



Science &
Technology
AUSTRALIA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

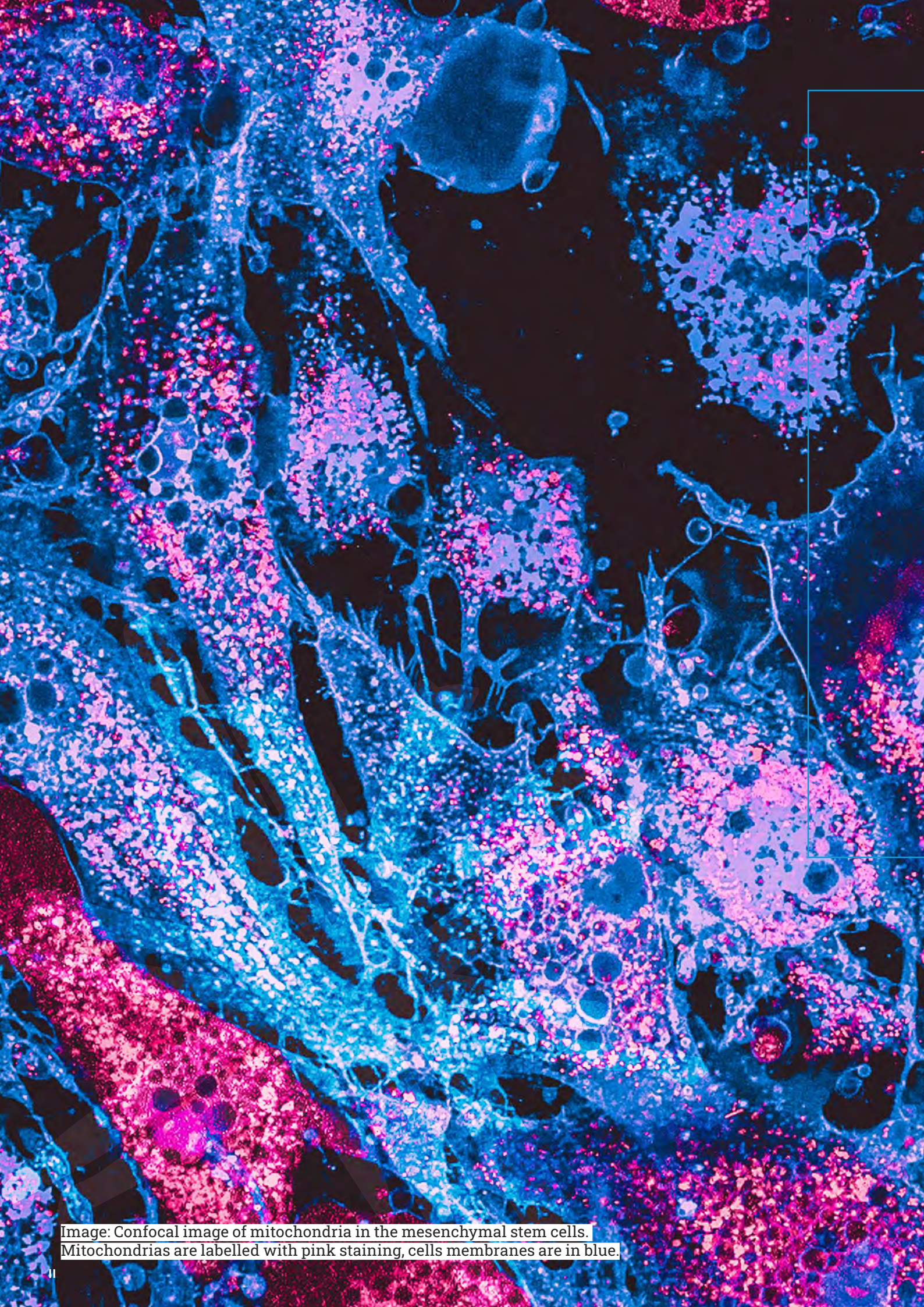


Image: Confocal image of mitochondria in the mesenchymal stem cells.
Mitochondrias are labelled with pink staining, cells membranes are in blue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the President.....	5
Finances at a Glance.....	6
From the CEO.....	7
STA Snapshot.....	8
Science Meets Parliament 2022.....	12
Superstars of STEM.....	14
STEM Ambassadors Program.....	16
Science Policy Fellows.....	18
Policy Wins.....	22
Policy Advocacy.....	24
Reconciliation Action Plan.....	26
Media & Engagement.....	27
Our Members.....	30
Our Sponsors & Partners.....	32
Our Board and Staff 2022.....	35

Front cover image: Archean banded iron formation rock

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am delighted to present this annual report of Science & Technology Australia.

