



Response to Science and Technology Australia

In speaking with Canberrans, I know support for science and technology is important to the community. There is broad recognition of how science and technology is working to improve our lives, whether that's through new life-saving medicines or innovations that simply improve our internet speeds.

The response to the pandemic provides a potent example of the importance of science and technology in our society. Without science, we would not have had the vaccines, diagnostic tests or medical equipment needed to disrupt the spread of the virus and protect our health, our economy and our national security.

However, I recognise that the sector is facing challenges. Federal contributions are now far below the OECD average, at 1.79 per cent of GDP.

Yet, we know university research and education has a huge part to play in lifting productivity, and therefore wage growth. Australia also has an outstanding history of ground breaking research, from technologies like Wi-Fi to the cochlear implant. We need to be doing all we can to support the sector to thrive.

If elected, I will work to make sure the government maintains Australia's world-leading research capability, including by making adequate PhD places available. I will advocate for more longer-term certainty in research investment that is on par with other OECD countries. I will oppose undue ministerial interference in the allocation of research grants and funding.

I will also continue to advocate for policies that allow people to gain a high quality education, no matter what stage of life they are in. This includes policies that work to better embed and promote STEM throughout the education continuum. You can view my policies on research and education here: [Improved Skills & Education](#).

This is a time to grow our STEM capabilities across Australia, and to do that, we need the expertise, coordinating power and technical capabilities of our world-renowned scientific institutions. I will also fight against, and hold the government accountable for, any cuts to our national scientific institutions and bodies, including the Office of the Chief Scientist, CSIRO, NHMRC, ARC, ACIAR, ANSTO, AIMS, Geoscience Australia and others.

I recognise the importance R&D has to our country. If elected, I will be listening to the experts to understand the challenges and design policies that turn these into opportunities.

Finally, I'm pleased to share my policy on climate action. The smart energy transition is already underway. Through a National Electrification Program, we can support households to switch over to renewable technologies and reap the benefits of transition, which include lower household energy bills and more spending pouring into our economy. I hope you can read my policy here: [Acting on climate](#).