

Candidacy Statement – Claire Cheyne

I am seeking election as Vice President of QASEL, bringing extensive experience as a Principal and special education leader across primary, secondary, and special school settings. My leadership is values-driven, with a strong record of influencing policy, strengthening collective capability, and delivering measurable gains for students with diverse and complex needs.

Leading

Beyond the school context, I have contributed as:

- QASEL Regional Councillor for the past five years
- Convenor of QASEL conferences in Townsville and recently Brisbane
- Chair of the QASSP Student Services Subcommittee for seven years, and
- As a practitioner representative on the EFI Special Education Leaders Reference Group

In these capacities, I have advanced statewide initiatives, strengthened advocacy for leaders, and secured a prominent place for practitioner voices in policy and reform.

Linking

I prioritise purposeful collaboration, building enduring partnerships with schools, tertiary providers, industry, government, and community organisations to expand student pathways and supports. Within QASEL, I have strengthened networks across regions by connecting leaders, sharing expertise, and advocating on their behalf to influence decisions that impact student learning and wellbeing.

Learning

I am committed to developing leadership capacity across the profession. I have mentored aspiring and current leaders—HODs, Deputies, and Principals—and curated professional learning through QASEL conferences that bridge research, policy, and practice. Within my own schools, I have embedded coaching, inquiry cycles, and capability-building initiatives that have lifted teacher efficacy and improved outcomes for students.

I bring strategic vision, strong relationships, and system expertise to the Vice President role, committed to equity, capability growth, and supporting leaders to deliver the best outcomes for students with disability.

