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The Australian Network for School Attendance (ANSA) inaugural conference

The inaugural Australian Network for School Attendance (ANSA) conference was held in Melbourne on the 4th and 5th of September and was a resounding success! The conference theme of "School Attendance: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?" aimed to bring together educators, practitioners, researchers, and those with lived experience to take stock of the current state of school attendance in Australia and look ahead to what work still needs to be done.

The conference featured keynote presentations discussing what we can be learnt from Australia's attendance data as well as a focus on what school attendance looks like for children in out of home care. We heard from speakers sharing and comparing the current approach to

attendance across two Australian jurisdictions (Victoria and Tasmania) in an invited address and gained valuable insights from a thought-provoking panel discussion.



ANSA Committee

Lively roundtable discussions brought together people from a wide range of backgrounds to discuss important topics relating to the school attendance challenges currently being faced in Australia. These conversations were only the start of what's to come for this network - it was exciting to see new connections formed, experiences and best practice shared, and ideas generated about how we can continue to understand and support students, families, and schools with attendance and engagement.



A particular highlight for the conference was a focus on hearing directly from parents and young people with lived experience of school attendance difficulties. We were privileged to be joined by two parents and two young people who shared their experiences, what they found helpful, and what they wished others had known during their journey. Our lived experience speakers were incredibly generous in sharing their stories with us and gave all attendees a lot to think about and reflect on as they strive to support young people and their families as best as possible.

The ANSA Committee are already starting to plan our next activities and events. Join our [mailing list](#) to be the first to hear what's in store!

“Each Day Counts”: Chile’s first international seminar

On an unusually warm winter day in Santiago, on July 27th Chile’s INSA network held its first international seminar “Each Day Counts: How Do We Continue Reducing School Absenteeism?”. Chile’s INSA is an institutional national network with a diverse group of partner institutions, each providing different perspectives on our co-created and implemented activities. The network was established in 2023, and currently brings together researchers, institutional leaders, and NGOs working in school attendance in Chile.



One of our 2025 Strategic Priorities is to generate instances for reflection and theoretical and practical updating. Our inaugural international seminar was an opportunity to welcome INSA’s cofounder Carolina González and to invite her to share more about our national context and bring new insights from the global perspective.

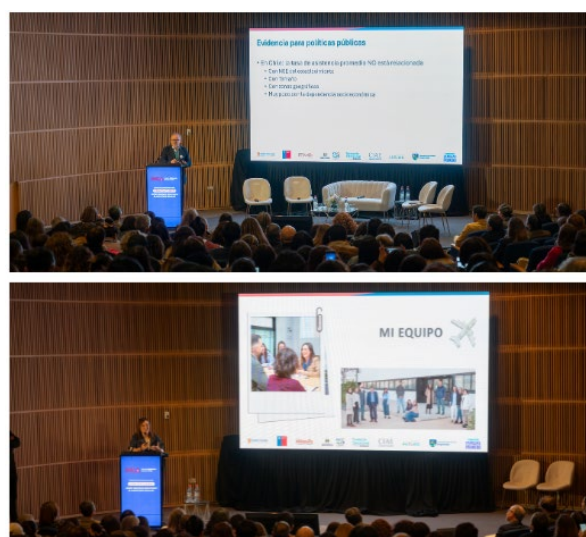
With more than 1,000 participants, between in-person attendees and those who connected to the streaming broadcast, the seminar was a powerful sign that there is a wide range of disciplines and stakeholders working together to improve attendance around Chile and across the world. The initial words given by the Ministry of Education’s Education Sub secretary, Alejandra Arratia invited us to “look for what’s behind a missing day and provide solutions as

a system". Claudia Lagos, Ministry of Education's Early Education Sub secretary, reinforced the notion that educational trajectories start with early education, from nursery to high school.



Carolina Gonzalez invited participants to get out of their comfort zone to grow, learn and collaborate with others in "Alliances with Purpose". We were also grateful to hear from different experiences that are focusing on reducing the number of children and young people at risk of chronic absenteeism in our country and in Europe. Juan Pablo Valenzuela, Director of the Center for Advanced Research in Education, highlighted that school attendance has seen systematic post-pandemic improvement, but not to pre-pandemic numbers.

After a morning of presentations, Paula Bustos, Coordinator of the Educational Trajectories area of the General Education Division of the Ministry of Education, closed the event with an invitation to stay tuned for the launch of Chile Presente's school trajectories tracking platform. We are confident that this tool will be key to moving toward more effective public policies focused on the current needs of children and their families.



