




EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

| Full of Life!

A Guide to Formation, Professional Learning
and Leadership Development Opportunities



We acknowledge Aboriginal people as traditional owners of Mainland Australia, Tasmania and surrounding inner islands and honor their millennia old custodianship. We recognize their sovereignty to continue to enact this custodianship and respect that sovereignty was never ceded. We respect Aboriginal people as the first teachers of the countries of which our schools are built upon today. We respect the learning and wisdom that is, and always will be taught from Elders and ancestors in harmony with Country and Culture.

We acknowledge the Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Owners of their respective sea country within the Torres Strait. We pay respects to their Ancestors and Elders and emerging elders and leaders. We recognise their wisdom and knowledge of their sea country and respect the need for their contribution towards climate change responses in the Torres Straits based on their Cultural knowledge.

We respect First Nations people's acts of resistance and resilience in Australia and worldwide to maintain connection to Culture and Country, language, dance and song and the resistance teachings taught through Elders and ancestors, despite the impact of colonization. We recognize this in the spirit of reconciliation, mutual liberation and truth-telling. In this spirit, we are accepting the invitation contained in the *Uluru Statement From The Heart* to listen to the First Peoples of Australia and work together for reconciliation, justice, equity, and healing.

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Introduction

Dear staff and friends of EREA,

Whenever we gather to celebrate together as people inspired by Blessed Edmund Rice, we are reminded that our inherited charism is one which continues to draw people from all walks of life into a mission of inclusivity, compassion, justice, love and liberation. As part of the broader Church community, our response is situated within a diverse and often complex social and cultural milieu. The genius of our charism particularly through our educational endeavours, is our capacity to present a visionary and hope-filled view of the future to the young people within our schools.

The Charter and Touchstones describe the culture of a Catholic School in the Edmund Rice tradition that is striving for authenticity. It is the interdependent and mutually inclusive nature of the Touchstones which drive this authenticity. In the same way, Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development are interdependent and mutually inclusive. Each informs and strengthens the other.

Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development provide dynamic contexts through which a culture of reflection, inquiry, action research and confident leadership is valued and supported. Engagement in these opportunities reflects a commitment to learning, improvement and growth as individuals and communities in the context of Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community, and Justice and Solidarity.

In essence, we believe pathways which integrate Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development create effective, fulfilled and reflective learners, and leaders who will improve outcomes for children and young people, while inspiring safe, dynamic faith and learning communities. These provide the best opportunities for a liberating education.

Creating the space to gather with colleagues to discern one's individual and collective contributions to the actualisation of these Touchstones, is thus the essence of *Full of Life*. The encounters, conversations and experiences that you are invited into via *Full of Life* are designed to promote questioning rather than certainty and challenge rather than comfort.

It is in these spaces that the Spirit moves most acutely within us, calling us to see and respond to the cry of the poor and the Earth.

"The Spirit is always hovering over the waters of chaos, bringing forth new life. It is the wind that brings change into life and turns it upside down and inside out. This is what a follower of Jesus always has to deal with: the Spirit is in the storm." (The Spirit Moving in Our Midst: Be My Disciple, Christian Brothers, 2008 Chapter).

Whenever you enter into relationship with our sacred stories you open yourself to the potential for transformation. When your heart burns with passion for a new idea or your eyes open with wonder to a new perspective, you come fully alive. The range of EREA enrichment opportunities offered within *Full of Life* aims to affirm, encourage, renew, disturb and ultimately to inspire you.

Full of Life offers a unique and privileged invitation to take time to pause, notice and attend to the stirrings of our hearts. In this sacred space, may your own reflection and discernment connect you intimately with the liberating vision that the Gospel calls us to seek for all creation.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.

Dr Michael Slattery
Chair of Edmund Rice Education Australia

EREA Principles of Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development

All EREA Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development Pathways will reflect the following principles:

1. Experiences of Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development resourced by EREA are aligned with **Scripture** and the **EREA Touchstones**.
2. EREA is committed to deepening an understanding of and implementing **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowings** in the learning process, the cultural life and leadership of EREA Schools.
3. In its provision of Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Development, EREA is committed to **diversity** in all its forms so that the aspirations and needs of all are valued equally.
4. All participants have a **voice** in co-creating experiences of formation, professional learning and leadership development.
5. The dynamic of formation, professional learning and leadership development is relational, providing opportunities for individuals and communities to learn from one another in a spirit of **collaboration** and complementarity.
6. Professional learning, formation and leadership development are related to **life experience** and professional practice, within a positive culture of challenge and support, justice and respect.
7. Professional learning, formation and leadership development will thrive in a context in which the participants have the **freedom** to follow their passions and have the confidence to express this and to be accepted.
8. Leadership development, formation and professional learning will create a culture of **contemporary and contextual** learning.
9. Professional learning, formation and leadership development respond to the imperative for solidarity through **global engagement**.



