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AAUT Director's Update

Dear AAUT community,

As we come to the close of another year, my thoughts are with members of the Jewish community and all those affected by the senseless act of violence in Bondi earlier this week. This is a deeply distressing time and a reminder of the vital role education plays in fostering inclusive, respectful, and safe communities.

Racism and discrimination of any kind have no place in Australia, and the higher education sector remains resolute in standing against antisemitism within our universities. As educators and leaders, we share a collective responsibility to model compassion, respect, and care for one another. It is this commitment that Universities Australia seeks to recognise through the Australian Awards for University Teaching—celebrating educators who inspire the next generation through engaging, inclusive, and respectful teaching practices.

Such recognition would not be possible without your ongoing support and engagement with the AAUT program. Your commitment continues to strengthen the reach, impact, and reputation of these prestigious awards.

This year, we introduced new specialised professional development sessions, received 126 nominations, and welcomed 128 past and new assessors alongside 19 Awards Committee members. We also recognised the invaluable contributions of our assessors through digital Credly badges. Each year, we strive to share best practice and build meaningful connections across the sector, and in 2025 we were pleased to continue the AAUT–UniSA Breakfast Series and deepen partnerships with HERDSA and IFNTF to support this work.

With the assessment phase now complete, recommendations will be submitted

to the Universities Australia (UA) Board for review and endorsement. The official results will be announced online on Tuesday, 24 February 2026, and the Awards Ceremony will take place at the UA Solutions Summit 2026. Further details will be shared in due course.

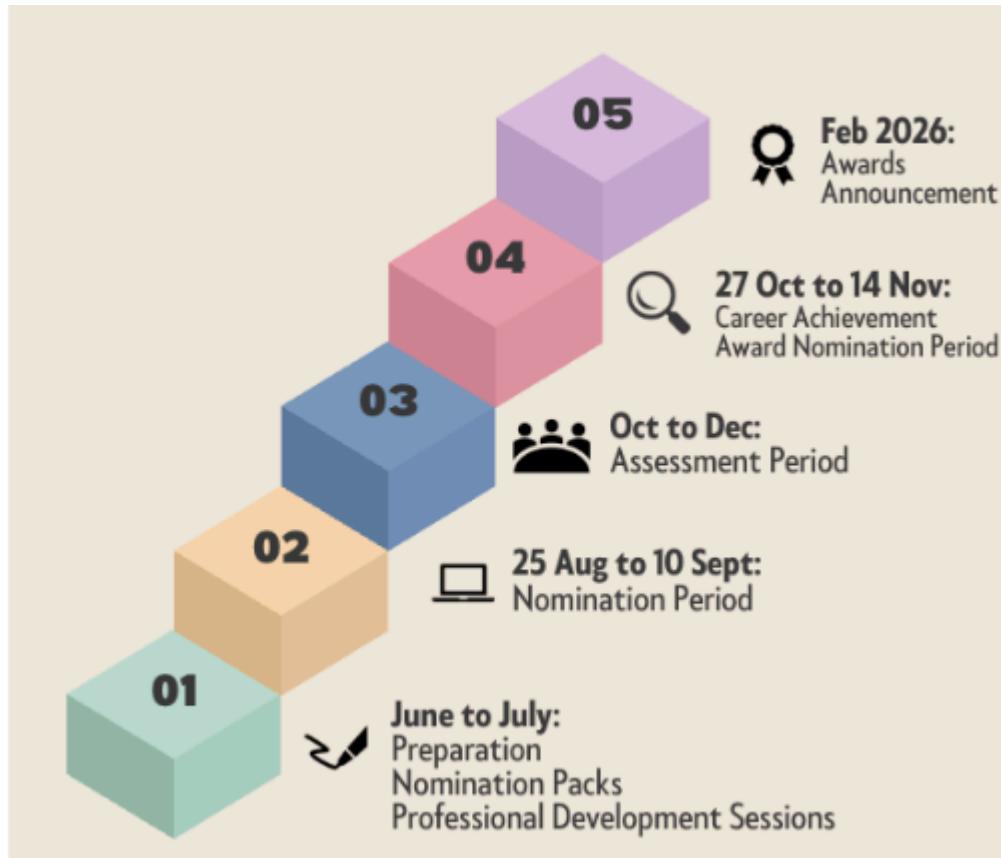
As the festive season approaches, I wish you a safe and restful break. Please take care of one another.

Please note that the AAUT Awards Team will be on leave from Thursday, 25 December, returning on Monday, 12 January 2026.



Best wishes,
Professor Angela Carbone
AAUT Director





WHAT'S NEW?

Acknowledgment of Awards Committees

We sincerely thank the 19 Awards Committee members, including both new and returning colleagues, for their diligent review and thoughtful recommendations for this year's award recipients. Your commitment plays a crucial role in recognising and advancing teaching excellence throughout Australia.

