



KATHERINE HOEKMAN lectured in Gifted Education at UNSW for over a decade, as well as consulting with schools on ways to meet the cognitive, motivational and affective needs of gifted students. She was the Director of Research and Innovative Learning at Abbotsleigh from 2005-2011, and returned in 2014. Katherine was appointed

as the Director of the Eileen O'Connor Centre in the Archdiocese of Sydney in 2011, and is an adjunct lecturer in the Office of Educational Leadership in the School of Education at UNSW.

Recognised as a Fellow by the Australian College of Educators (ACE) for her contributions to pre-service teacher education, and the professional development of educators from all sectors in the area of gifted education, Katherine is a sought after presenter at regional, national and international conferences. Her research interests include social and emotional development of the gifted, curriculum design and program evaluation, and the design of agile learning spaces to meet the affective and motivational needs of all students.

Katherine's keynote on Thursday May 21st explores the theme of **"Play, Passion and Performance"**.

Abstract:

All students require educational experiences that enable them to develop knowledge about and belief in themselves as effective lifelong learners. This may be particularly important for gifted students whose beliefs about themselves may be influenced by their identity as learners from an early age. It is through effective and high quality learning that these students experience authentic motivational engagement, and apply their learning in ways that are productive and meaningful. Engagement and connectedness are also correlated with mental wellbeing and healthy adjustment.

Fostering independence and self-direction through experiential learning promotes the healthy development that individuals require to feel competent and confident in their interactions with others, to have a sense of personal control and of belonging. This presentation highlights what parents, teachers and mentors can do to support the developmental progression from playful engagement to learning that fosters interest, curiosity, passion and personal relevance.

Katherine will also offer two practical workshops during the conference to follow on from her keynote: **'Creating Agile Learning Spaces to Connect and Support the Community of Learners'** and **'Applying Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Principles: Creating Opportunities for Depth and Complexity'**.



MANOJ CHANDRA HANDA A passionate advocate of divergent thinking, Manoj Chandra Handa runs a gifted education consultancy, "Oceans of Excellence", based in Sydney (<http://www.oceansofexcellence.com>).

Manoj was formerly a Chief Education Officer and School Development Officer at the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities. He served at the Department for more than 10 years, including as Head Teacher, Gifted and Talented Education, at James Ruse Agricultural High School, a selective co-educational school in Sydney. He has published papers and presented internationally on creativity, innovation, differentiated learning, and the education of the gifted. In 2012, he was recognised as one of the "Top 100 Most Influential People" in Sydney by "the (Sydney) magazine" published by The Sydney Morning Herald. Manoj is currently pursuing his doctoral thesis on "Leading Differentiated Learning for the Gifted" at Macquarie University, Sydney.

Manoj's keynote on Friday May 22nd is titled **"Building Differentiated Schools of Curious Delight"**.

Abstract:

Effective school leaders and educators innovate whole school change by creating conditions that lead to differentiated high performance learning among staff and students. It requires all stakeholders to engage in the process of change – principals, executive, teachers, parents, and students. Successful leaders ensure that learning is differentiated at all levels in the school. The research-informed Learner-centred Differentiation Framework will form the basis for fostering differentiated high performance learning. The construct, differentiated learning, will be examined

in relation to talent development, expertise development, and wisdom development of gifted students. The transformative potential of engaging student voice for pedagogical partnership with teachers, and building school innovation will be examined. Research informed frameworks for leadership actions, and evidence-based teaching strategies for differentiated learning at whole school and classroom level will be shared.

Manoj will also offer another practical workshop: **'Strategies for Identifying and Addressing Underachievement among Gifted Learners.'**

Parent Seminar

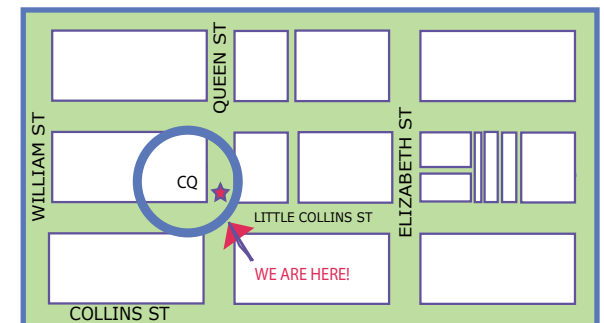
A parent seminar will be held during the conference on **Thursday May 21st** from **11.00am - 12.45pm**. In this session, panellists including an Educational Psychologist and experienced educators from Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary settings will respond to general questions from parents to explore some common themes and issues in gifted education.