Formation, Professional Learning and Leadership Opportunities

We invite all within our EREA communities, inclusive of Trustees, Governing Board and School Advisory Council members and other volunteers, to participate in relevant and meaningful experiences that nurture personal growth, as well as support and build the capacity of all to contribute to Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The nationally coordinated programs target a variety of specific audiences and provide experiences accessible to the full range of people within EREA school communities.

Formation	Target Audiences	Frequency	Mode
A Call to Participation	New staff to EREA schools in any role (irrespective of seniority) within the first 2 years of appointment	Annual	Self-paced online module and 1-day in person with an optional zoom between
A Call to Transformation (renewal)	Longer serving staff (at least 5 years)	Biennial	2-day in person residential
Called, Gifted and Sent (retreat and renewal)	Trustees, Governing Board Directors, school and offices staff	TBD	2-day in person residential
A Call to Leadership	Middle/Operational Leaders	Annual	1 x 2 hour zoom and 2-day in person residential
A Vision for Liberation	Trustees, Governing Board Directors and Senior Leaders in Schools and Teams	Annual	3-day in person residential

Corroboree: A Vision for Reconciliation	Trustees, Governing Board Directors and Senior Leaders in Schools and Teams, paired with a First Nations' leader from the school	Annual	3-day in person residential
School Based Formation	Whole school or targeted teams	As requested	Co-designed
School Advisory Councils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Discerning Heart • Formation session 	New School Advisory Council Members	Rolling Enrolment	Self-paced online module Negotiated
Induction Formation for Governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Discerning Heart for Governance • Charter Governance Induction 	New Trustees and Governing Board Directors	Annual	Self-paced online module In person
EREA Council and Governing Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation sessions • Governance Retreat • Spirituality Day 	Trustees and Governing Board Directors	Annual	In person
Formation Resource Pack	Council, Governing Boards and School Advisory Councils (can also be used for School staff)	NA	Digital Folder
Touchstones Reflection App	All	New reflection added weekly	Online App

Leadership	Target Audiences	Frequency	Mode
Young Leaders' Gathering	Student/Young Person Leader representative(s) (Year 12 or equivalent)	Annual	4-day in person, residential
Charter Leadership Induction for Senior Leaders	New Senior Leaders in Schools and Teams (new to EREA or to Senior Leadership)	Annual	2-day in person
Forming the Facilitator	School-based Leaders and Governing Body Team members	Annual	2.5 day in person, residential
Let's Talk EREA Aboriginal Immersion	Leaders, teachers, school and office staff	Annual	In person, on Country
EREA Pilgrimage and Global leadership Immersions	Trustees, Senior Leaders in Schools and Teams	Annual	In person
EREBS: Leadership Symposium	Trustees, Senior Leaders in Schools and Teams	Biennial (except EREBS Congress year)	In person
National Conferences	Principals, Deputy Principals and Heads of Campus, Business Managers, Identity Leaders and Leaders of Liberating Practice, Governing Body Team members	Annual (Principals) and Biennial (others)	In Person
EREBS Global Congress	Principals and Senior EREA Staff and Trustees	Every 3 Years (Argentina 2026)	In Person
EREBS Leadership Certificate	All staff and governing bodies	Ongoing	Online
EREBS Desmond Tutu Courageous Leadership Program	Student/Young Leaders (Yr 10 and Above)	Ongoing	Online

Leadership	Target Audiences	Mode
Regional Networks and National Communities of Practice	Identity Leaders, Liberating Practice, First Nations Education, Early Years Learning, Directors of Safeguarding and Directors of Risk (the latter two are for Governing Body reps)	Co-designed
Tailored Professional Learning	Whole school or targeted teams	Co-designed

EREA Formation: A Pathway for Transformation

Formation helps us to understand our identity and activity as Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

The EREA Formation Design presents a strategic approach to supporting all members of our EREA communities to discern, **With a Listening Heart**, the Gospel invitation to be agents of transformation in our world. It acts as a guide for supporting staff faith formation for the mission of Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice tradition, in alignment with the *Good Seed Will Grow Formation Framework*.

