

ONLINE MASTERCLASS

Student Rights, Safety and School Risk: One Day Online Masterclass

Online - Thursday 27 August 2026

Vic, NSW, ACT, QLD, Tas: 9am to 4.40pm

SA and NT: 8.30am to 4.10pm

WA: 7:00am - 2:40pm

- Beyond the School Gate: The Expanding Duty of Care After the T2 Decision
- Disability, Discrimination and Inclusive Education - The Legal Framework for Schools
- Navigating Reportable Conduct and Child Safe Standards
- Legal Duties in Student Mental Health Crises and Self-Harm Incidents
- When Parents Become Problems: Legal Strategies For Managing Challenging Parents
- Data in the Digital Age: Navigating Privacy Compliance in Schools



9.00 – 9.10am	Introduction and Welcome Morning Chair: To be advised
9.10 – 10.00am	Session 1: Beyond the School Gate: The Expanding Duty of Care After the T2 Decision The NSW Court of Appeal's unanimous decision in <i>NSW v T2</i> has arguably extended the scope of schools' duty of care, confirming that liability does not stop at the bell or the school gate. This landmark case has national significance, reshaping how schools must respond to student conduct outside traditional boundaries and hours. This session explores the legal and practical implications, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How T2 expands school liability beyond traditional temporal and physical limits.• The case's relationship to established negligence principles in the education context• Designing behaviour management systems that balance victim protection with fair treatment of alleged perpetrators• Strategies for monitoring and supporting students post-suspension and ensuring accountability• Developing anti-bullying policies that capture incidents occurring off-campus and online• Best practice in documentation, incident response, and managing litigation risks• The impact on school insurance coverage and liability exposure, including key issues for reviewing policy terms Speaker: Jennifer Parkes, Partner, Hicksons, Newcastle, NSW
10:00 – 10.10am	Questions and Discussion



<p>10.10 – 11.00am</p>	<p>Session 2: Breaking Down Barriers: Disability, Discrimination and Inclusive Education - The Legal Framework for Schools</p> <p>Schools and families must navigate a patchwork of state and federal anti-discrimination laws that protect students with disability while requiring schools to provide inclusive education. Understanding these legal duties, and the limits of what can reasonably be expected, is critical to managing risk and ensuring compliance. This session examines the key legal issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth), the Disability Standards for Education, and state-based discrimination laws: how they apply throughout a student’s schooling • The scope of the obligation to make “reasonable adjustments” and the legal tests for when adjustments become unjustifiable hardship • Defining what constitutes unlawful educational discrimination, and the legal implications when disputes escalate • Internal resolution procedures versus external complaint mechanisms through state tribunals and the Australian Human Rights Commission • Practical strategies for schools to minimise exposure to claims while maintaining lawful, transparent engagement with parents and carers <p>Speaker: To be advised</p>
<p>11.00 – 11.10am</p>	<p>Questions and Discussion</p>
<p>11.10 – 11.30am</p>	<p>Morning Break</p>
<p>11.30am – 12.20pm</p>	<p>Session 3: Keeping Children Safe: Navigating Reportable Conduct and Child Safe Standards</p> <p>Schools are under heightened scrutiny to demonstrate compliance with mandatory child safe standards and reportable conduct schemes that now operate across multiple jurisdictions. Failure to implement strong governance, reporting frameworks, and compliant investigation processes exposes schools and boards to significant legal and regulatory risk. This session focuses on the compliance and accountability framework that underpins child safety nationally, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the scope and operation of reportable conduct schemes across the states and territories • Aligning school policies, procedures and culture with nationally consistent child safe standards • Establishing clear internal reporting pathways that meet statutory obligations and satisfy regulator expectations • Conducting fair, defensible and well-documented investigations into reportable allegations • Managing interaction with external oversight bodies, including Ombudsman and child protection agencies • Practical steps for strengthening training, governance oversight, documentation and compliance audits <p>Speaker: Tal Shmerling, Special Counsel, Moores, Melbourne, Vic</p>
<p>12.20 – 12.30pm</p>	<p>Questions and Discussion</p>

