

MATER DEI HOSTS SPECIAL ED CONFERENCE



The Mater Dei Special Education Conference, Creating Respectful, Responsible & Reflective Learning Communities, held at the Campbelltown Catholic Club on Thursday 13th & Friday 14th November, was an outstanding success. Bringing together over 200 educators from throughout NSW, the conference focused on the key areas of Behaviour Management and Autism. We were very fortunate to have outstanding key note speakers and excellent workshop presenters who delivered inspiring and thought provoking papers in a range of areas.

The keynote speakers were drawn from the US and Australia, with Dr Geoff Colvin

from the University of Oregon and Dr Christine Richmond from Queensland (*pictured*) delivering excellent papers on Behaviour Management, while Dr Trevor Clark addressed the area of Autism. Matt Laffan, a young man born with a rare genetic disorder living with a very significant physical disability, was the outstanding speaker of the conference. Matt spoke with great passion and sincerity about living with a disability and overcoming the many challenges faced in the course of a regular day. Matt's talk was both emotional and highly motivating and brought a sense of reality to the work we do. Our next conference will be held 2010. Watch this space for more details.