With a Listening Heart Formation Design emphasises the interplay between EREA's significant stories – First Nations' Wisdoms, the life and teachings of Jesus, Edmund's Gospel response and our participation as Church – and the Charter Touchstones, as helping to make visible the ever-spiralling, self-communication of God.

By entering into our foundational stories and drawing from their contemporary expression, we encounter and make real God's presence.

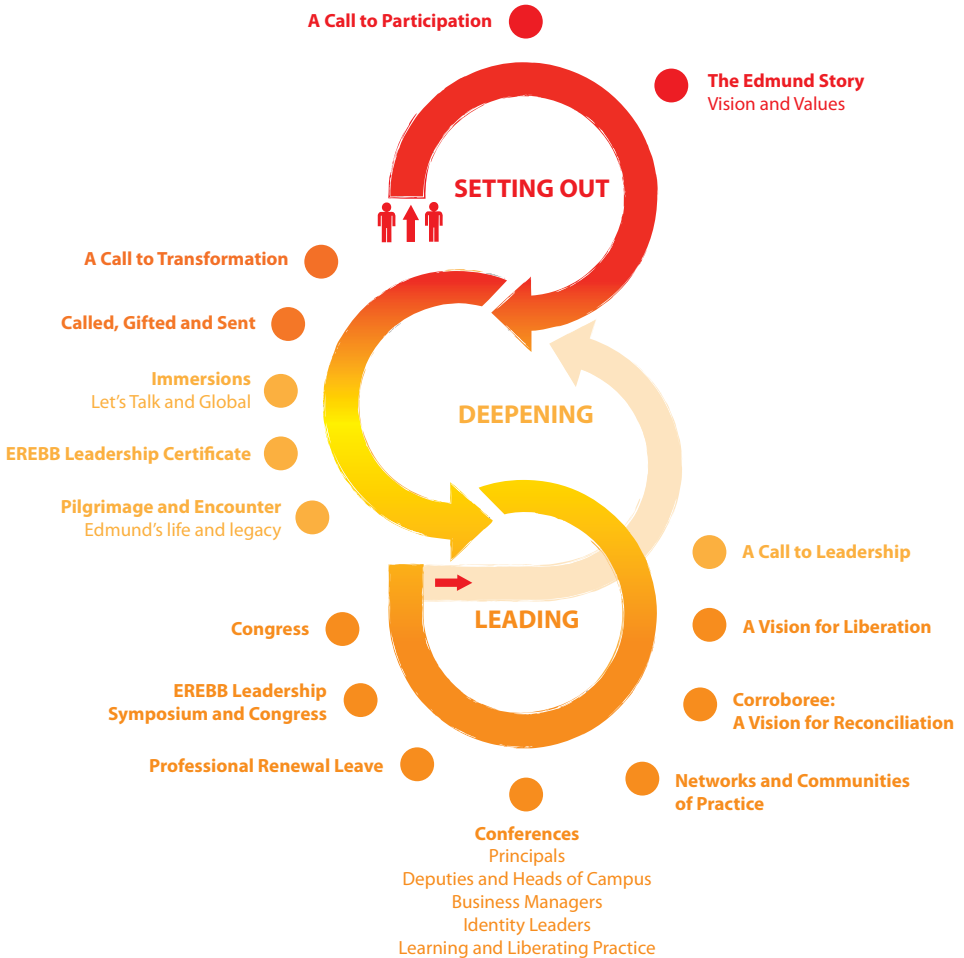
The national suite of formation opportunities models a commitment to right relationships based on respect, trust, inclusion and integrity. In honouring the unique spiritual journey of each staff member, formation programs offer multiple entry points for participants to discern the vocational contributions that they can make to the life of their communities.

National Formational programs enable all staff to engage with the charism and its contemporary expression at the level appropriate to their role and time within the community. Likewise, national gatherings and conversations provide role-based opportunities that support personal and professional growth.



EREA Formation and Leadership Pathways

As demonstrated in the diagram below, EREA formation offers a pathway for transformation comprised of three movements: setting out, deepening and leading.



EREA Formation

A CALL TO PARTICIPATION: A PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE NEW TO EREA SCHOOLS AND OFFICES

A two-part program, incorporating an online interactive module, an optional mid-point zoom and a single day of face to face engagement, this opportunity introduces participants to EREA's foundational stories and invites consideration of the ways they might best contribute to this global network.