My first year as STA President has coincided with a year of seismic change across the science and research landscape.

STA's membership was excited by the announcement of a new \$2.2 billion research commercialisation package in February - since reconfirmed in the October Budget.

STA has long advocated for Australia to create such a fund to turn more great Australian science into jobs, and turbocharge our nation's research commercialisation.

We have consistently made the case over the last year that this focus on research commercialisation should be accompanied by a deeper commitment to fund discovery science.

We have also made a strong argument that Australia needs to ensure it gives its scientific community the skills it needs to take their research, ideas, and expertise to industry.

At the National Press Club address at this year's Science Meets Parliament, I set out STA's visionary proposal to create Australia's first generation of Bench to Boardroom scientists. They would be a small cohort of the country's research community who could be connectors between the university sector and industry, and champions of commercialisation.

In the lead up to the Federal Election, STA secured commitments from the major parties on a wide range of issues that are important to our community. The strong bipartisan support for science and technology in those commitments was clear, and we will work with the Parliament and policy makers to deliver these commitments.

This year, STA has modernised its governance with strong support from our member organisations for our new constitution. This essential work positions STA for the next phase of its growth, and I thank STA Secretary Jas Chambers for leading that important project.

I'm incredibly proud of the work that STA, its amazing staff and diverse membership has done to rise to challenges of our times, and this annual report details some of the many achievements of the last year.

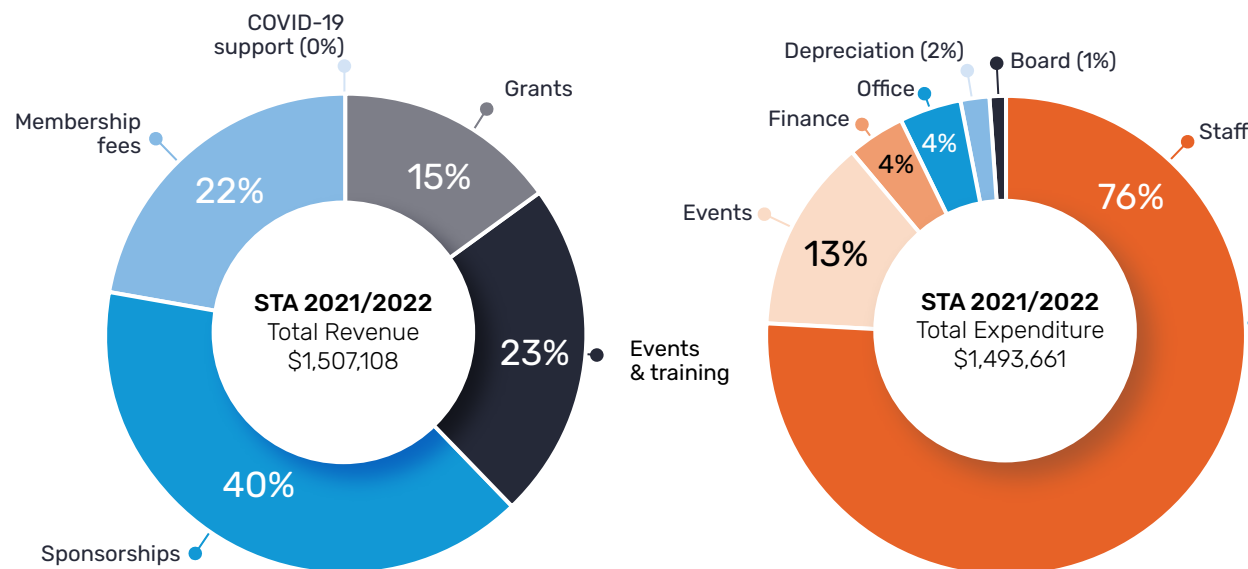
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mark Hutchinson'.

