

From Wisdom to Ways: Enhancing Student Well-Being - Speakers Biographies



Eddie Woo

Head Teacher Mathematics Cherrybrook Technology High School and 2018 Australian Local Hero Award recipient

Mr Eddie Woo is the head mathematics teacher at Cherrybrook Technology High School, the largest secondary school in NSW, and is known for his innovation and dynamism in the classroom. In 2012, Mr Woo started posting videos online for a student who was sick with cancer and missing a lot of school. Before long, his videos found an audience across the country and beyond. [Wootube](#) now boasts more than 250,000 subscribers and has attracted more than fifteen million views worldwide – and counting. Mr Woo’s unique and caring approach to teaching is breaking the misconception that mathematics is an inaccessible and difficult subject.

Outside his high school classroom, Mr Woo is a proud father of three and a volunteer facilitator with the [University of Sydney’s Widening Participation and Outreach program](#), where he has personally guided and motivated more than 1,400 students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Mr Woo was the winner of the 2015 Premier’s Prize for Innovation in Science and Mathematics in NSW; the [2016 ChooseMATHS Teacher Excellence Award](#); the [2017 Sydney University Alumni Award: Outstanding Achievements for Young Alumni](#); [2017 Commonwealth Bank Teaching Fellowship](#); [2018 NSW Australia’s Local Hero](#); and a top 10 finalist in the [2018 Global Teacher Prize](#).

Mr Woo is well known across Australia as an advocate for teachers and the importance of teaching. He has written for, and been featured in, the specialist teaching press as well as in national and international media. He is currently writing a book on the beauty and usefulness of mathematics in layman’s terms.



Associate Professor Mathew A. White

Program Director, Master of Education, School of Education, Faculty of Arts, The University of Adelaide

Associate Professor Mathew A. White PhD is a researcher and lecturer in the School of Education at The University of Adelaide. He is also a Principal Fellow and Associate Professor in Melbourne Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne and an Affiliate of the Wellbeing Institute at Cambridge University. Mathew's interests include character education, leadership, wellbeing, and strategy. He has published three books on these issues: Evidence-based approaches to Positive Education: Implementing a Strategic Framework For Well-being in Schools, Future Directions in Wellbeing: Education, Organizations, and Policy published by Springer and Theology Encountering Positive Psychology published by Wipf and Stock. Before his appointment to the University of Adelaide, Mathew taught English and French in secondary schools for over 20 years and has significant executive leadership experience in schools. Mathew is an Australian representative for the International Positive Education Network (IPEN), twice elected Chair and Secretary of the South Australian Chapter of the Positive Education Schools Association (PESA-SA). He is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. In 2017 the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL), conferred two awards on Mathew; the ACEL National Leadership Award and the ACEL South Australian Leadership Medal.



Dr Victoria Rawlings

Academic Fellow, School of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

Victoria Rawlings is an Academic Fellow at the University of Sydney. Her research and teaching focuses on Education, with attention on the ways that gender and sexuality play a role in school environments including in moments of violence. She also focuses on the life worlds of young people and how these are impacted by schooling, gender and sexuality. Prior to her appointment at the University of Sydney, she was a Senior Research Associate at Lancaster University in the UK, researching the reasons why LGBTQ youth have higher rates of self-harm and suicidal feelings than heterosexual or cisgender youth.

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Dr Michelle Tye

*Research Fellow, Black Dog Institute,
University of New South Wales*

Michelle is a National Health and Medical Research Council early career fellow and the research Deputy Director of LifeSpan, Australia's largest suicide prevention trial. Her key research interests include suicide prevention, early prevention of mental health and related harms, and the use of digital technology in the prevention of mental illness. She leads a program of research which seeks to embed universal early prevention programs for mental health in the primary school system, and improve the reach of, and access to, prevention for at risk young people using web-based and smartphone platforms.

Dr Tye completed her PhD at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, in 2015. Prior to this, she spent 10 years working as a senior research officer on projects that examined harms related to drug dependence across the life course. Post-PhD, she worked as a Postdoctoral research fellow in the Centre for Research Excellence for Suicide Prevention developing a systems approach to suicide prevention.



Dr Aliza Werner-Seidler,

*Research Fellow & Clinical Psychologist,
Black Dog Institute*

Aliza Werner-Seidler is a New South Wales early career fellow and clinical psychologist. Her research interests include the prevention and treatment of depression and anxiety in young people, the use of e-health technology to improve the reach and uptake of psychological interventions, and the role of poor sleep in depression. She also leads a program of research which investigates ways to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based mental health programs within the school system.

Dr Werner-Seidler completed her Masters in Clinical Psychology and PhD at the School of Psychology, UNSW in 2012. She completed postdoctoral training as an Investigator Scientist at the Medical Research Council's Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the University of Cambridge (UK; 2012-2014), where she was involved in developing novel clinical interventions for depression.



Jeannette James,

*National Advisor- Service Development,
headspace in schools*

Jeannette James is the National Advisor- Service Development for headspace in schools with qualifications in education and mental health. She is currently working in collaboration with beyondblue and Early Childhood Australia on the new Mental Health National Education Initiative launching across Australia 1st November. Jeannette's interests include connection, belonging, leadership, character education and wellbeing. Jeannette has enjoyed 20 plus years as a Secondary Educator with further experience as a Partnership Broker as part of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions program.