

SPEAKER INFORMATION

JENNY COLE

Author of Teach, Lead or Leave

Honest, funny, and refreshingly practical keynotes for teachers and leaders who are wondering how much longer they can keep doing this.



BIOGRAPHY (SHORT)

For event programs, social media, and introductions.

Jenny Cole, FACEL, is a recovering principal, leadership coach, and author of *Teach, Lead or Leave*. With 20 years in education and now 15 years coaching experienced and novice leaders, Jenny brings honesty, warmth, and practical frameworks to one of the toughest questions in the profession: what do I do when I feel like I can't do this anymore?

A Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders, Jenny has worked with over 3,000 educators across Australia and Asia and is known for keynotes that leave audiences feeling seen, slightly relieved, and ready to do something different on Monday.

BIOGRAPHY (EXTENDED)

For conference programs and detailed event materials.

Jenny Cole knows the territory of educator burnout because she has lived it. Twelve years into her principalship, she stood up in the middle of a crisis management meeting, picked up her handbag, and walked out of the career she had given twenty years of her life to. She never went back. She would not recommend this as a career move, which is precisely why she wrote the book *Teach Lead or Leave?*

Since 2009, Jenny has worked with well over 3,000 teachers and leaders across Australia and Asia, building a coaching and leadership development company *Positively Beaming* grounded in the stubborn belief: that brilliant educators shouldn't have to exhaust themselves to do meaningful work. A Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (FACEL), Jenny has been recognised by her peers for her significant contribution to leadership development in Australian education.

Her keynotes are anchored in the ideas at the heart of *Teach, Lead or Leave*, and she shapes each one to the audience in front of her. No leadership clichés. No motivational posters. Just honesty, warmth, a generous helping of humour, and the kind of practical frameworks people can actually use.

KEYNOTE *Topics*

Each keynote is tailored to your audience and event.

Suggested formats: 45-90 minute keynote, with optional Q&A or extended workshop format.

Teach, Lead or Leave: Getting Honest About Where You Sit and What's Next

Jenny's signature keynote introduces the Energy vs Impact Matrix and the six pathways forward, helping educators gain clarity about their position and why this conversation matters now. Audiences leave with permission to be honest, a wider map of what's possible, and practical language they can take back to their teams.

Best for: Mixed audiences of teachers and leaders, conferences, system events.

Burnout, Recovery, and Sustainable Careers in Education

Why so many capable teachers and leaders are quietly running on empty, what real rest looks like (hint: it isn't a long weekend), and how to build a career you can stay in without losing yourself. Practical, evidence-based, and refreshingly honest.

Best for: Wellbeing-focused events, teacher conferences, professional learning days.

Leading Without Losing Yourself

What it actually takes to lead well in schools right now, with clarity, self-compassion, and boundaries that hold. Particularly powerful for women or those in middle and senior leadership.

Best for: Leadership conferences, women in leadership events, aspiring and emerging leader programs.

The Six Pathways: More Options Than You Think

Most teachers and leaders believe they have two choices: stay and tough it out, or leave. Jenny introduces the six pathways from her book, five of which keep people in or around education. This is often the moment in a keynote where people audibly exhale.

Best for: Career-stage events, retention-focused conferences, mid-career educator audiences.

Energy, Strengths, and Joy at Work

A practical look at how teachers and leaders can use their strengths and values to design roles that energise rather than drain them, and why this matters for retention, culture, and frankly, staying alive in the job.

Best for: Teacher and leader audiences focused on retention, culture, and self-leadership. Aligns with the AITSL self-leadership framework.

The Mindsets That Keep Good Educators Stuck

The stories educators tell themselves that keep them stuck (I should be coping, I owe them this, it's selfish to want more) and how to gently put those stories down.

Best for: Mid-to-late career educators, leadership development programs, mindset and growth-focused events.

FORMAT *Options*

FORMAT	DESCRIPTION
Keynote	45 to 90 minutes. Suitable for conferences, all-staff days, and association events.
Concurrent Session	60 to 75 minutes. More interactive than a keynote, with audience reflection and discussion.
Half-Day Workshop	3 hours. Deeper dive into one or two frameworks with practical application and reflection.
Full-Day Workshop	Full day. Comprehensive exploration of Energy vs Impact Matrix, the six pathways, and personalised application.
Panel/MC/Facilitation	Available for panel discussions, MC roles, and facilitated conversations on educator wellbeing and leadership.
Virtual Delivery	All formats available virtually via Zoom, Teams, or your preferred platform.

PAST *Clients*

Jenny has been trusted to deliver keynotes, workshops, and professional learning for schools, network, systems and organisations including:

- The Department of Education Western Australia
- Catholic Education Western Australia
- WA Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA)
- WA Secondary School Executives Association (WASSEA)
- WA Association of Education Support Principals and Administrators (WAESPAA)
- Australian Special Education Principals Association (ASEPA)
- Australian Association of Special Education (AASE)
- The State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia (SSTUWA)
- WA Secondary Administrator Association (WASSEA)
- 100's of schools across Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria and China



PRACTICAL *Information*

TRAVEL

Jenny is based in Boorloo (Perth), Western Australia, and travels nationally and internationally. Travel and accommodation are billed at cost.

FEES

Speaking fees are tailored to event format, audience size, and travel requirements. Please request a quote.

BOOKING LEAD TIME

Jenny is typically booked 3 to 6 months in advance. Earlier enquiries are encouraged for major conferences.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Lapel or handheld microphone (lapel preferred)
- Projector and screen for slide presentation (will bring own MacBook)
- Confidence monitor where available
- Bottle of room temperature water on stage

BOOK SALES AND SIGNING

Copies of *Teach, Lead or Leave* can be made available for purchase at events. Jenny is happy to do book signings and meet with attendees afterwards. Please let us know your preference at the time of booking.

GET IN *Touch*

To check Jenny's availability or discuss your event, please complete the booking enquiry form on the website or contact us directly.

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