Call for proposals – Power of TAFE

Introduction

TDA Convention 2026 will take place in Brisbane at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from the 5-7 May 2026. It will explore the theme Power of TAFE celebrating the strength, innovation and impact of TAFE in Australia's education and training landscape.

With the theme Power of TAFE in mind, the program is designed to inspire and inform. It will offer opportunities to share knowledge and experience to ensure that TAFE remains a powerful force that nurtures talent, empowers individuals, supports industry and drives economic growth.

Power of TAFE is also about the essence of TAFE – what makes it great, the purpose it serves for communities, regions and industry, its commitment to access and equity, and its role in supporting and empowering students to bridge the gap between opportunity and aspiration.

Key dates

Submissions Open	**1 July 2025** via online submission portal
Deadline for Submission	**5PM (AEDT) 30 September 2025**
Notification of Submission Outcome	**5PM (AEDT) 14 November 2025**
Presenter Registration Deadline.	**5PM (AEDT) 28 February 2026** *Presenters who have not registered by this date may be withdrawn from the program.*

Session Streams

TDA invites proposals that will contribute to the thought-provoking program through presentations and interactive workshops, aligned to the theme: **Power of TAFE**. We welcome proposals which highlight different perspectives including students, staff, employers, industry, community, stakeholders and government. We also welcome proposals which highlight solutions and cutting-edge practices, which challenge the status quo and which demonstrate TAFE organisations as educational entities at the heart of skills and tertiary education now and into the future.

We encourage submissions from non-TAFE applicants which show how you are working with TAFE to drive outcomes.

Proposals must align to the overarching theme of **Power of TAFE** in **ONE** of the following streams:

1. Power of TAFE

- We invite submissions that showcase how TAFE advocates for our sector, students, and communities—through branding, engagement, and storytelling.
- Share your strategies, partnerships, or campaigns that elevate TAFE's reputation and impact.

2. Power of our People

Suggested topics may include (for example):

- TAFE workforce recruitment, selection, retention, development, wellbeing and/or leadership.
- Strategies to increase First Nations representation in the TAFE workforce, including recruitment, retention and development.
- Case studies relating to innovative and/or transformational change management projects which have impacted positively on organisational culture.

3. Power of TAFE Partnerships

Suggested topics may relate to (for example):

- Innovative approaches to supporting and managing apprenticeships.
- Productive approaches to partnering involving TAFEs and Jobs and Skills Councils, which lead to innovation and/or beneficial outcomes for stakeholders.
- Partnerships which benefit students, TAFE and industry.
- Community partnerships, including with First Nations communities and organisations that create change or the opportunity for intergenerational benefits.

4. Global Power of TAFE

- We invite proposals that focus on innovation and/or best practice in international and transnational TAFE education.

5. Powering TAFE Student Success

Proposals in this stream may relate to:

- Improving student outcomes and employability.
- Unique approaches to improve student experience.
- Brave and bold approaches which remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion.
- Innovation in inclusive learning design.

6. Power of TAFE Teaching Quality and Innovation

Proposals may address (for example):

- Innovative approaches to improve the quality of TAFE teaching practice.
- The use of digital technology to enhance teaching practice and learning outcomes.
- Topics relating to Generative AI, including addressing and managing opportunities and issues (such as academic integrity, for example).
- Incorporating First Nations learning methodologies and de-colonising the enacted curriculum.
- Innovation in curriculum development, including self-accreditation pilots.

7. Power of TAFE Research and Innovation

Proposals in this stream should focus on (for example):

- Programs, practices and initiatives which enable, embed and support the capability of research skills in TAFE.
- Research and innovation in relation to the establishment of higher-level pathways, including vocational degrees.

8. Power of TAFE Centres of Excellence

- Proposals in this stream should be related to activities, outcomes, and innovations arising from TAFE Centres of Excellence.

Submission requirements

Proposal Information

Title

20 words maximum and should be in sentence case.

Presentation type

You will need to identify the format for your proposal. There are TWO formats from which you can choose. Please select one format choice from the dropdown list.

Format 1: Presentation (20 minutes)

Two speakers maximum can present (preferably one). Presenters will be grouped with similar presentation proposal themes in a breakout session.

Format 2: Workshop (40 minutes)

One speaker plus one co-speaker/facilitator maximum per workshop. If you choose a workshop format your session should be interactive with attendees.

Session Theme

Please select ONE session theme from the dropdown list. If your proposal is applicable to multiple themes, please select your first preference or the most appropriate theme. If you would like to submit more than one proposal, you will need to create a new submission for each proposal.

Proposal text – maximum of 300 words (spaces are not part of this word count). The proposal should have a clear focus, succinctly outline your topic, and relate to the proposed theme.

- Proposals should provide enough information on the suggested topic, research piece, case study or best practice example to communicate the relevance to the theme and TAFE. Proposals should also demonstrate how the presenter has the relevant background to present on the topic.

