

# CISWA 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Program

## *“Nurturing a Sense of Belonging”*

**Friday 1 November 2024**

**Boola Katitjin Building 360.4.003, Murdoch University**



### **Morning sessions**

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| 08:30-8:55   | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 09:00-9:05   | <b>Welcome from CISWA – Celia Cornwell</b> , President  |
| 09:05-9:20   | <b>Open Conference – Hon David Templeman</b> , Minister for International Education   |
| 09:20- 10:00 | <b>Keynote Speaker – Nilesh Makwana</b><br>Nilesh will speak about his experience as an international student in Australia and connectedness to community and identifying some actions that institutions/community organisations could take to assist integration of international students.  |
| 10:00-10:20  | <b>Australian International Education Update</b><br><b>Phil Honeywood</b> CEO IEAA (via video) An overview of Australia’s international education environment.  |
| 10:20-10:45  | <b>Morning tea</b> – Networking opportunity   |
| 10:45-11:15  | <b>WA International Education Update</b><br><b>Derryn Belford</b> , CEO StudyPerth<br>Derryn will provide an overview of the WA international student community, including long-term trends and shifts in country representation; and the activities of StudyPerth focused on integration/welcome to students and uptake of those activities.   |
| 11:15-12:00  | <b>Sense of Belonging among International Students: A Global Snapshot</b><br><b>Dr Siddier Chambers</b> , Social Researcher and Public Policy Specialist<br>Siddier will explore the ‘Sense of Belonging’ for international students across regions like Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, the UK, and the USA, based on available research. She will cover key factors that enhance belonging, barriers students face, and best practices for fostering inclusion and support. |

12:00-13:00

**Networking opportunity & Lunch**

## **Afternoon sessions**

13:00-13:45

**Schools Sector** – Fostering Inclusion

Como Secondary College and Fremantle College will be presenting a session outlining the uniquely Western Australian High School experience provided for International Students.

**Fremantle College:** Myles Draper, Principal & Erin Baker, Associate Principal International Education

**Como Secondary College:** Leslie Carruthers, Principal

13:45-14:30

**Student Support** - Good Practice Strategies

Michelle Marr (UWA), Sarah Emmerson (NMTAFE), Alan McAlpine (Curtin University), Carolina Silva (Kaplan Business School)

14:30-14:45

**Afternoon Tea** – short refreshment break

14:45-15:45

**Belonging Beyond Borders: Exploring International Students' Journeys in WA Higher Education Institutions**

**Dr Linda Yang** – Managing Director, Intercultural Development Institute (ICDI)

**Student Panel:** Tshering Gyeltshen (MU), Juliana de Paula & Ivan Tarakanov (NMTAFE), Sarah Rizwan (ECU), Monica Himor (Notre Dame), Diya Makwana (St George's Anglican Grammar)

15:45-16:00

**Closing Comments**

16:00-17:00

**Drinks on the deck** - wind down and catch up on the deck outside the conference room

## Speaker profiles – CISWA Annual Conference 2024

### **Celia Cornwell**

**President, CISWA and Principal, Osprey Professional Consulting**



#### **Conference Host**

Celia has 30-plus years of experience in international relations in business, government, and higher education, and is a fluent speaker of Standard (Mandarin) Chinese. Celia's contribution to the CISWA executive team is based on her experience in the development of international higher education opportunities and partnerships for the private, government and university sectors.

With many years of experience in the international Higher Education sectors in Australia and overseas, Celia is keen to share her passion, knowledge and experience with others and believes CISWA is a way she can contribute to the continued development of highly skilled professionals in the international education sector.

### **Hon David Templeman MLA Minister for International Education**



#### **Opening the conference**

David was born in Northam, Western Australia, and has a strong connection to local communities. He served on the City of Mandurah Council for seven years, including four as Deputy Mayor. Elected to State Parliament in 2001, he has held numerous ministerial roles, including Minister for Child Protection, Environment, Local Government, and Culture and the Arts. Since 2021 he has been Minister for Culture and the Arts, Sport and Recreation, International Education, and Heritage. Passionate about arts, community development, and youth, David continues to support local initiatives, including a Performing Arts Fellowship for young people in the Peel Region.

## **Nilesh Makwana**



## **Keynote Speaker**

Nilesh Makwana is a global and national award-winning entrepreneur, CEO of Illuminance Solutions, a Microsoft Tech for Social Impact partner company, and best-selling author. Nilesh strives to foster positive change through empowering individuals and organisations to embrace diversity and inclusion, practice Servant Leadership & Karmic Management, and become active citizens. He previously held the position of ICC T20 World Cup Champion. He is a frequent media commentator in local, state and national publication.

## **Hon. Phil Honeywood**



## **CEO International Education Association of Australia**

Phil has been IEAA's Chief Executive Officer since November 2011. Previously, he was a Member of the Victorian State Parliament (1988–2006), Minister for Tertiary Education, Training and Multicultural Affairs (1996–1999) and Deputy Leader of the Opposition (2002–2006). Since retiring from politics, Phil worked at Stott's Business College and Cambridge International College. Phil is the Convener of the National Council for International Education, Chairman of the Roundtable of International Education Peak Body CEOs and a member of the Tuition Protection Service Board. He also sits on the New South Wales, Queensland and StudyPerth International Education Advisory Boards. Phil is a Board member of the Bennelong Philanthropic Foundation and the Bangarra Group Board.

## **Derryn Belford**



### **Chief Executive Officer, StudyPerth**

Derryn is the Chief Executive Officer of StudyPerth, the destination marketing organisation for Western Australia's international education sector. Since joining in February 2022, she has focused on raising Perth's global profile as a study destination and connecting international students with educational, cultural, and work opportunities. Before StudyPerth, Derryn spent 13 years at Tourism Western Australia, where she led the development of quality hotels, the cruise industry, and Aboriginal tourism. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from UWA, an MBA from Edith Cowan University, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## **Dr Siddier Chambers**



### **Social Researcher and Public Policy Specialist**

Dr Siddier Chambers, an Australian Development Scholarship Recipient, is a social researcher and public policy expert specializing in gender equality, community development, and rural and regional issues. With over 15 years of experience, she has worked in Australia, Egypt, the Caribbean, and Jamaica. As a public servant in Jamaica, she contributed to policies like the National Strategic Action Plan to eliminate Gender-Based Violence. She earned her PhD in Public Policy from Curtin University, focusing on rural women's development. Currently, she is a principal advisor in Western Australia and volunteers with several community organizations, including the Perth Caribbean Association.

## **Schools Sector Session**

## **Fostering Inclusion**

## **Student Support Panel Session**

## **Good Practice Strategies**

**Student Panel Chair  
Dr Linda Yang**



**Managing Director of the Intercultural  
Development Institute (ICDI)**

Linda, Managing Director of the Intercultural Development Institute (ICDI), has over 25 years of experience working in China, the U.K., Ireland, and Australia. She delivers intercultural consultancy and training to diverse groups from higher education and business sectors, with participants from over 100 nationalities. With a PhD in intercultural studies, Linda is known for her dynamic, research-led, and engaging approach. She specializes in intercultural communication, multicultural teams, emotional intelligence, and conflict resolution. Linda is also an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at Murdoch University and Lecturer at Kaplan Business School, Perth, enhancing performance across disciplines and cultures.