# 2025 Regional SYMPOSIUM

## Christchurch

**Thursday 24 July 2025**

**Christchurch Boys High School**
Adams House, Harakeke St, Christchurch

**$200*** per person incl GST

10% off for 3 or 4 attending from one school
20% off for 5 or more attending from one school

The ABSA Regional Symposium series is designed to make boarding professional learning more available to all members.

We encourage schools to send a number of staff members, and will offer generous discounts for multiple registrations.

Map is a representation only NOT TO SCALE

**For more information and to register:**
www.boarding.org.au/training-academy/conferences/regional-symposiums-2025

## Program

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| 9:00am | **Welcome and Opening Karakia** |
| 9:05am | **Session One - Adapting to AI:** Empowering Boarding School Staff to Reclaim Time and Reduce Mental Load - Simone Douglas |
| 10:45am | **15 minute break for morning tea** |
| 12:30pm | **Lunch** |
| 1:00pm | **Session Two - Boarding with a Regional Lens*** This session focuses on issues which directly relate to those staff working within the local region, and will include discussions on relevant issues. |
| 1.45pm | **Session Three - a discussion on Suicide** |
| 2:15pm | **15 minute break** |
| 2:30pm | **Session Four - Boarding with a National Lens*** This session will concentrate on issues which all boarding facilities are facing, and will centre on practical strategies for everyday wellbeing - for staff and students. |
| 3:15pm | **Day concludes.** |

** See over for details*


AUSTRALIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
Making Boarders' Lives Better
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## Adapting to AI: Empowering Boarding School Staff to Reclaim Time and Reduce Mental Load - Simone Douglas

### Session One Overview:

In the fast-paced world of boarding schools, where staff juggle student care, administrative demands, and operational challenges, finding ways to simplify workflows and lighten the mental load is essential. This interactive, hands-on session will introduce boarding school staff to the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI). Through practical guidance and real-world examples, attendees will learn how to integrate AI tools into their daily routines to save time, improve efficiency, and reduce stress.

Led by Simone Douglas, a digital strategist and AI trainer, this session focuses on developing practical AI skills, including prompt engineering frameworks, training AI models for specific tasks, and leveraging automation to manage repetitive workloads. Attendees will leave equipped with actionable knowledge to harness AI tools effectively, enhancing both their professional capabilities and mental well-being.

This session is designed for boarding school staff at all levels, offering insights and skills to help them adapt to an AI-powered future while maintaining the personal touch essential to boarding school communities.

### Key Takeaways:

- Introduction to AI in Boarding Schools: Understand the capabilities and limitations of AI tools in supporting boarding school operations and staff responsibilities.
- Prompt Engineering Frameworks: Learn how to craft precise prompts to maximise the value of AI tools like ChatGPT, transforming them into virtual assistants for administrative and operational tasks.
- Training AI Chats for Custom Tasks: Explore techniques to train AI systems to provide tailored support, from drafting parent communications to creating student schedules and lesson plans.
- Streamlining Workflows with AI: Discover how to integrate AI tools for automating repetitive tasks, optimising time management, and enhancing communication across teams.
- Maintaining a Human Touch: Learn strategies to balance AI-driven efficiency with the personal interactions that are vital to fostering trust and care in boarding school communities.

## Boarding with a Regional Lens

### Session Two Overview:

This session focuses on issues which directly relate to those staff working within the local region, and will include discussions around the table on a series of posed questions.

1. **Technology** - what policies and procedures are in place and how do they work
2. **Student leadership programs in boarding**
3. **Dealing with Misbehaviour**

Each group will discuss the questions posed and present back to the larger group on the critical items raised, thus sharing knowledge and understanding.

## Boarding with a National Lens

### Session Four Overview:

This session will concentrate on issues which all boarding facilities are facing, and will centre on practical strategies for everyday wellbeing - for staff and students.

1. **Child safety** - staff and students - challenges and successes
2. **Developing a Residential Curriculum of Life Skills** - what, when, how
3. **Navigating and connecting with parents** - challenges and successes

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