12.30 – 1.15pm	Lunch Break
1.15 – 1.20pm	Introduction and welcome Afternoon Chair: To be advised
1.20pm – 2.10pm	Session 4: Critical Response Protocols: Legal Duties in Student Mental Health Crises and Self-Harm Incidents Schools are increasingly on the frontline when students experience acute mental health crises or self-harm. These situations trigger heightened legal and compliance obligations, with serious risks if protocols are unclear or not followed. This session provides a legal and practical roadmap for school leaders, boards, and staff, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting duty of care obligations during acute mental health or self-harm incidents, including immediate safety measures and escalation triggers• Knowing when to involve emergency services, mental health professionals and senior leadership• Understanding information-sharing boundaries during crisis, including what must be shared with parents, agencies and regulators• Clarifying the limits of staff responsibilities versus the role of qualified mental health practitioners• Designing trauma-informed response protocols that minimise risk and support effective decision-making• Ensuring safe handover, continuity of care, documentation and post-incident review Speaker: Adam Foster, Partner, Colin Biggers & Paisley, Melbourne, Vic
2.10 – 2.20pm	Questions and Discussion



<p>2.20pm – 3.10pm</p>	<p>Session 5: When Parents Become Problems: Legal Strategies For Managing Challenging Parents</p> <p>School administrators increasingly face complex and demanding parent interactions that can escalate from routine concerns into serious legal and operational challenges. In this comprehensive session, we will examine practical legal strategies and policy frameworks for identifying, managing, and resolving challenging parent situations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal framework for managing difficult parent interactions and identifying when behaviour becomes harassment • Complex complaint scenarios and high-risk situations such as disability discrimination claims, separated parent conflicts and student discipline responses • Protocols for de-escalation, choosing appropriate communication methods and effective record-keeping systems • Social media and reputational risk management including crisis communication protocols, and staff social media training • Understanding banning procedures, escalation from warnings to legal action and how to manage vexatious complaint behaviour • Tips for policy development and parent codes of conduct <p>Speaker: Fiona Manderson, Principal, Aloncaws Legal, Keperra, Qld</p>
<p>3.10 – 3.20pm</p>	<p>Questions and Discussion</p>
<p>3.20 – 3.40pm</p>	<p>Afternoon Break</p>
<p>3.40 – 4.30pm</p>	<p>Session 6: Data in the Digital Age: Navigating Privacy Compliance in Schools</p> <p>Schools collect, use, and disclose vast amounts of personal and sensitive information about students, parents, staff, volunteers, and contractors as part of their everyday operations. This creates heightened privacy and data protection risks, with schools subject to overlapping federal and state/territory laws. This session examines how school leaders and advisers can ensure compliance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding when the Australian Privacy Principles apply to schools, and how they interact with state and territory privacy frameworks • Ensuring information collection is reasonably necessary for school activities, obtaining valid consent, and managing sensitive information appropriately • Handling unsolicited information and meeting notification requirements • Rules around data use, disclosure, and secondary purposes • Responding to data breaches, including mandatory notification obligations and practical strategies for breach management • Enforcement risks, penalty exposure, and the expanded powers of the Australian Information Commissioner • Building compliance through privacy policies, procedures, staff training, and robust data management systems <p>Speaker: Georgia Hunt, Special Counsel, Maddocks, Melbourne, Vic</p>
<p>4.30 – 4.40pm</p>	<p>Questions and Discussion</p>
<p>4.40pm</p>	<p>Masterclass Close</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Masterclass Registration Fee

The registration fee includes attendance at the live online masterclass.

Masterclass Papers

Access to the papers and PowerPoints will be available online to all delegates in the lead-up to the masterclass (as they become available). The materials will be available in .pdf format for easy download.



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Governing Law – all conferences

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Registration Form

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Address: Level 4, 90 William Street, Melbourne, Vic 3000 **Phone** (03) 8601 7700
Enquiries: Contact our Event Manager, Jenna Pickrell (jenna@tved.net.au) – phone: 03 8601 7729
Register online: www.tved.net.au – go to Masterclasses

Please register me for the **Student Rights, Safety and School Risk: One Day Online Masterclass** to be held online on Thursday 27 August 2026 [code: MSRAUG26]

- Early Bird Registration** – for registrations paid on or before **24 July 2026** - **\$770** (\$700 + \$70 GST)
- Discount Registration** – for registrations paid on or before **14 August 2026** - **\$990** (\$900 + \$90 GST)
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