

## Keynote speaker, Thursday 31 January 2019

---



### **Professor Ian Solomonides is Vice President, Learning and Teaching at Victoria University, Melbourne**

Ian is leading the implementation of a variety of initiatives related to technology enhanced learning and teaching, academic quality assurance, enhancement and management, and access to higher education for a wide range of 21 Century students.

Ian was previously director of the Learning and Teaching Centre at Macquarie University in Sydney and was an executive member and president of the Council of Australian Directors of Academic Developers until April 2016.

Prior to arriving in Australia in 2006, he was program leader for furniture and product design degrees at Nottingham Trent University in the UK.

Ian is a qualified and award winning teacher, holds a PhD in engineering education and maintains research interests in higher education - especially student experience and engagement. You can find some of his observations, usually about higher education, on Twitter where he appears as [@solfella](https://twitter.com/solfella).

### ***Keynote address***

#### **Revolutions, Systems and Suitcases**

The primacy of the traditional semester and unit organisation of Australian higher education is rarely questioned. But is this system fit for purpose as we move from outmoded and transmissive forms of education to the more future-focused, collaborative, and co-created?

Victoria University has set out on an ambitious agenda to implement a 'block' model of learning that directly challenges the underlying pedagogic assumptions, processes, and operations of University teaching.

Speaking with the experience of leading this transformation, Ian Solomonides will describe the emergence of the VU Block Model and the management of change associated with its implementation. Exploring the distinguishing features of the model, the keynote also discusses challenges in implementing the Block Model within the established context of higher education in Australia, leading to the questions: why are revolutions so slow, systems so robust, and the curriculum like a suitcase?