Professor Mark Hutchinson
President
Science & Technology Australia

FINANCES AT A GLANCE

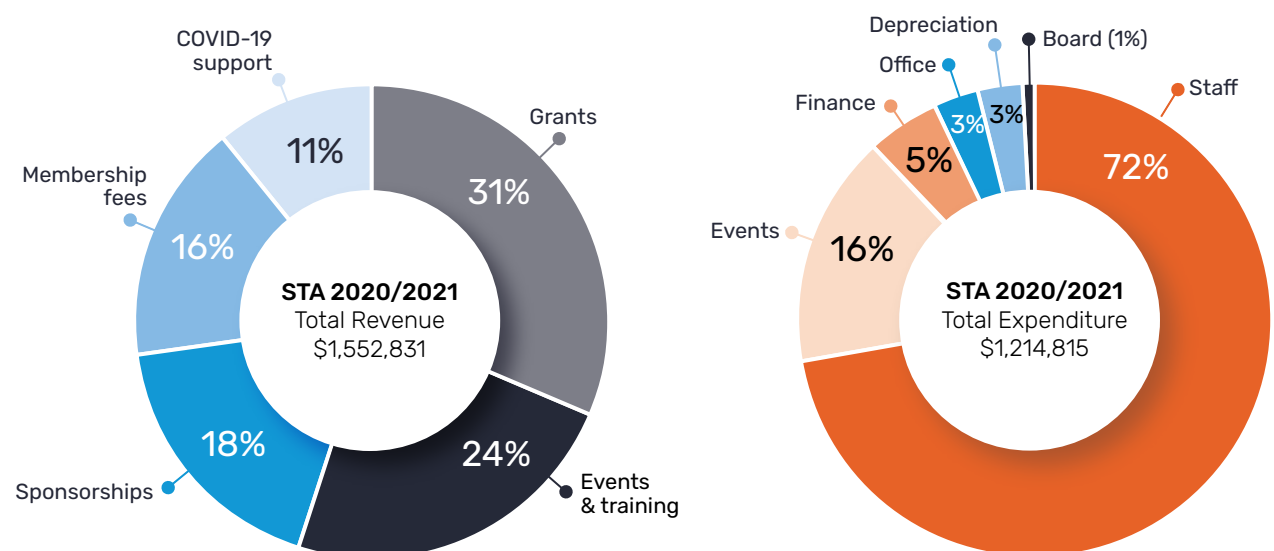
Financial year 2021-22

\$13,447 surplus



Financial year 2020-21

\$338,016 surplus (included COVID support amid the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic)



FROM THE CEO



It has been a year of remarkable growth and influence for STA.

Our membership expanded rapidly in 2022, with powerful momentum in our role as the key connector of people and ideas in Australia's STEM sector. STA now represents 118 member organisations - up from 77 in 2020.

This is no accident. Over the last few years, STA has built an increasingly high profile. We've been more visible in public policy discussions, we've generated much more media coverage, and we've shaped more legislation and policy decisions affecting our members.

Crucially, we've been more influential. I'm proud to see STA's advocacy reflected in a strong list of policy decisions and programs that advance the science and technology community - from securing a major new research commercialisation fund to securing a fixed timetable for research grant announcements.

But our influence extends far beyond the big-ticket policy wins (outlined on [pages 22-23](#)) we've played a significant role in making happen.

You can also see the crucial role we're playing as a champion of diversity and equity in our sector. Our Superstars of STEM program - funded by the Australian Government - has helped to propel a dramatic rise in women and girls studying STEM degrees. We're helping to raise the profile of First Nations science and STEM leadership by championing the work of our Indigenous member organisations and supporting the creation of the new National Indigenous STEM Professionals Network. And we are deepening ties between scientists and technologists and policymakers through our world-leading STEM Ambassadors program and STA's flagship event Science Meets Parliament.

