



## STEM ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES REVIEW

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is proud to support Australia's scientific organisations, including the hard working and often volunteer-powered science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) associations and societies that contribute so much to Australia's thriving knowledge and innovation economy.

These associations and societies serve a vital but often invisible role, connecting professionals to others in their discipline, educating STEM professionals, rewarding high achievers, informing federal and state policymaking, and ensuring high standards and ethical behaviour in research.

STA has recently commissioned Rapid Context to conduct Australia's first national review of the role of STEM professional associations and societies, articulating their crucial contributions to the STEM sector and Australia's society and economy more generally and examining factors in their success or decline.

Following a broad-ranging survey and expert analysis, the review reports on findings including:

- > Economic contributions of STEM associations and societies in Australia
- > Common factors in the growth of successful STEM membership organisations
- > Diversity of leadership and membership in STEM associations and societies
- > Warning signs that an association or society is at risk

STA is proud to report that the review has found that STA member organisations are more likely than non-members to advocate publicly for their discipline, and are three times as likely to undertake public engagement activities. It found that more than half of Australian STEM organisations are reporting growth in their membership.

STA Members are more publicly engaged than non members surveyed with **41%** of members highlighting it as one of their core activities, compared to 10% of non-members.

**41%**

STA Members had a higher stake in Australian research with **49%** of members highlighting it as one of their core activities, compared to 29% of non-members.

**49%**

**All** STA members are part of at least one body (STA) that sets strategy for STEM while only 19% of non-members indicated they were a member of a body setting strategy for STEM.

**100%**

Available free of charge to all STA member organisations and at a cost of \$175 to non-members, the review will be followed by an webinar series and suite of online resources, free & exclusive to STA members.

These will be designed to support Australian STEM organisations to grow their membership, reach and influence; adopt best practice; and most effectively represent the interests of their own members.

To learn more about STA and the services we provide to member organisations in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), visit [STA.ORG.AU](http://STA.ORG.AU)

To inquire about membership of STA or request a quote for access to the report, webinar and resources for non-member organisations, please contact us at [info@sta.org.au](mailto:info@sta.org.au)



[sta.org.au](http://sta.org.au) 

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Rapid Context is a research consulting firm built on the premise that academic rigour and rapid delivery can enjoy each other's company. We are passionate about robust and defensible research and about translating that evidence into policy and change. We believe that better thinking produces a better society, and we are committed to developing solutions that are tailored to your context.