

ACE Conference 2026

Wednesday 27 May

1:30 – 2:50pm · Ako Sessions

Thematic Area	Workshop	Facilitator	Description
Teaching and Learning	AI for Enhanced Teaching: The ELPNZ Approach to Ethical Generative AI in Adult ESOL	Dr Jia Rong Yap English Language Partners New Zealand	Drawing on ELPNZ's national AI project, this session offers practical, research-grounded strategies for using generative AI in adult ESOL – designed for diverse learners in community-based contexts with limited resources.
	AI Tools for Lesson Planning and Content Creation	Jam Mayer Selwyn Community Education	Free AI tools including NotebookLM and Claude can transform how you plan lessons and create materials. This hands-on session gives you practical workflows you can apply the following week.
Ethics, Safety and Governance	Safe, Ethical and Responsible AI Use in Education in Aotearoa New Zealand	Paula Gair AcademyEX	From bias and hallucination to practical prompting and data governance, this hands-on session builds the foundational AI confidence every ACE educator needs right now – using free tools throughout.
Communications and Media	AI for Storytellers: A Practical Media Toolkit	Carla Teng-Westergaard Broadcast Journalist and Media Adviser	With 17 years in broadcast journalism, Carla Teng-Westergaard shows you how to use AI to build media pitches that land – live demonstrations, a hands-on sandpit session, and an editorial lens that keeps accuracy and tone firmly in your hands.

Wednesday 27 May

3:00 – 4:20pm · Ako Sessions

Thematic Area	Workshop	Facilitator	Description
Accessibility and Inclusion	NZSL, Deaf Learners and AI: Building Educator Confidence	Lara Draper Deaf Aotearoa	A beginner-friendly introduction to Deaf identity, New Zealand Sign Language, and the emerging role of AI in accessibility – designed for educators with no prior experience of either. No NZSL or AI knowledge required.
Ethics, Safety and Governance	Safe, Ethical and Responsible AI Use in Education in Aotearoa New Zealand	Paula Gair AcademyEX	From bias and hallucination to practical prompting and data governance, this hands-on session builds the foundational AI confidence every ACE educator needs right now – using free tools throughout.
Communications and Media	AI for Storytellers: A Practical Media Toolkit	Carla Teng-Westergaard Broadcast Journalist and Media Adviser	With 17 years in broadcast journalism, Carla Teng-Westergaard shows you how to use AI to build media pitches that land – live demonstrations, a hands-on sandpit session, and an editorial lens that keeps accuracy and tone firmly in your hands.
Leadership and Management	Tūhono Impact: Simple, Shared Ways to Show the Difference We Make	Dr Rosie Gallen, Powerdigm Associate, practitioner and scholar	A participatory workshop for adult and community education, to help form shared practical, low-burden ways to notice, measure and communicate your impact.
Global and Local Practice	AI and Digital Literacy: Feeling Lost? Remember That We Make the Road by Walking — Together	Robbie Guevara President, International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) Leone Wheeler Honorary CEO, Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN)	A roundtable grounded in Paulo Freire's principle that we make the road by walking. Bring your questions and anxieties about AI into a space for collective reflection – surfacing what adult educators are already doing globally, and building confidence through shared action.

Thursday 28 May

10:30 – 11:50am · Ako Sessions

Thematic Area	Workshop	Facilitator	Description
Teaching and Learning	AI for Tutor Admin, Reports and Feedback	Jam Mayer Selwyn Community Education	Reports, learner feedback, repetitive written tasks – this session tackles the admin that eats into your teaching time, with AI prompts and workflows ready to use the following week.
	AI for Enhanced Teaching: The ELPNZ Approach to Ethical Generative AI in Adult ESOL	Dr Jia Rong Yap English Language Partners New Zealand	Drawing on ELPNZ's national AI project, this session offers practical, research-grounded strategies for using generative AI in adult ESOL – designed for diverse learners in community-based contexts with limited resources.
Accessibility and Inclusion	NZSL, Deaf Learners and AI: Building Educator Confidence	Lara Draper Deaf Aotearoa	A beginner-friendly introduction to Deaf identity, New Zealand Sign Language, and the emerging role of AI in accessibility – designed for educators with no prior experience of either. No NZSL or AI knowledge required.
Global and Local Practice	Rooted in Ancestral Knowledge: Research in ACE	Helen Lomax and Cherie Chu-Fuluifaga	Two ACE researchers share findings on how ancestral intelligence – relational learning, community knowledge and intergenerational wisdom – is shaping practice across the sector.
Ethics, Safety and Governance	CultureQ: Technology Innovations Supporting Indigenous Communities	Steven Renata Kiwa Digital	What does community-governed digital sovereignty actually look like? Steven Renata introduces CultureQ, a secure platform built for Indigenous communities to protect, revitalise, and control their own cultural knowledge in the age of AI.