STA has been able to deliver these wins for our sector and members because we are a respected advocacy voice with decision-makers.

Throughout the year, we engage tirelessly and productively with public servants and politicians from across the parties. We ensure the sector's concerns, challenges and expertise are continuously fed into policy discussions.

This is a testament to the drive, creativity, and hard work of everyone involved with STA - from our inspiring staff to all the dynamic and diverse STEM leaders who give their time generously to serve our boards, committees and programs.

And it's thanks to our brilliant members who keep our finger on the pulse of the issues Australian scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians face, and help us shape clever policy ideas to solve complex challenges.

Together, we are a powerful voice for the science and technology community.

Misha Schubert
Chief Executive Officer
Science & Technology Australia

SUPER STEM COMMUNICATOR TRAINING

26 sessions delivered

SUPERSTARS OF STEM

60 new Superstars of STEM selected in 2022

and **150 Superstars** of STEM trained since 2017

85 million people reached via media

60,000 school students reached at **305** schools

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2022

528 delegates

60 MPs and Senators took **66** meetings

23% of speakers were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people

2300 social media #SmP2022 mentions reaching an audience of 6.3million

8 simultaneous Gala Dinners, attended by over 700 guests nationally

12 diversity scholarships (including new categories: Neurodivergent and Disability)

93% of delegates recommend the event

81% of delegates acquired career-accelerating skills

STA STEM AMBASSADORS

45 STEM Ambassadors trained since 2019

25 Parliamentarians registered in 2022

New STEM Ambassadors to be announced by early 2023

MEDIA & ENGAGEMENT

32 media releases

8 opinion pieces

30,100 Twitter followers reaching **1.5 million** people

6,700 Facebook followers

7,900 LinkedIn followers

1000 Instagram followers

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK LAUNCH

45 media stories

Audience of **1.9 million**

Deputy Prime Minister, Science Minister, 12 MPs & Senators, and 2 ACT Government Ministers attended

SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS ALUMNI

4 alumni meetings

2 alumni networking events

POLICY

25 high-impact policy submissions

1 Parliamentary hearing appearance

18 meetings with MPs and Senators

29 Departmental engagements

24 responses to STA election priorities

EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

2 staff development sessions to deepen cultural relationships and insight

1 new EDI template

2 new Indigenous policies published

7 Indigenous businesses engaged as suppliers

PROGRAMS

ACTIVITIES

STA SNAPSHOT: 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

COMMUNITY

MEMBERSHIP

105,000 scientists & technologists represented

118 STA member organisations

26 new members in 2022

77 member meetings

EVENTS

1350 people attended STA events

PROGRAMS

Image: Thin section of an essexite porphyry with
augite crystals under cross-polarised light

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2022

In 2022, Science Meets Parliament delivered a week-long online program of powerful professional development, an energising National Press Club address and eight simultaneous National Gala Dinners.

This year a record 528 delegates, covering the full spectrum of science and technology disciplines, attended SMP22. Our diverse group of 68 speakers set the scene for an impressive showcase of talent and expertise. Once again, engagement with our nation's leadership was strong with 64 meetings taking place between SMP delegates and Parliamentarians.

STA is proud to support equity, diversity and inclusion as the leading voice for Australia's science and technology sector. In our powerful conference program, 58 per cent of the speakers were female and 23 per cent identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. We look forward to continuing this diverse and inclusive mix of speakers at SMP23.

Following the program's conclusion, 93 per cent of delegates said they would recommend SMP to a colleague and 81 per cent acquired career-accelerating skills. Delegate testimonials highlighted the strengths of such a unique program.

Science & Technology Australia would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our sponsors, participating MPs and Senators, speakers and delegates for making the event a success.

BENCH-TO-BOARDROOM SCIENCE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

The centrepiece of Science Meets Parliament is the National Press Club address. This year, STA President Professor Mark Hutchinson delivered an exceptional address on how training Australia's first generation of bench-to-boardroom scientists would put the country on a path to being a global STEM superpower. He detailed how the Government's recently announced commercialisation investment fund would be crucial to spur more promising Australian science and research across the 'valley of death' in commercialisation.