The program draws from the priorities set for Jesus' mission in Mark's Gospel (1:14-18): being good news, responding to the needs of the time, holding a vision of a better world and calling others to collaborative action.

A primary objective of the program is to enrich understanding of the religious and cultural context of the EREA community, so that participants can engage more confidently in dialogue and reflection about its priorities and purpose. In addition, it is designed to connect participants with other members of the EREA community.

Ideally completed within the first eighteen months to two years of employment, participation in this program can be used in some states to support Catholic Education accreditation requirements.

Previous program participants have said:

"I really enjoyed the ability to see that all schools, and all staff, are called to action in the same way. Regardless of the unique contexts that they are from."

"Great to build connections with others."

"Helped me to gain a greater understanding of my role within my school."

"I really enjoyed the ability to reflect upon my professional practice, connect to my community, reaffirm my understanding of the touchstones and build valuable time with colleagues."



**More details,
including annual
dates scan here.**

A CALL TO TRANSFORMATION: A PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WITH FIVE OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE WITHIN EREA

This two-day, residential program provides participants with the opportunity for reconnection with EREA's liberating educational vision and personal renewal to support the continuation of their vocational journey.

The program celebrates the wisdom and insight gained from working in an Edmund Rice community and invites the integration of personal story with the stories of our tradition. It references Moses' encounter with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-12), emphasizing the importance of periodically turning aside from one's everyday work to notice and respond to what is happening in our midst.

A primary objective of the program is to encourage participants to explore those personal experiences that provide a glimpse of God's abiding presence and open us to a greater awareness of the needs of others.

Previous program participants have said:

"Affirmative process to support the idea of being a valued member of my school community with much to offer."

"It was inspirational and really had me thinking about how I contribute both at school and in life."

"Refreshed, Renewed and Ready to Go."



**More details,
including annual
dates scan here.**

CALLED, GIFTED AND SENT: A PROGRAM FOR THOSE SEEKING RETREAT AND RENEWAL FOCUSED ON A SPIRITUALITY OF EDMUND RICE

This two-day, residential program provides participants with the opportunity to explore more deeply the spirituality of Edmund Rice, from both an individual and collective experience.

*"The spirituality of Edmund Rice can be summed up in those three words.....
Called, Gifted and Sent: called to offer ourselves in freedom to God and all humanity, gifted with Edmund Rice's spirit or charism and sent by God into the world to bring life to the poor, powerless and oppressed."
Br Frank O'Shea cfc- 2024*

This program has been designed in response to the invitation from the Christian Brothers' Congregation to engage in generative conversations and contemplative experiences which explore: the depths of our diverse emerging spiritualities, the unfolding Edmund Rice, Congregational and Universe Stories, and their impact on our long-held Christian beliefs about God and humanity. It will provide an opportunity to explore, through dialogue with others and reflection upon spiritual wisdom, our evolving understanding of the connection between the divine and creation, and the persons we are within that story.

It is a retreat style program with time for individual and communal reflection, and contemplation.



**More details,
including annual
dates scan here.**

EREA Formation

A CALL TO LEADERSHIP A PROGRAM FOR TEAM LEADERS IN EREA SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES AND OFFICES

This multi-stage program of an online zoom and two-day, residential program provides participants with the opportunity to discern their leadership within the context of EREA's values, vision and strategic priorities. It invites reflection on the models of leadership emerging from the Gospel and our Catholic identity.

Designed for staff who have a middle (operational) leadership role in the community, or those recognised as having a significant sphere of influence on others, the program draws from Jesus' invitation to the first disciples to leave the shoreline and "put out into the deep" (Luke 5:1-11). In reflecting on this call, participants will apply their own experiences of trust and challenge to identify the features of Gospel-inspired leadership.

The key objectives of the *A Call to Leadership* program are to:

- enable participants to reflect upon the leader they are and therefore the leadership they practise, informed by models of Gospel, Edmund Rice and Touchstone leadership;
- equip them with the knowledge and confidence to promote, within their respective teams, dialogue about EREA's Charter and educational priorities, and
- provide a collegial network of support in which leaders can safely discuss challenges, ideas and initiatives, and dialogue with experienced leaders.

Previous program participants have said:

"This was a great program that opened my eyes to a different perspective about leading and living."

"Affirmed that it's ok to not know all the answers and that leadership is a constant cycle of learning & reflection that helps us to continue to grow and do things better."

