



**EQUITABLE
EXCELLENCE**
TUNING IN



2025 SASPA Conference: Dr Alice Rigney Oration

Associate Professor Marnee Shay presenting Codesigning Indigenous Education for Deadly Futures

Achieving educational equity for Indigenous Australians remains an aspiration in Australia. The language and limitations in Indigenous education policy, such as 'Closing the Gap', have framed Indigenous students and their families as a problem to fix. The rich capital, goals and dreams of Indigenous peoples and communities are often overlooked because of how deficit language frames our understanding as educators and leaders of our work in Indigenous education. There is a critical need for more models of working that are Indigenous-informed and that provide educators and leaders with clear, evidence-based guidelines to support improved outcomes.

Codesign is a term increasingly used by governments, indicating a recognition of the need to reset relationships and how governments and educational institutions work with Indigenous peoples and communities. This oration will unpack research findings from two research projects that aimed to develop an evidence base that is deeply informed by diverse Indigenous peoples and school leaders and practitioners to understand what successful codesign looks like for Indigenous education. The data provides conceptual clarity for educational leaders who wish to use codesign, such as the difference between consultation and codesign. A model for codesign in Indigenous education will be shared, as well as case studies from diverse school settings to demonstrate the possibilities of codesign in Indigenous education. The data also shows that when key practices and principles are present, codesign has the potential to achieve excellence in Indigenous education.