"To get more successful at research commercialisation, Australia needs to go beyond what we call 'bench-to-bookshelf' science. We need to take the next steps after doing great research at the lab bench and publishing it in top global journals. To do that, we need to train a much bigger community of 'bench-to-boardroom' scientists," he said.

IN FOCUS



(above) STA President Professor Mark Hutchinson



Images (clockwise from top left): Minister for Industry and Science Ed Husic in Canberra; the Sydney dinner hosted by UNSW; STA CEO Misha Schubert in Canberra; the live broadcast into the Adelaide dinner; Senator Fatimah Payman, SKA Telescope Director Dr Sarah Pearce and Senator Dorinda Cox in Perth; Quandamooka mathematician and STA Board Director Professor Chris Matthews in Brisbane; STA President Professor Mark Hutchinson takes a group selfie in Adelaide; Darwin diners; Prof Ben Thornber & Laureate Prof Toby Walsh in Sydney; UQ Vice Chancellor Professor Deborah Terry in Brisbane; and Lauren Williamson, Dr Sara Khalifa & Dr Liezl Schoman in Sydney.

IN FOCUS

8 NATIONAL GALA DINNERS

On 2 June, STA hosted eight simultaneous National Gala Dinners in each Australian capital city. Over 720 guests attended the event, including an array of STEM leaders, senior Parliamentarians, SMP delegates and sponsors.

Guests included Australia's new Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus, South Australian Deputy Premier Susan Close, Queensland Science Minister Meaghan Scanlon, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Science Robyn Preston, and NT Treasurer and Education Minister Eva Lawler, as well as many federal MPs, Senators and Senators-elect.

Australia's newly-minted Science and Industry Minister Ed Husic took the stage in Canberra as the keynote speaker. During his address, the Minister signalled his deep appreciation for the work of science and intentions to address critical challenges facing the STEM sector.

"We're listening to the science, we're respecting the science, we're acting on the science, these things, this is the signal that we wanted to send."

"We had Hawke 30 years ago in a campaign speech, we've just gone through an election and campaign speech where we'd promised he would set up Cooperative Research Centres.

He made that a big deal.

And he said, we're going to stop importing technology and we're going to stop the brain drain. And where are we now 30 years later? It's still around, still around, and we're going to fix it.

We are bloody going to fix it."

Ed Husic MP, Minister for Industry & Science - 2 June 2022

SUPERSTARS OF STEM

Images (clockwise from top left): Misha Schubert in Canberra; the live broadcast of the Superstars of STEM event and Senator Dorinda Cox in Perth; Queensland Senator Mark Hutchinson takes a photo with a Superstar; UQ Vice Chancellor Professor

STA's Superstars of STEM program recruits brilliant and diverse scientists and technologists from across Australia and boosts their public profile to be role models who inspire the next generation. It smashes stereotypes and advances gender equity in STEM.

STA has a strong commitment to ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement of all our programs. On International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022, STA released a full evaluation report into the Superstars of STEM program focusing on the 2019-20 cohort.

The evaluation's key findings are:

- A media profile supercharges the world-changing impact of women in STEM: 84 per cent of Superstars grew their reach and profile;
- Scientists visiting schools inspires students to choose STEM: 94 per cent of teachers felt a Superstars visit influenced their students' choice of subjects; and
- Building networks and raising your public profile fast-tracks women's careers: 93 per cent of Superstars said the connection they made with other Superstars helped their careers.

In February the Australian Government committed a further investment of \$2 million to continue the Superstars of STEM program. This funding will enable STA to train a further 120 women and non-binary Superstars from 2023-2026.



IN FOCUS

MAKING MEDIA SUPERSTARS

Media training is an integral part of the Superstars of STEM program, and a crucial aspect of developing a public profile. In the first year of the program, Superstars undertook online media training where experts and industry specialists taught them about the media landscape and helped them to practice their interview skills.