"A wonderful opportunity to reflect on my personal leadership style."

"Giving me time and space to think about my role as a leader."



**More details,
including annual
dates scan here.**

A VISION FOR LIBERATION A PROGRAM FOR STRATEGIC OR SENIOR MANAGEMENT LEADERS WITHIN EREA, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAMS

This three-day residential experience provides participants with the opportunity to consider the challenges facing our communities and the world, and to discern ways our identity and purpose guide our leadership, both locally and globally.

A Vision for Liberation calls us to take seriously the words of the prophet Isaiah who reminds us of God's vision of compassion, justice and peace that is at the heart of the Gospel.

A primary objective of the programs is to explore ways that strategic leaders can be prophetic voices, through the articulation of a vision of Gospel hope and a plan for action, amidst the ecological, social-economic and spiritual crises facing the world today.

Previous program participants have said:

"It made me question whether my decisions are passionate and bold enough!"

"I am now more attentive to how I am present to my community as this quality of presence shapes people's response to leadership."

"It challenged me to share my own life experiences more openly, as a way to help others embrace my leadership priorities."



**More details,
including annual
dates scan here.**



EREA Formation

CORROBOREE: A VISION FOR RECONCILIATION A PROGRAM FOR STRATEGIC OR SENIOR MANAGEMENT LEADERS WITHIN EREA, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF SCHOOL EXECUTIVE/LEADERSHIP TEAMS, ALONGSIDE LEADERS OF FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AND RECONCILIATION, PARTICULARLY FIRST NATIONS STAFF

For Senior Leaders, this program would ideally follow participation in *A Vision for Liberation*.

Reconciliation Australia has recognised five dimensions—Historical Acceptance, Race Relations, Equality and Equity, Institutional Integrity, and Unity—as fundamental to enabling reconciliation, identifying systems, attitudes and structures that get in its way, and generating action to bring about substantive transformation and mutual liberation.

Guided by First Nations' voices, this program provides opportunities for connecting to Country, truth-telling, confronting racism and addressing issues of inequality, so that we might build a national identity that values

and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights as integral to who we are. In addition, it provides participants with the opportunity to reflect upon the strategic intent expressed by their schools/offices, identify the challenges and opportunities present, and articulate their next steps in realising or evolving this intent.

Participants are invited into 'head, heart and hands' relationships and activities that build their capacity to enact the strategic intentions and spirit of Reconciliation within their communities.

Previous program participants have said:

"This was a great program. To go and start this on country on Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island, was amazing and I really enjoyed the activities..."

"It was great to hear from different presenters, as well as the perspectives and wisdom of other participants."



More details, including annual dates scan here.



EREA Formation

SCHOOL BASED FORMATION

The EREA National Team can support staff with school specific programs or workshops if time and opportunity permit. Possible areas for facilitated exploration with full or partial staff groups include:

- The Charter and Touchstones
- A Spirituality of Edmund Rice
- Edmund Rice Charism / Icon
- The Formation Framework and Formation Design
- Catholic Identity
- Spiritual Leadership
- Ecological Spirituality
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Purpose-inspired strategic planning

Bespoke programs can be designed for full-day or shorter workshop style sessions, tailored to suit the needs of the community, including providing an introduction to topics such as the charism of Edmund Rice, the story of the Christian Brothers and their contribution to education in Australia, the emergence of EREA and current expressions of the Edmund Rice spirit.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC) FORMATION

The *A Discerning Heart* online module provides new SAC members with the opportunity to learn about the foundational stories of EREA, including the life and legacy of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers' early years in Australia, as well as the Charter and Touchstones. This program will connect participants with the historical, cultural and religious dimensions that shape Edmund Rice Education Australia's current values, priorities and practices. It is designed to inform discernment and decision making as part of the Advisory Council of an EREA school. Completion is expected prior to full endorsement by the respective Governing Bodies.

Acknowledging the time limitations of many SAC members, they are always welcome to participate in one of the national formation programs outlined in previous pages, supporting their role particularly in helping the school to provide authentic Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The EREA National Team can support SACs with formation or workshops, if time and opportunity permit.

TRUSTEE AND GOVERNING BOARD FORMATION

The *A Discerning Heart for Governance* online module provides an entry into the purpose and Charter of EREA as an organisation of the Church. It provides new Trustees and Directors with the opportunity to learn about the foundational stories of EREA, including the life and legacy of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers' early years in Australia, as well as the Charter and Touchstones. This module connects participants with the historical, cultural and religious dimensions that shape Edmund Rice Education Australia's current values, priorities and practices. It is designed to inform discernment and decision making, as part of the governance of EREA.

