

## FORUM: Where now for public schooling in Australia?

### Speaker Profiles



#### **Professor Verity Firth AM**

As Vice President, Societal Impact, Equity and Engagement, UNSW, Verity is a strong advocate for student equity and public education and leads the Societal Impact framework development for UNSW, the Universities strategy development, and plays a leading role in influencing and shaping Australia's Higher Education policy agenda.



#### **Dean Ashenden**

Dean has been a consultant/adviser to education agencies in all states/territories and at the national level. As an education historian and writer, he has contributed to mainstream print outlets and to social/political affairs, academic, and professional journals. His most recent book is *Unbeaching the Whale: Can Australia's schooling be reformed?* He was a co-founder, co-compiler and co-publisher of the *Good Universities Guides*, a co-author of the seminal *Making the Difference: Schools, Families and Social Division*, and author of the 2022 Australian Political Book of the Year *Telling Tennant's Story: The strange career of the great Australian silence*. He is a Senior Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne.



#### **Chris Bonnor AM**

Chris is a school education researcher and writer, co-author (with Tom Greenwell) of *Choice and Fairness: A Common Framework for All Australian Schools* and of *Waiting for Gonski: How Australia Failed Its Schools*. Chris is a former secondary school principal and was a previous head of the NSW Secondary Principals' Council. He has contributed to a range of publications and media, and has jointly authored papers on Australia's schools in association with the Centre for Policy Development and the Gonski Institute for Education.



#### **Viv White AM**

Viv White AM is co-founder and CEO of Big Picture Learning Australia (BPLA), a non-profit company established in Australia in 2006, whose innovative and internationally recognised design for personalised, learning is being implemented in over 50 secondary schools around Australia. Viv has also pioneered a new non-ATAR credential known as the *International Big Picture Learning Credential (IBPLC)* that is warranted by the University of Melbourne, and accepted by 17 universities around Australia.