



# Social Justice in Action



MacKillop  
Family  
Services





**At MacKillop Family Services, we understand the impact of adversity and trauma and we know that early intervention and community support can propel children and young people to succeed.**

### **Speakers Program**

Our expert speakers are passionate about sharing their knowledge and experience in supporting Australia's most vulnerable children, young people and families. These one-two hour presentations will inspire students and teachers to be part of the solution.

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I was amazed by how MacKillop is trying to bring justice into our society through their work. It was also very inspiring to listen to one of the care leaver's personal experiences and the unfair prejudices placed on those who have been less fortunate.

**- Nate Price, Yr 10 Aquinas College**

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**For more details on our speakers program, including further topics, availability and pricing, please contact:**

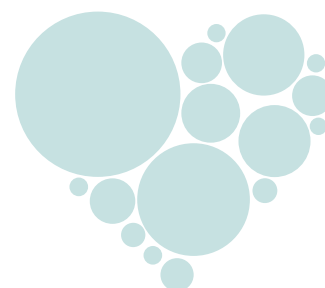
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**Community Engagement Officer**

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## Talk topics

### **Building student engagement and confidence through animal assisted learning**

The Paw Pals canine-assisted learning program supports students who are disengaged or are at risk of disengaging with education.

In this talk, students will learn how animal therapy helps children and young people to develop emotional regulation, self-awareness, social connection, and the confidence they need.

### **Social justice in action**

So many schools have social justice as a value. But what does it really mean in practice? How can we walk the talk? This presentation is designed to both educate and create greater awareness about the issues faced by Australia's most vulnerable young people, particularly those living in Out of Home Care.

### **Creating positive relationships at school**

Students can thrive if there is meaningful access to education and a safe environment at school to learn.

In this talk, we will take you through a variety of trauma-informed education topics, ranging from staff wellbeing and emotional capacity building, to student development, engagement, and behavioural supports.

### **Importance of health and wellbeing**

In this talk, we champion the importance of mental health and wellbeing supports for young people who have experienced stress, anxiety and trauma in the community. Students and staff will walk away with some valuable takeaways from this session.

## Our experts

### **Sarah Castle** **Paw Pals Program Coordinator**

Sarah started with MacKillop as a teacher supporting students in out of home care and it was here that Sarah recognised the barriers to education that vulnerable young people experience.

Sarah fostered the innovative idea to engage a young person in training her first therapy dog and with MacKillop's support Sarah then developed the Paw Pals program.



### **Sam Patterson** **Director, Community Engagement**

Sam leads MacKillop Family Services' Community Engagement team, which seeks to inspire people to get involved with MacKillop by sharing stories about our work and the people we support. With a background in law and strategic communications, Sam brings valuable experience in marketing, communications, stakeholder engagement, governance and fundraising to MacKillop.



### **Justin Roberts** **Deputy Executive Principal** **MacKillop Education**

Justin passionately believes in equal access to high quality education. With over 15 years' experience as an educator and leader within mainstream and specialist schools, he is dedicated to supporting students whose needs cannot be met by the mainstream education system.



### **Summah Hemming** **Principal Practitioner**

Summah is an experienced clinical social worker and relationship counsellor. She has worked across child and adolescent mental health, family violence and sexual assault services and is currently part of the clinical services team at MacKillop.







*MacKillop Family Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Elders in each of the communities where we work.*



*MacKillop celebrates and draws strength from diversity and respects the dignity of all people. We value an inclusive culture where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, gender diverse, intersex and asexual people (LGBTIQA+) have the right to be safe.*



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