

National Conference for Teachers of German 2026

Friday, 16 October

Time				
08:30-09:00	Registration and exhibitor tables			
09:00-10:30	Why Language Matters and What That Means for Our Teaching An interactive opening session Why do people learn languages? Which experiences stay with them? And what is the value of language education today? In this interactive opening session, we introduce the central themes of the conference, connect them to the program, and engage in conversation with members of our network. Matthias Jakuš, Head of Language, Goethe-Institut Australia Jelena Herster, Head of Educational Services, Goethe-Institut Australia			
10:30-11:00	Morning Tea			
11:00 -12:30 Workshops	Making Multilingualism Visible Reflecting on identity in the German classroom Dorothea Bruns	Positive Language Pedagogy Creating learning spaces where confidence can grow Dominik Lack	Courage over Perfection How we create learning environments in which language emerges naturally Miriam Garrido	Inspiring Interest Through Experience How we spark curiosity for German Andrea Simmelbauer

12:30-13:15	Lunch and exhibitor tables			
13:15-13:45	Afternoon Opening Session Matthias Jakuš, Head of Language, Goethe-Institut Australia Jelena Herster, Head of Educational Services, Goethe-Institut Australia			
13:45-14:45 Poster Presentations	Poster Forum Projects, ideas and experiences from German language teaching			
14:45-15:15	Afternoon Tea and exhibitor tables			
15:15-16:45 Workshops	Positive Language Pedagogy Creating learning spaces where confidence can grow Dominik Lack	When Language Creates Something New Projects that leave a lasting impression Silke Flik	Language Creates Belonging Reflecting on inclusive German language teaching Anne Carman	When Language Can Make a Difference Fostering learner agency and self-efficacy in German language teaching Andrea Simmelbauer
17:00-18:00 Keynote	Why Languages Matter More Than Ever Prof Ingrid Piller Distinguished Professor of Applied Linguistics at Macquarie University, Sydney			
18:00-19:30	Happy Hour			

Saturday, 17 October

Time		
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-09:15	Welcome and Opening of Day 2 Matthias Jakuš, Head of Language, Goethe-Institut Australia Jelena Herster, Head of Educational Services, Goethe-Institut Australia	
09:15-10:45 Workshops	Practice Lab for Secondary Teachers „Wo ist Lotte“ An interactive simulation for the German classroom. Dominik Lack	Practice Lab for Primary Teachers Discover German with <i>Wuschel</i> Ideas and teaching materials for the primary classroom Paula Hay
10:45-11:15	Morning Tea	
11:15-12:30	Closing Plenary: From Network to Movement Matthias Jakuš, Jelena Herster and the NATG Netzwerk	
13:00	Opening of the German Cultural Day	