- Proposals should state what the learning outcomes for the audience are, or what the audience can expect to take away from your presentation or workshop.

- Standard abbreviations and acronyms may be used for common terms only, including common terms in the Australian education system. Otherwise, any abbreviation or acronym should be given in brackets after the first full use of the word. Abbreviations and acronyms may be used in the title, provided the name in full is outlined in the body of the proposal.

- A limited number of graphics can be included in your proposal.

Presenter Information

- One individual can submit multiple proposals.

- Presenters will likely only be included in the program once, so please keep that in mind when deciding how many proposals to submit.

- The presenter must be entered as Author 1.

- The presenter must supply a valid email to be accepted.

- You will need to provide name, position and organisation (shown as affiliation in the submission site) for each author.

- You can include up to two (2) presenters.

Important information for TDA members only

If you are an employee of a TAFE or dual sector university (i.e. **TDA members**) please *ensure you have the support of a senior leader* who endorses your proposal.

You must also *notify your Group Manager* who administers the **SUPER Early Bird registration** list for your organisation, as the **SUPER Early Bird** offer (for TDA member organisations only) closes on **31 October 2025**. Group Manager details are available on the **TDA Convention 2026 website.**

Review of proposals

The TDA Convention 2026 Advisory Committee will shortlist proposals. The Program Convenor (TDA) will review all shortlisted proposals in consultation with the Advisory Committee. Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the overarching convention theme – ***Power of TAFE.***
- The extent to which the proposal showcases innovative, new, contemporary and/or unprofiled work or business practice.
- The extent to which the proposal contributes to the body of knowledge in the specific area or convention theme.
- Fair distribution of state and territory proposals along with industry, government or other stakeholder led proposals.
- To be considered, submissions must be received by **5PM (AEDT) 30 September 2025**.

Notification of Outcome

- You will be notified of the outcome by **5PM (AEDT) 14 November 2025**.
- Specific instructions relating to your presentation at **TDA Convention 2026** will be included in the notification email.
- All correspondence will be emailed to the address entered by you at the time of submission. Should you have co-presenters also attending the convention, please ensure you pass relevant correspondence on to them.

Important: Presenter Registration TDA Convention 2026

- To confirm your acceptance to present at the **TDA Convention 2026**, **you MUST register by the presenter registration deadline of 5PM (AEDT) 28 February 2026.** If you are not registered by this date, your proposal and presentation may be withdrawn.
- **TDA Members:** If you are a member of a TAFE or dual sector university (i.e. TDA members) you must then contact your organisation's **Group Manager** who can ensure that you are registered through your organisation's **SUPER Early Bird registration** list.
- **Non-TDA Members:** All non-TDA member presenters (within the number limits specified above) who register by the due date will receive the **presenter registration rate** (equivalent to the **early bird member rate**).

How to submit a proposal

Before you start

- Ensure you use one of the following browsers: **INTERNET EXPLORER** (v11 or newer) **MOZILLA FIREFOX** (v44 or newer) **SAFARI** (v5 or newer).

- **Mac Users:** if you have trouble submitting your abstract, try submitting from a PC. If you are still having issues, please contact lianna-danielle.r@asnevents.net.au

- **Mozilla Users:** the security policy in Mozilla often prevents pasting from your clipboard without using the menu commands. You can still cut and paste your abstract into the submission, but you may have to use the menu command rather than the 'control v' shortcut.

- Ensure your abstract text is **less than 300 words** as the system will not accept submissions over this limit. The word count does NOT include your title, authoring or cited references.

- Have your abstract open on your own computer to enable you to cut and paste it into the submission system.

Submission steps

1. Click on the **submission link**.

2. Select the presentation type and theme. Please select only **ONE theme** and **ONE presentation type** per submission.

3. Provide some keywords to assist in categorisation of your abstract.

4. Enter the title of your abstract. Please type the title in sentence case (that is lowercase with only the first letter or the first word in capitals) and without any punctuation. A correctly formatted example: **Title of my presentation for the conference.**

5. Enter the name of author/s and organisation/s and indicate the presenting author by ticking the relevant box.

6. Type or cut and paste the text of your abstract/synopsis into the relevant field. Please ensure the abstract is no more than 300 words (not including title, authoring or cited references).

7. Preview your abstract, make any changes required, finalise your submission and return to your dashboard.

8. You will receive email confirmation that your abstract has been successfully submitted. **Please check your email junk file** in case it has been captured there.

9. Should you wish to make any changes to your abstract after you have submitted it, please log onto your online registration dashboard. Click on the "View Submission" then "Preview/edit abstract". Please note you will only be able to make changes to your abstract until the submission deadline.

Contact Details

For queries relating to the submission process, please contact the TDA Convention 2026 Event Managers on the details below.

Phone: 03 8658 9530 (Head Office)

Email: TDA2026@asnevents.net.au

Website: https://www.tdaconvention.com.au/

For **queries relating to your topic or proposal idea** please contact:
memberservices@tda.edu.au.