



Thursday
Nov 7
5pm
AEDT



Are you paying attention?

Presented by:

**Kim Bence, Head of Campus, Wesley College St Kilda Road Campus
and Leonie Abbott, Head of Student Wellbeing,
Wesley College St Kilda Road Campus.**

In today's digital age, our ability to pay attention and obtain student attention is under constant attack in schools. This session will challenge your understanding of attention, inviting you to reflect on how your school is addressing this growing issue. We will explore the impact of mobile devices, apps, and social media on student attention, while considering strategies to enhance in-person connections.

Kim and Leonie will share insights from their own efforts to rethink their school policies in light of compelling evidence by Jonathan Haidt (2024), Frances Haugen (2023), and Nancy Kline (2020). This interactive session will encourage participant input and discussion, fostering a collective effort toward meaningful change. Join us and be part of advocating for change.

Register



OUR PRESENTERS



Kim Bence

**(BEd, MEd(StudWell), ProfCert(EdNeuro), ProfCert(PosEd))
Head of Campus,
Wesley College, St Kilda Road Campus**

Kim Bence is an innovative and collaborative educational leader with over 25 years of senior leadership experience in learning, wellbeing, and operations. Since joining Wesley College in 2020 as Head of Campus, she has overseen a dynamic coeducational community of 1,600 students and 300 staff, leading a progressive International Baccalaureate World School. Her expertise spans various educational settings, where she has been instrumental in transforming learning environments and fostering a culture of excellence, inclusivity, and respect.

With a Master of Education and advanced studies in Educational Neuroscience and Positive Psychology, Kim's leadership is marked by her ability to inspire excellence and drive positive change. Known for her authentic and collaborative approach, she empowers teams and individuals to continuously improve, equipping her community with the knowledge, skills, and moral courage needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. Beyond Wesley, Kim actively contributes to professional organisations and shares her expertise at national and international conferences.



Leonie Abbott

**(BEd, MAppPosPsych(Hons))
Head of Student Wellbeing,
Wesley College, St Kilda Road Campus**

Leonie Abbott is a highly respected professional known for translating theoretical concepts into practical strategies that have driven pedagogical change in thousands of classrooms. Passionate about learning, she has dedicated significant time to researching the impact of trauma on education. Leonie believes that many trauma-affected responses in adults can be mitigated through greater awareness and targeted communication. Her expertise in positive psychology and resilience strategies, combined with this trauma-informed approach, creates a powerful framework for effective educational change.

With extensive experience as a Senior Consultant at Independent Schools Victoria (ISV) and as co-founder and co-author of the Berry Street Education Model, Leonie has a proven track record of influencing educational practices. In her current leadership role at Wesley College, she applies a trauma-aware perspective, continuing her mission to reshape the educational landscape. Known for her deep listening, thoughtful questioning, and contextual application of theories, Leonie fosters learning experiences that resonate with individuals in their unique environments.