Citation Awards Committee



Prof Jessica Vandertelie
(Chair)
Deakin University



Prof Allie Clemans
Monash University



Prof Tania Broadley
Australian Catholic University



Prof Gregor Kennedy
The University of Melbourne



Prof Natalie Brown
University of Tasmania

Program Awards Committee



Prof Kylie Readman
(Chair)
University of Technology Sydney



Prof Graham Brown
Charles Sturt University



Prof Robina Xavier
Queensland University of Technology



Prof Mark Brimble
Griffith University



Prof Michelle Picard
Flinders University

Teaching Awards Committee



Emer Prof Nicolette Lee
(Chair)
La Trobe University



Prof Paul Brunton
Curtin University



Prof Don Klinger
Murdoch University



Prof Fiona Coulson
Charles Darwin University



A/Prof Poh Wah Hillock
The University of Queensland

Career Achievement Award Committee



Prof Sally Kift
James Cook University
President, ALTF



Emer Prof Denise Chalmers AM
The University of Western Australia



Prof Angela Carbone
RMIT University



Dr Dee Halil
Universities Australia



IFNTF 2026 “Symposathon” Call for Submission

In the August newsletter, we announced the AAUT and IFNTF collaboration to showcase AAUT recipients on a global platform. Now, the opportunity is here.

The IFNTF is excited to announce its fourth virtual “symposathon” (Symposium + Marathon), taking place on **16 - 17 April 2026**, on the theme: **Optimising Teaching Excellence: The Way We Work | The Way We Learn**. This year’s central question: *In a world of collapsing models, rising automation, shifting trust, and intensifying metrics — what does it mean to “optimise” education?* This theme explores whose futures we’re building, what values shape our systems, and who determines how we teach, learn, and work.

Submissions are welcome on (but not limited to) the following thematic areas:

- **Theme A:** What Does “Optimising” Education Really Mean?
- **Theme B:** Work & Academia — Labour, Value, and Transformation
- **Theme C:** Institutional Disruption & Business Models in Higher Education
- **Theme D:** Politics, Autonomy & the Academic Public Sphere
- **Theme E:** Automation, AI & Re-thinking Teaching and Learning

Educators are invited to submit an extended summary (up to 1500 words, excluding references). Papers may be theoretical, conceptual and/or empirical and should be related to the conference’s key themes. **At least one of the co-authors must have received a National Teaching Fellowship in their home country. AAUT recipients who meet this requirement are encouraged to submit.**

KEY DATES

Submissions deadline : 31 Jan 31, 2026 (11.59 PM Anywhere on Earth (AOE))

Notification of acceptance : 28 Feb 2026

Registrations deadline : 10 Mar 2026

Submit your extended summary: <https://forms.gle/VkoJTEv2VXwz7SMP8>

Click [here](#) for details.

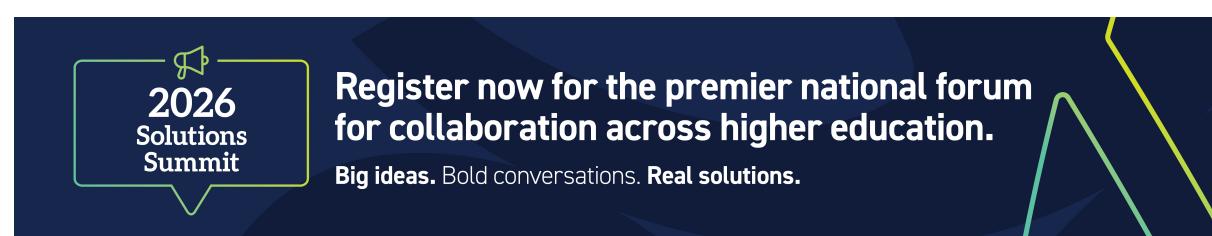


AAUT and CALD

We are delighted to announce that the **Council of Australian Law Deans (Cald)** will be integrating AAUT criteria into their assessment framework for the CALD Academic Awards.

This alignment is set to:

- Promote greater consistency and transparency in the evaluation of teaching excellence;
- Enable nominees strengthen their award submissions;
- Build a closer link between recognition at the discipline level and across the sector for academic achievement



UA Solution Summit 2026 - AAUT Awards

Ceremony

Hear from Australia's most influential voices at the Solutions Summit 2026

The 2026 Solutions Summit will spotlight the transformative role of universities in shaping Australia's future. Join over 1,000 visionary leaders from universities, government, and industry at Australia's premier forum for innovative ideas and real-world solutions. Be part of conversations that will set the stage for bold thinking, practical solutions, and a shared vision of how higher education can power Australia's productivity, sustainability, and global leadership.

The **AAUT Awards Ceremony** will take place on Tuesday 24 February 2026, 5pm to 5.30pm AEDT.

Book your tickets now - <https://events.uniaus.edu.au/2026solutionssummit/Tickets>

RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



Get to know Citation Early Career Recipient: Pharmacy Practitioner in Residence Team University of South Australia

For the innovative design and implementation of immersive patient-centred placement experiences, empowering pharmacy students to actively engage and contribute to healthcare whilst developing essential skills.

Profile: [Mr Jimit Ghandi](#) and [Ms Kirsty Tait](#)

AAUT RESOURCES



**2025 AAUT Video
Announcement coming
Tuesday, 24 February
2026 - visit the AAUT-UA
website.**

**For latest AAUT news,
please visit the AAUTN
website.**

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