The Governance Retreat and the Spirituality Day also provide an opportunity for members of Council and the Governing Boards to reflect upon the purpose of EREA as a ministry of the Church to explore contemporary spiritualities, and their role as governors in light of this.

Governing Boards wishing to arrange bespoke formation experiences or retreats are encouraged to discuss this with the National Team.

In development for 2026, is an induction for new EREA Trustees and Governing Board Directors. This Charter Governance Induction will provide charism and Charter formation, as well as explore the nature of the purposes, duties, responsibilities and relationships within the EREA governance ecosystem.

FORMATION RESOURCE PACK FOR EREA SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS AND GOVERNING BODY BOARDS

Each Board and School has access to the Formation Resource Pack containing short reflections and prayers which can be used as part of their Board and SAC meetings.



EREA Leadership Programs

CHARTER LEADERSHIP INDUCTION FOR SENIOR LEADERS

This induction program is for Senior Leaders who are either new to EREA or have just stepped into Senior Leadership. It caters for personnel recently appointed to Senior Leadership positions throughout EREA – Principals, Deputy Principals, Heads of Campus, Business Managers, Identity Leaders, other Exec/School Leadership roles and Senior Leaders in EREA offices.

The program involves the completion of a self-paced online module and a 2-day in-person program.

With the theme of “Leading for Faithfulness and Transformation”, the program explores what Charter Leadership calls for within EREA schools. Importantly, it enables collegial networks to develop across the segments of the EREA national community.

YOUNG LEADERS’ GATHERING

This national gathering brings together young people who are leaders within their school communities such as school captains.

It offers an opportunity for networking, goal setting and the sharing of hopes and challenges for their year of leadership in the school communities. The four-day program invites participants to articulate their own expressions of Touchstone Leadership, while exploring the theme of Leadership for Voice and Agency. The Conference is hosted on a rotational basis by a school within each Region.

FORMING THE FACILITATOR: FORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR ADULT FORMATION

This multi-stage program is aimed at developing the leadership skills of staff within EREA schools and offices for formation design and facilitation. It is targeted at staff who carry a responsibility or passion for the transmission of the Edmund Rice spirit, vision and values amongst the staff and parent community, and are interested in further developing their capacity to **plan, design and facilitate meaningful and effective adult faith formation.**

Through a train-the-trainer approach, the program involves a 2.5 day in-person residential program, as well as the opportunity to co-facilitate a regional day of the *A Call to Participation* formation program for new staff.

In addition, this program will deepen participant’s understandings of National EREA Story and Context, the Formation Framework and its associated Formation Design, and will explore their application for staff formation planning and delivery.

Prior participation in at least one of the National Formation Programs is a pre-requisite.



More details, including annual dates scan here.

LET'S TALK PROGRAM

This partnership offering between Edmund Rice Education Australia, Rise Up and Teach Consultancy and the Aboriginal communities of North-West NSW will appeal to those personnel who are interested in supporting the educational achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and furthering reconciliation in Australia. It also provides an opportunity for all staff in EREA communities to reflect upon the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy in light of this experience.

Modelled on the Let's Talk program developed in 1997 amidst the climate of the Irish Peace Process, the focus issues of peace, identity, human rights, socio-economic issues and reconciliation shape the experience. Through a journey integrating dialogue with locals and elders in visited communities, and engagement with places of significance to the Aboriginal people of North-West NSW, the program facilitators will ensure all participants are guided and supported through what has proven for many in the past to be an inspirational experience.



EREA Global Leadership Programs

PILGRIMAGE, LEADERSHIP AND IMMERSION

EREA offers a variety of global programs which foster reflective and engaged leadership in the Edmund Rice tradition. Through Pilgrimage, Leadership and Immersion programs, leaders connect with and learn from the EREBB community worldwide, and explore the origins of the Edmund Rice charism and spirituality.



Pilgrimage and Encounter: A Journey with Edmund through Ireland and India/Africa

This program invites participants into the stories that shape our identity as women and men who follow in the footsteps of the founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed Edmund Rice. These stories open a window on the Gospel of Jesus and reveal how Edmund's journey, rooted in a spirituality of reflection and action, continues to unfold today.

