SPEAKER PROFILE 2027 / AUSTRALIA

Maria Doyle

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Learning Across Cultures and Generations



SATURDAY 30 JANUARY 2027 | CURTIN UNIVERSITY | PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Maria Doyle is an international speaker, educator and author of Everyone's a Teacher, with 18 overseas postings and more than 30 years of experience across Australia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Kiribati, Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu and the USA. She holds a Master of Education and a Master of International Relations. She began her career teaching English as an additional language, then moved into teacher training, instructional design, curriculum development and education project management across humanitarian, aid and development contexts.

She has worked with schools, colleges, universities and training councils to align qualifications with the needs of students, trainers and workplaces, and has led education and training projects in remote and culturally complex environments. Her practical, outcomes-based approach has shaped educators and organisations across Australasia and the Pacific. Maria is a current member of Professional Speakers Australia and the Australian Institute of Training and Development.

PROFILE AT A GLANCE

EXPERIENCE	INTERNATIONAL WORK	QUALIFICATIONS	AUTHOR
30+ years	18 postings	Two masters	Everyone's a Teacher

Session duration: 45 minutes | Interactive keynote

SESSION DETAILS

Learning Across Cultures and Generations

45-MINUTE INTERACTIVE SESSION

You know your grammar. You know your methodology. But how well do you really know your learners?

Culture goes deeper than you might think, and far wider than nationality. Your learners bring with them the invisible rulebooks of their generation, their community, their faith, their recreational pursuits, their socioeconomic background, and a lifetime of unspoken assumptions about what is polite, what is offensive, and what simply goes without saying. And so do you.

In this session, Maria Doyle - author of Everyone's a Teacher and an educator with 30 years of experience across humanitarian, aid and development contexts - explores what it really means to teach across cultures and generations. Drawing on her experience living and working across twelve countries, Maria takes a warm, honest and often hilarious look at the moments we accidentally get it wrong: the gesture that lands badly, the joke that falls flat, the silence that was not peaceful at all.

But this session is not about avoiding mistakes. It is about building the habit of curiosity - learning to ask better questions, listen more carefully, and create the kind of classroom where learners feel safe enough to tell you who they actually are.

You will leave with practical strategies for finding out more about your learners, tools for building genuine connection across cultural and generational difference, and a renewed appreciation for the oldest truth in teaching: you simply do not know what you do not know - until someone shows you.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL TAKE AWAY

- Practical ways to learn more about learners and the contexts they bring to class.
- Tools for building genuine connection across cultural and generational differences.
- A habit of curiosity: asking better questions, listening closely and staying open to what we may not yet know.

EDYOUFEST AUSTRALIA 2027

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