In August and September 2022 the Superstars did in-person media training. Hosted in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, the Superstars of STEM toured news rooms at SBS and Channel Nine and were interviewed by some of the country's leading print, radio and television journalists. It was an exhilarating day of interviews and feedback, and the Superstars loved the chance to get intensive practice and to meet and get to know the journalists. They gained valuable experience and skills in presenting their work to the media, and seeking out opportunities to build their media profile.

In conjunction with these training days, networking sessions were run in the afternoon to bring together the Superstars with mentors, partners in the program and key stakeholders from the broader science and technology community.

RAISING THE PROFILE OF DIVERSE WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Now equipped with high level communication and media skills, the Superstars of STEM have been taking these skills out into the world, raising their own profiles and inspiring the next generations of STEM experts. It has been awe-inspiring to see how far they have come, and how many people now benefit from their amazing work.

Dr Lila Landowski has had a stellar year breaking into mainstream media as a expert in neuroscience and using her media training to become a trusted commentator on a range of science topics. Lila has been interviewed regularly on The Drum on ABC TV, appeared on The Project on Channel 10, and continued with regular ABC radio spots.

After additional school visit training and discussions in 2022, Dr Rashina Hoda sought out schools where she felt girls might be less exposed to science and technology experiences, and where she would be a particularly relevant role model. Rashina visited several Islamic schools around Melbourne, becoming an important role model for the students.

Dr Samantha Munroe said the Superstars media and communication training inspired her to create her own YouTube channel all about ecology and science and technology careers. Sam was also an organiser of SoapBox Science in Adelaide, a public outreach platform for promoting women and non-binary scientists.



IN FOCUS

Images (from top left of page): Media training at Melbourne's 9 News studios; Superstars networking event at Google in Sydney; Dr Lila Landowski; Dr Rashina Hoda; Dr Samantha Munroe

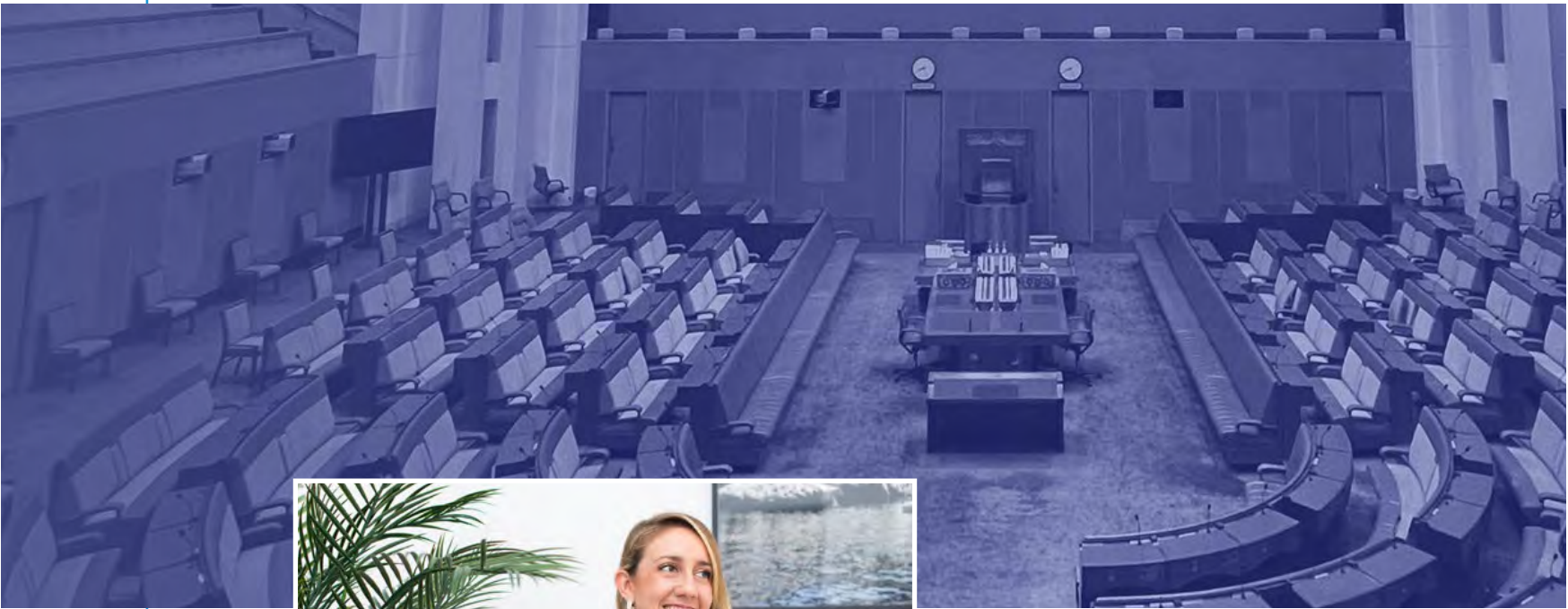
STEM AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Science & Technology Australia’s prestigious STEM Ambassador program pairs science and technology professionals with their local federal MPs and Senators.

