



# Student Anxiety Summit

## Friday 27 February 2026

### AGENDA

**8.30am: Arrival and sign in.**

**9.00am: Ms Jocelyn Brewer, psychologist and MC for the day.**

**9.10am: Professor Patrick McGorry AO. Professor of psychiatry at The University of Melbourne.** The ever-rising tide of mental ill-health in children and teenagers in Australia. How we can forestall the emergence of serious psychiatric disorders leading into adolescence in the years to come by acting now.

**9.45am: Ms Angela Falkenberg, National President of the Australian Primary Principals' Association.** Beyond the politics of student wellbeing initiatives in Australian schools. Navigating tensions in advocating for children to have what they need to be, learn and live well.'

**10.15am: Mr Tim Lloyd, Australia's Most Influential Educator (2025) and Principal at Plumpton High School.** Fostering 'models of care' for student wellbeing within schools, which involves all the stakeholders in the school community: parents, well-being professionals, medical professionals and teachers working together, to foster resilient teenagers.

**10.50am: MORNING TEA.**

**11.20am: Ms Michelle Neverson-Smith, Principal and Ms Meegan Thryd, Implementation Coach at Cudgegong Valley Primary School.** A case study from a regional primary school undertaking The Anxiety Project, after one year.

**11.50am: Ms Kath Spillane, Acting Principal at Normanhurst Boys' High School. Current RIOT Boss Champion.** A case study from an urban high school undertaking the Resilience In Our Teens (RIOT) project after two years.

**12.20pm: POM POM Crew – Dance group.**

**12:30pm: LUNCH.**

**1.00pm: Panel Discussion on what Australia can do now to manage student anxiety to decrease the diagnoses of child and teen anxiety disorders by 25% by 2030:** Professor McGorry and Ms Angela Falkenberg and selected educators.

**1.30pm: Discussion by the Summit's participants around the day's three questions:**

1. *What has driven the sharp rise in student anxiety seen across Australian schools over the past two decades?*
2. *What barriers are currently preventing children with problematic anxiety from receiving effective support?*
3. *If you were 'Premier for a Day', what three actions would you take immediately to stem the tide of anxiety in children?*

**The end goal for the day: collation and writing-up of 7 recommendations arising from this Student Anxiety Summit** to be sent to the Australian states' and territories' education ministers – Mr Rob Walker, Principal at Evans River K-12 Community School and Ms Trish Peters, principal at Kincumber Primary School.

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