that is bigger, and better, and fairer than we have today."* (Address to the Universities Australia Gala Dinner, Canberra, 2026)

This conference is an opportunity to interface purposefully with that vision, renewing our sector's **continuing commitment to quality and integrity**. Over the next two days, we will consider how we can reposition ourselves across the HESF to **assure learning**, both in the interests of our students and in service of the public good. We will also consider how **governance** must be reframed in light of the 2026 HESF amendments as we confront **unprecedented challenges** in higher education, not least due to the rise of artificial intelligence. As educators, we are built for renewal, reform and transformation and it is with courage and pride that we put our shoulders to this cause.

We are delighted to welcome distinguished leaders who are spearheading reform and renewal through **ATEC, TEQSA and the Higher Education Gender-Based Violence Regulator**, alongside a range of sector experts.

Throughout, we **will keep students at the centre of our focus**. We welcome all speakers, panellists, students, members and guests. We encourage you to take part in the panels, breakout groups and open forum. **The strength of this network has always been the collegiality and generosity of its members.**

Thank you for joining us, in Melbourne and online.

Kind regards,

Jane

Professor Jane Fernandez
Founder and Convenor, HEPQN
Provost, Excelsia University College

VOICES ON REFORM



Professor Barney Glover AO
Chief Commissioner, ATEC

"For me, renewal is about building a more connected, responsive and learner-centred tertiary education system, with an increasingly diverse group of innovative higher education providers."



Professor Kerri-Lee Krause
Chief Commissioner, TEQSA

"Learner-centred, change-capable leadership is key to success in the midst of reform."

Day One Program

Wednesday 25 November 2026

MORNING	SESSION
9:00 – 9:30 am	**Acknowledgement of Country** Mr Peter McKeon CEO, Excelsia University College
9:30 – 10:00 am	**Opening Address: Reform and Renewal** Professor Jane Fernandez Founder and Convenor, HEPQN
10:00 – 11:00 am	**Keynote: ATEC – teaching, learning, and other current and future priorities** Professor Barney Glover AO Chief Commissioner, ATEC
11:00 – 11:20 am	*Morning coffee break*
11:20 am – 12:20 pm	**Keynote: What factors best prepare providers to engage successfully with reform** Professor Kerri-Lee Krause Chief Commissioner, TEQSA
12:20 – 1:00 pm	**Impact of Regulatory Change: A VC's Perspective** Professor Malcolm Coulson Vice-Chancellor, Avondale University
1:00 – 1:30 pm	*Lunch*

AFTERNOON	SESSION
1:30 – 2:15 pm	**A Year of Reform 2026** Dr Paula Kelly MinterEllison
2:15 – 3:00 pm	**Panel Discussion: Assurance of Learning Publication** Dr Heather Butcher and editors
3:00 – 3:30 pm	**AI Survey and Insights** HEPQN Steering Group Panel – Interactive Session
3:30 – 4:00 pm	*Afternoon tea*
4:00 – 4:30 pm	**Breakout Groups: Reform – The Lived Experience** Sharing what reform has meant in practice for staff, students and institutions
4:30 – 5:00 pm	**Student Panel: Student Voice and Reform in Higher Education** Moderator: Associate Professor Daniel Johnston
5:00 – 5:30 pm	**Participants' Open Forum** Institutions
6:00 pm	**Informal Dinner**

Day Two Program

Thursday 26 November 2026

MORNING	SESSION
9:30 – 10:00 am	**HEPQN GBV Institutional Readiness Report** Professor Jane Fernandez Founder and Convenor, HEPQN
10:00 – 11:00 am	**Keynote: GBV Regulation** Ms Michelle Clark Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Gender-Based Violence Regulator
11:00 – 11:20 am	*Morning tea*
11:20 am – 12:00 pm	**Views of Self-Assurance** Professor John Loxton & Emeritus Professor Geoff Scott Convenor, Chairs of Academic Boards Forum
12:00 – 1:00 pm	**Regulation and Reform** Ms Jen Bahen Executive Director, Regulatory Operations, TEQSA
1:00 – 1:40 pm	*Lunch*

AFTERNOON	SESSION
1:40 – 2:40 pm	**Governance in a Time of Change** Professor Hilary Winchester and Josh Pienaar Chairs of Academic Boards Forum
2:40 – 3:40 pm	**Panel: AI, Integrity and Renewal** Associate Professor Andrew Levula, Associate Professor Harold Culala, Ms Geethani Nair, Immanuel Vyas Moderator: Professor Jane Fernandez **Launch: *Collegia*, HEPQN's Open Access Journal**
3:40 – 4:00 pm	*Stop and stretch*
4:00 – 4:20 pm	**Visa Regulations 2026** Mitch Tanner Head of Advocacy, IHEA
4:20 – 5:00 pm	**The Reform Agenda and Institutional Workplans** Breakout groups
5:00 pm	**Conference Close**

National Steering Group

Higher Education Provider Quality Network



Professor Jane Fernandez
Founder and Convenor, HEPQN
Chair, HEPQN Steering Group
Provost, Excelsia University College



Dr Andy West
Course Director – Digital Marketing, UTS Business School



Ms Tess Coughlan
Quality and Accreditation Manager, Australian Institute of Business



Associate Professor Daniel Johnston
Vice-Provost Academic, Excelsia University College



Associate Professor Harold Culala
Director of Learning and Teaching



Emeritus Professor Geoff Scott
Emeritus Professor of Higher Education and Sustainability, Western Sydney University



Professor Albert Haddad
Professor of Higher Education, University of Divinity



Associate Professor Carolyn Rickett
Dean, Learning and Teaching, Avondale University

Thank you

to all our speakers, presenters, facilitators, members and guests.