This Pilgrimage and Encounter will also explore the fruits of the Christian Brothers' vision in taking Edmund's spirit into very different cultural and spiritual settings.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- walk the streets that Edmund walked and visit the places of his birth, life and death in Ireland, and get to know the stories of those who inspired him;
- experience and reflect through various spiritual lenses on the Gospel call to faithfulness and transformation;
- encounter the cultural and spiritual richness and diversity of either Africa or India;
- engage with Edmund Rice schools and the contemporary expression of the charism, and
- reflect upon the spirituality of justice which began with Edmund and continues to grow and develop through the evolving story of those who walk in Edmund's footsteps.

Global Leadership - Kenya and Ireland

A Leadership Development Program with Edmund Rice educational communities in Kenya and Ireland



This Global Leadership Immersion program takes participants to Kenya and Ireland, and provides opportunities to engage with, learn from and develop links with school communities and networks which are part of the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders network.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- visit schools and engage with staff and students who are living the Edmund Rice Charism in Kenya and Ireland;
- walk the very streets that Edmund walked and visit the places of his birth, life and final years in Ireland;
- dialogue about the opportunities and challenges of educating today, with the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (Ireland) and Edmund Rice Ministries (East Africa);
- explore contemporary ways of educational leadership and leading in faith-based schools, within diverse contexts;
- develop leadership capacities relevant to educating in a globally connected world;
- celebrate and learn about African and Irish cultures, spirituality, ecology, leadership and educational practice;
- reflect upon the spirituality of justice and encounter, which began with Edmund and continues to grow and develop through the evolving story of those who walk in Edmund's footsteps, and
- develop long-term global partnerships with other countries, which will enhance the education of our young people.

Immersion and Partnership

“Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on people’s dreams. More serious still, we may forget that God was here before our arrival.”
Max Warren

EREA is committed to developing positive and mutually beneficial relationships with the people and communities in which Edmund Rice education occurs, and views these programs as valid and valuable educational experiences.

Drawing on our foundational stories, these programs animate the Catholic call to global solidarity and the quest for justice and peace for all.

Immersion and Partnership programs provide excellent opportunities for school communities to:

- develop relationships of solidarity across borders;
- learn about global justice issues;
- join together with others as part of a common humanity;
- share educational practice, and
- act together for justice and peace in our world.

They also inspire our communities in their own faith journeys and connect them with the faith journey of others.

Each one of these global programs has components of preparation, professional readings, experiential learning, faith formation, debriefing and action planning. Prior participation in a national formation program is a preferred pathway to participation in a global leadership experience.

Between 2025-2027, EREA will offer Global Leadership Immersions and Pilgrimages to the following places: Kenya, South Africa, India and Ireland.

Further information will be shared throughout the year.

“The trouble is that once you see it, you can’t unsee it. And once you’ve seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There is no innocence. Either way you’re accountable.”
Arundhati Roy

EREBB Leadership Opportunities

EREBB Leadership Certificate

The Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB) Leadership Certificate is an international online course developed by EREBB, Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) in Ireland, and Marino Institute of Education (MIE).

This interactive 20-hour course supports participants to become advocates and proponents of inclusive and liberating education practices. Moderated by MIE staff, it consists of four modules of self-directed learning, which can be completed at one's own pace.

On completion of the course participants will have successfully:

- studied the history and heritage of Edmund Rice;
- explored charism as a Gospel inspired response to the needs of contemporary culture;
- understood spiritual leadership within religiously diverse contexts, and
- engaged with issues pertaining to social justice, advocacy and human rights in the current global context.

EREBB Leadership Symposium

The global EREBB Leadership Symposium is a formation and professional development program designed for leaders and governors across schools from around the world. This global leadership program is a 10-day program that enables leaders to collaborate together, while exploring the most effective ways to educate through the Edmund Rice Charism.

In 2025 it will be offered in Cape Town, South Africa.

EREBB Congress

Every three years, EREBB hosts a global congress with senior delegates from parts of the world where Edmund Rice education occurs. Based on global partnership and solidarity, the Congress explores issues and topics relevant to education, spirituality, partnership, justice and peace, professional development, and global engagement.

In 2026, the EREBB Congress will be hosted by Argentina and Uruguay.

EREBB Desmond Tutu Courageous Leadership Program

This initiative is an online global leadership program for young people, coordinated by their teachers. EREA students and young people complete five short online modules, each focusing on one quality of courageous leadership, as exemplified in Archbishop Desmond Tutu's life.

