

Building
sustainable
communities
through
learning



ALCN Webinar: Learning Cities in Australia – Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow May 11, 2021 - 2pm

Keynote speaker Peter Kearns, AM, will speak about Learning Cities in Australia and how this movement has evolved over the years, ranging from the initial development in the past, to how we can look to tomorrow for true change and impact. Peter has written a **background paper** where he suggests 12 steps towards a sustainable future for learning cities. The Webinar will include discussion on how cities can adapt these steps to their local context.

Jac Torres-Gomez from Wyndham City Council will then reflect on Peter's paper and will speak about Empathy Partnerships and the role this plays in supporting strong, sustainable learning cities.

Dr Leone Wheeler, Hon. CEO, ALCN, will facilitate the discussion.

Note: Members of the ALCN are invited to stay on for the AGM occurring after the webinar, at 3.15 pm.

[Register here](#)

For further information, please email alcn@bigpond.com

Brief Biography of Speakers

Peter Kearns, AM



Peter has had a variety of careers including teacher, public servant, consultant, and volunteer in international programs. He is a member of the Board of PASCAL and was a member of the Australian Delegation to OECD in Paris for three years. He has had a long interest in learning cities in Australia and internationally and was the founder of the PASCAL PIE Program which provided for exchanges of experience between learning cities around the world. Peter developed the PASCAL EcCoWell program directed at integrated and holistic approaches to building learning cities. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2006, and in 2021 became a Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to education and lifelong learning in Australia and internationally.

Jac Torres-Gomez



Jac Torres-Gomez is a community development practitioner, teacher, facilitator, and author. She has worked in education and community development including in Australia, Japan, France, Denmark, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, and Bolivia. She is passionate about supporting sustainable community and educational partnerships through innovative program management, impact evaluation and policy. The focus of her work is around supporting the achievement of SDG 4 and SDG 17, and creating and profoundly sustaining partnerships to achieve the learning outcomes.

Jac currently works as the Learning Communities Officer for the City of Wyndham and supporting the implementation of the Wyndham Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023. Her work includes developing and presenting research in education and lifelong learning especially around partnerships, running events such as the Wyndham Learning Festival and Global Learning Festival and writing policy for local government and more broadly for the PASCAL International Observatory.

Facilitator



Leone Wheeler, EdD

Leone is the Hon. CEO of the ALCN, a not-for profit national network of leading-edge practitioners building sustainable communities using learning as the key element. Associate of the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University and a Board Member of PASCAL International Observatory.

Leone holds a Doctor of Education from RMIT University in the area of learning networks and has published extensively in this field. She has worked as a researcher at the College of North Atlantic-Qatar, Doha, Qatar; as an academic, manager and director at RMIT University and business educator in the secondary and tertiary sectors in Australia and New Zealand. Leone also has 30 years' experience in business in New Zealand and Australia.