

# Dr Alice Rigney Oration

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The Dr Alice Rigney Oration is named in honour of the late Dr Alice (Alitya) Rigney AO PSM DUniv.

Established in 2024 by SASPA in collaboration with the family of Dr Alice Rigney, the annual Oration aims to build and promote public schooling that contributes to South Australian culture, economy and democracy, and to improving the life outcomes of all children and young people.



The late Alice (Alitya) Rigney AO PSM DUniv was Australia's first female Aboriginal school principal and one of University of South Australia's most distinguished graduates. She devoted her life to education, teaching more than 5000 Aboriginal students, and mentored and inspired many more.

SASPA is honoured to hold the 2025 Dr Alice Rigney Oration delivered by Associate Professor Marnee Shay, a Principal Research Fellow and Deputy Head of School in the School of Education at the University of Queensland. She is internationally recognised for her research and expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, educational policy and youth studies. Her work has focused on developing Indigenous-based evidence and applying strengths-based approaches in knowledge production.



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*Connecting for Equity & Community by Annette Williams was gifted to SASPA in 2023. The artwork depicts the importance of connection amongst our education community. We are transitioning and transforming over time experimenting with new ways of knowing, being, connecting, and relating which is and will continue to impact positively on the lives of our children and young people. In doing this we are together building our nation. A nation where diversity and inclusion for all is simply what we do and who we are. This is reconciliation!*