They will have the opportunity to share with other young people, from Edmund Rice schools around the world, through educator-facilitated online dialogues about their learnings and their visions for the future.

National Conferences

The National Conferences offer an opportunity for broader strategic issues to be considered, professional input to be canvassed and collective initiatives to be shaped. A 2-3 day conference program includes reflection on contemporary expressions of the Charter, professional input and opportunities for sharing best practice among those in similar roles.

The Principals' Conference takes place in various forms every year. Other national conferences occur every 1-2 years for Deputy Principals and Heads of Campus, Business Managers, and Identity Leaders. Also biennially, there is a national conference for leaders of Learning and Liberating Practice.

Professional Renewal Leave

For those seeking to use Professional Renewal Leave to explore the Edmund Rice story, engage with EREBB partners or encounter the EREBB world, the National Team can provide guidance, including program advice and introductions to key leaders.

Opportunities exist to connect with schools and governing bodies in the following regions:

- Ireland, Northern Ireland and England
- India
- North and South America
- Africa (East, West and South)

Professional Learning: Regional Networks and National Communities of Practice

Opportunities are provided for Principals, Deputy Principals, Heads of Campus, Business Managers and Learning Leaders to gather with their respective colleagues at a regional level through the respective Governing Body.

Identity Leaders meet regionally twice a year – Term 1 and Term 4 – supported by the EREA National Team. The first term gathering invitation is extended to include members of Identity teams, those staff within each school, whose roles contribute to the work of Identity within the school. In addition, the Identity Leader Microsoft Team exists to support the sharing of resources, ideas and

questions. Associate School Identity Leaders are welcome to join this network.

National Communities of Practice (CoP) form in response to strategic priorities or as is deemed desirable by those who hold similar roles across the EREA offices and schools:

- Early Years Learning
- Directors of Child Safety (Governing Body reps only)
- Directors of Risk (Governing Body reps only)
- Trauma Aware Practice
- First Nations Education

Tailored Professional Learning

The EREA National Team can support staff with school specific programs or workshops if time and opportunity permit. Possible areas for facilitated exploration with full or partial staff groups include:

The content and mode of these sessions would be co-designed with the school.

- Liberating Practice
- Global Engagement
- Reconciliation and First Nations education
- Laudato si' and Sustainability
- Safe and Inclusive Communities
- Justice and Advocacy
- Immersion and Partnership



These initiatives are coordinated through the EREA National Team. Liaison with the appropriate person can be arranged by contacting the National Office at info@erea.edu.au



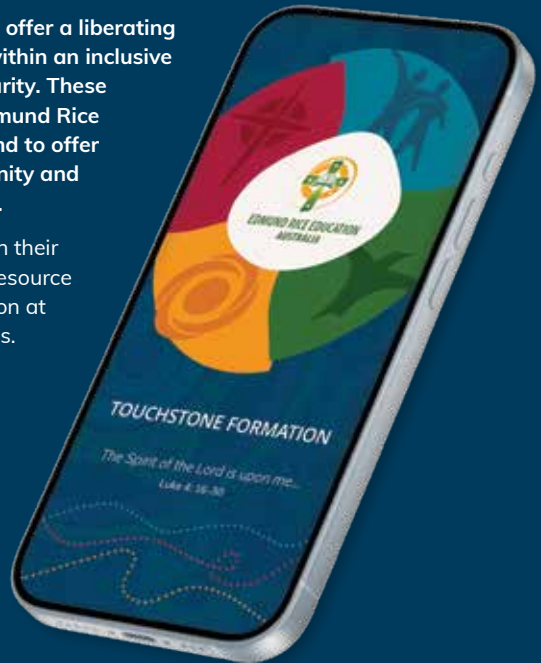
Touchstones Reflection App

Edmund Rice Education Australia strives to offer a liberating education, based on a gospel spirituality, within an inclusive community, committed to justice and solidarity. These Touchstones provide the foundation for Edmund Rice schools to educate for justice and peace, and to offer hope to a world where the dignity of humanity and the integrity of creation is often diminished.

This App is designed to support EREA staff in their own prayer and reflection, and also to be a resource to draw upon when leading others in reflection at gatherings such as staff and faculty meetings.

A new prayer reflection is shared weekly, inspired by the Church, the Social Justice calendar or world events.

This app is free and available to download via the App Store or Google Play.



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

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*"We are not on the earth to guard a museum,
but to tend a blooming garden full of life."*

Pope John XXIII