The presentations, videos and resources shared by our international and national speakers are available at our website: www.insachile.cl

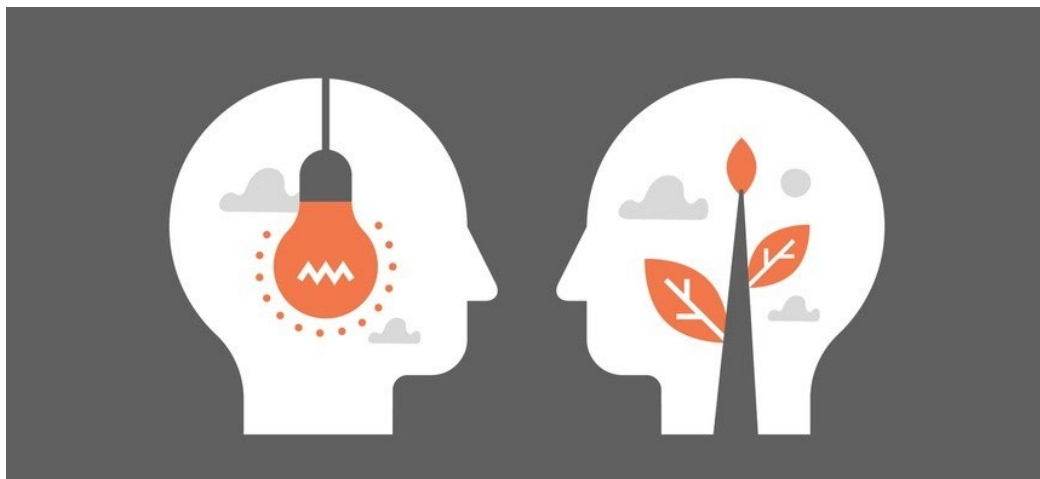
Updates to the INSA Website

Coming soon

The [INSA website](#) is getting an international upgrade! Translation will soon be available into French, Dutch, Japanese, German and Spanish, with more languages to follow.



INSA's Mentoring Program



Are you a Professor or Associate Professor with expertise in school attendance? Are you interested in supporting the development of emerging researchers? Then our mentoring program is for you!

INSA's mentoring program focuses on collaboration, knowledge sharing, and professional development. There may also be opportunities for short research visits, or collaboration on research articles and other short-term projects.

Applications are now being sought from prospective INSA mentors. For further information or to signup as a mentor, please visit the [Mentoring Program](#) page on the INSA website.

Emerging Scholars Corner

The Emerging Scholars Committee are holding their first event!



EMERGING SCHOLARS ONLINE MEET AND GREET

October 28th 2025

1PM CET / 11PM AEDT / 8AM EDT

For higher degree by research students, researching practitioners, early career academics and others early in their careers with an interest in school attendance research.

In this session:

- ✓ Meet your INSA subcommittee
- ✓ Share your ideas: what events / activities interest you?
- ✓ Connect with others interested in school attendance research from around the world



REGISTER NOW



Find us online!
insa.network/emerging-scholars-committee



Can't make it? Scan the QR code to share your ideas.



Conferences and Events

2026 INSA CONFERENCE - ALICANTE, SPAIN

30th September - 2nd October 2026

Hotel Alicante Golf



Further details available in the next issue of INStAnt!

ONLINE WEBINAR

Walking Two Worlds: Indigenous Experiences of Schooling in Aotearoa and Ireland

Nicole Manawatu-Brennan and Ruth Sherridan Clegg

INSA recently hosted this special webinar exploring the lived educational experiences of Indigenous communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and Ireland.

The webinar recording will be available for INSA members on the [INSA website](#) soon!

Spotlight on Research

School-based support for emotion-related attendance challenges: effectiveness of @School when implemented with neurodiverse adolescents, their parents, and school staff

Evelyne Karel, Cynthia Defourny, Gil Keppens, Patricia Graczyk, Floor Sauter, and David Heyne

In this article, the authors report on the effectiveness of the @School intervention for neurodiverse students embedded within a specialised education setting in the Netherlands. The @School intervention is delivered by school psychologists and incorporates youth- and parent-focused modules to support students with emotion-related school attendance challenges (ER-SAC), with the aim to reintegrate students to school while also their addressing mental health needs.

Following 12 weeks of intervention, significant increases in attendance along with significant reductions in self-reported anxiety were evident, with these outcomes maintained at longer-term follow up.

This study highlights @School as a promising intervention for neurodiverse adolescents who are facing school attendance difficulties to re-engage and return to school that can be implemented by schools through close collaboration between educators and mental health professionals.

[Read the article here](#)

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