

Industry Engagement Speaker Bank: A Guide for Teaching Staff



INLLEN's Industry Engagement initiative connects students with real-world experiences through guest speakers, job-ready workshops, and workplace excursions. The more exposure students have to industry professionals, the better prepared they are for future careers.

SPEAKER BANK

The speaker bank is designed to strengthen partnerships between schools and industry, bringing real-world insights directly into the classroom. We collaborate with a diverse range of industry professionals, including local councils, businesses, and INLLEN volunteers who generously share their time and expertise with students. Schools are also encouraged to tap into their networks—parents, friends, and alumni—to expand students' access to career insights.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN REQUESTING A SPEAKER

✔ Finding the Right Industry Speakers

Availability varies, especially in high-demand sectors like construction. Focusing on broad career journeys rather than specific roles increases the chances of securing speakers.

✔ Preparation Time

Requests should be submitted at least 4-6 weeks in advance.

✔ Presentation Style

Many of our speakers are industry professionals rather than experienced presenters. They may not use PowerPoint or be accustomed to speaking in front of large student groups.

Based on our experience:

- Panel discussions work best for larger student groups.
- Individual speakers are more suited to smaller classroom settings.

✔ Event Structure & Facilitation

A teacher-led format helps guide discussions and supports speakers in delivering engaging sessions.

✔ Supporting Speaker Presentations

- We can provide a list of discussion questions to help structure the session.
- Teachers should encourage an interactive format, allowing students to engage actively with speakers.

✔ Preparing Students for Speaker Sessions

- Research the industry and speaker in advance.
- Prepare thoughtful questions (sample questions available upon request).

✔ Industry-Specific Challenges

For sectors with limited availability (e.g., trades), consider engaging representatives from peak bodies, apprenticeship networks, or training organisations.

MAKING A SPEAKER REQUEST

To help us secure the most suitable speakers, please provide:

- **Preferred Date & Time:** Please provide a list of your available dates and times.
- **Format:** Preferred structure (e.g., panel, classroom talk, excursion).
- **Industry Focus:** Preferred field or sector of interest.
- **Topics:** Key themes or areas the speaker should cover.
- **Audience Size:** Approximate number of students and year levels attending.
- **Additional Information:** Any relevant details to help tailor the session.

For assistance in finding the right industry engagement activity for your class, contact Bret at bmahon@inllen.org.au or call 0402 650 979