



Presentation

Professor Lea Waters: Saturday 6th June

Title of Keynote: **The evolution of Positive Education: students, schools and systems**

Presenter Name: **Professor Lea Waters**

Abstract:

Seligman and Csikszentmihalyi's (2000) foundational paper on positive psychology called for the promotion of "positive institutions" (p. 5) described as institutions that foster citizenship, virtue, and wellbeing. It is vitally important for schools to be positive institutions given that they are the institutions that shape the forthcoming generations who will go on to lead our society.

In this presentation, Professor Lea Waters will share with the audience the trends, evidence and advancements occurring in the rapidly growing field of Positive Education. She will show how the initial conceptualization of Positive Education by Professor Seligman in 2009 as a student-focused "approach to education that fosters traditional academic skills and skills for happiness" has been deepened with cutting edge research techniques such as bio-data and has shifted by focusing on broader concepts than happiness such as character and wellbeing.

She will highlight how the field has been expanded to also include research and applications of positive psychology with school staff, parents and school culture. Finally, she will argue that if positive education is to truly have a lasting impact, the broader education systems need to become more positive.

Presenter Biography:

Professor Lea Waters (PhD) holds the Gerry Higgins Chair in Positive Psychology and is the Director of the Centre for Positive Psychology, University of Melbourne. Lea a registered psychologist (AHPRA) and a full member of the Australian Psychological Society. Lea holds an Affiliate position with Cambridge University's Wellbeing Institute (United Kingdom), the Centre for Positive Organizations at the University of Michigan in the United Kingdom and is a visiting Scholar at the School of Business at Villanova University, USA.

<http://www.positivepsychology.org.nz/conference-2015.html>

Lea is internationally recognised and has published and presented in the United Kingdom, Canada, U.S.A., Asia and Europe. Lea was named the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management Educator of the Year in 2004, received an Australian University Individual Teaching Excellence Award from the Prime Minister in 2007 as well as team Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning from the Australian Government's Office for Teaching and Learning in 2013.

Lea was the Co-Director of the 4th Australian Positive Psychology and Wellbeing Conference and is the Chair of the Scientific Committee for the 4th World Congress of Positive Psychology. Lea is a member on the advisory board for the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and is a member of the Academic Board at the University of Melbourne.