PARENT SESSION VAGTC MEMBER \$25
 PARENT SESSION NON VAGTC MEMBER \$30
To register please use form overleaf

Venue

The VAGTC conference will be held at CQ Function Centre, 113 Queen Street, Melbourne. For more details please see the VAGTC website.

Location



For all enquiries visit the website at www.vagtc.asn.au or email Sylvia Green at infolorax@vagtc.asn.au

REGISTRATION FORM

Tax Invoice

ABN: 93 904 346 898

This document constitutes a tax invoice when you make a payment.
Please retain a copy for your records.

FULL COST	\$
VAGTC/AAEGT MEMBERS	545
NON MEMBERS	595
PARENT (WITH VALID CONCESSION CARD)	150
FULL TIME STUDENT	250
EARLY EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (ENDS 31ST DECEMBER 2014)	
VAGTC/AAEGT MEMBERS	495
NON MEMBERS	545
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (ENDS 31ST MARCH 2015)	
VAGTC/AAEGT MEMBERS	485
NON MEMBERS	535

All Prices include GST

Registration includes the entrance to all conference sessions, morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch on both days, and one set of conference materials.

For schools sending four or more staff members, please contact the VAGTC for a further discount.

Name: Mr/Mrs/ Miss/Ms/Dr

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CHEQUES: Please make cheques payable to VAGTC and mail to: PO Box 132, Caulfield South 3162

What do you need to know to cater for the highly able students in your world? Imagine being able to equip yourself with a personalised tool kit of strategies, ideas and understandings to meet your needs. The 2015 VAGTC conference offers you that very opportunity! It has been designed to inspire, inform and interest everyone - whether you are a novice, have some experience or are an expert in Gifted Education. Our tiered conference structure emulates the differentiated classroom where individual starting points, different levels of knowledge and skill, can be matched with optimal learning experiences. Sessions emphasise helpful ideas, practical strategies and materials, exemplary models and resources. These tools will help you to plan and implement differentiation, understanding the special needs of gifted learners and enabling you to make a real difference - tomorrow and every day.

Exceptional keynote speakers share insights and expertise, touching on theory to provide a foundation for other practical workshops. Diverse afternoon sessions apply the thinking through teaching and learning strategies that target gifted learners in Early Childhood, Primary or Secondary classrooms. Those in Leadership or Tertiary Education roles will find tools to support their work with teachers as well as stimulating, high level PD relating to their own interests. Parents are most welcome and will be offered a specific workshop addressing issues in raising and educating the gifted child.

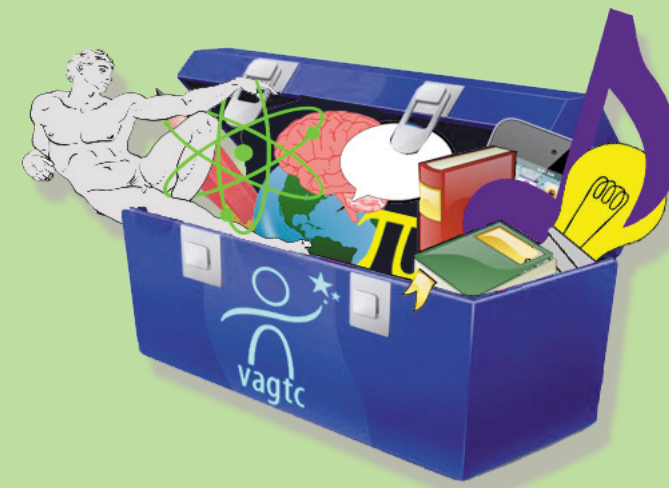
Whether you seek to further your understandings about Talent Development and Giftedness, want to explore elements of Differentiation or need to develop your repertoire of classroom strategies, you can select the tools that will help you put theory into successful and satisfying practice. Novice or Apprentice, Practitioner or Expert - register for this exciting event, and continue your learning journey so you can inspire your colleagues and gifted students to do the same!



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

Gifted Education Essentials: Tools for Putting Theory into Practice

A Three Tiered Conference for Everyone
Involved with or Interested in
Gifted Education



Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd May 2015



Victorian Association for Gifted
and Talented Children
PO Box 132 Caulfield South 3162
www.vagtc.asn.au