

# Presenter Biography and Session Synopsis

9:00 – 10:30: Teaching English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) During COVID-19 School Closure: Teacher Perspectives

Dr Sue Creagh

**Bio:** Sue Creagh is a long-time Qld educator in the field of English as an Additional Language/Dialect and is currently senior lecturer in the School of Education at UQ, delivering programs on multilingualism and EAL/D within teacher education programs. Sue was previously an EAL/D teacher within the school system and has been a long term active member of QATESOL.

## Session Abstract

**Abstract:** In 2020, In response to the threat of COVID 19 transmission within the community, Queensland education institutions went into lockdown, necessitating a shift to on-line delivery of teaching and learning underpinned by an ethos that learning must continue rather than be 'put on hold', given that health officials globally were unable to provide any guidance on the duration nor severity of the pandemic. Qld Schools reopened in late May, and since then, closures have largely been limited to individual sites. This presentation will report the findings of a qualitative investigation, carried out in partnership with QATESOL, into the experiences of EAL/D teachers and school personnel across Qld schools and AMEP programs during lockdown. The project aimed to document those activities and practices which were most optimal and most challenging for delivery of EAL/D support and programs in these unprecedented circumstances. It will also examine 'what has changed' in the delivery of EAL/D programs as a consequence of the lockdown. This local research project will be contextualised within broader literature now emerging about educational experiences of EAL/D students and teachers across other international sites.