The STEM Ambassador program – which began in 2019 – empowers experts to become effective advocates for science and the sector, and to use their expertise to inform policy to shape Australia’s future.

STA supports the Ambassadors with a series of workshops and training sessions, including sessions on understanding the policy development process and engaging effectively with the media.

With the 2022 Federal Election in May, the recruitment round for the STEM Ambassador program was postponed until the second half of the year. Interest from Parliamentarians to be paired with a STEM Ambassador was strong, with 25 Parliamentarians – the largest cohort yet – spanning the Parliament signing up for the 2023–24 period. The call for applications from STA member organisations opened in October, with strong interest from across the membership.



IN FOCUS

WORLD HEARING DAY

Dr Dona Jayakody is STEM Ambassador to Senator Dorinda Cox. Dr Jayakody is the Deputy Head of Brain and Hearing at Ear Science Australia.

Her work focuses on links between hearing loss and dementia, hearing assessments to identify those at risk of dementia, and how the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants can impact cognitive function in Indigenous and non-Indigenous older Australians. Her research indicates that Aboriginal people experience dementia at a rate of three to five times higher than the general Australian population.

Senator Cox is a Yamatji-Noongar woman who understands the impact of hearing loss. She is a Cochlear implant user who got her implant from Ear Science Australia, and she is passionate about helping increase the awareness of hearing loss among First Nations people.

Because of their connection through the STEM Ambassador program, Senator Cox was invited to be World Hearing Day Ambassador in 2022. On World Hearing Day, Senator Cox and Dr Jayakody did a number of media interviews together about the issue, including a radio interview on ABC.



Senator Dorinda Cox and Dr Dona Jayakody



Meg Panozzo

MEG PANOZZO AND THE STEM EQUITY MONITOR

STEM Ambassador Meg Panozzo is newly-paired with Independent Member for Wentworth Allegra Spender who was elected in the 2022 Federal Election.

In September the Federal Government released the latest STEM Equity Monitor report. The report showed crucial progress had been made through significant increases in women studying science and technology degrees, but that much more needed to be done particularly at the top levels of Australia’s STEM workforce.

Meg is an engineer working as an infrastructure advisory consultant at RPS. Throughout her career she has worked to harness a passion for science and technology in industry and to attract and retain women in STEM and engineering.

In her role as an STA STEM Ambassador, she was interviewed by the Australian Financial Review about the STEM Equity Monitor results. She also provided quotes for a media release Science & Technology Australia put out to respond to the report’s findings, and did follow up media interviews.

“The stats confirm we need to keep pushing for change,” she said.

“But we need to talk about the positives as well – we need to showcase STEM in its whole breadth of possibility. STEM is an exciting way to make a difference, to creatively solve the world’s crises, and to satisfy our curiosity to be life-long learners.”

IN FOCUS

SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS

The Australian Science Policy Fellowship Program is an initiative of the Office of the Chief Scientist. It creates a path for early-to-mid career scientists to become skilled policy practitioners so they can deploy their STEM analytical skills in public policy-making – and helps to bring deeper scientific expertise into government functions.

Drawing on STA's deep expertise delivering high-quality programs and nurturing alumni communities, we have supported the Office of the Chief Scientist to run a pilot Alumni program for their Fellows. The Australian Science Policy Fellowship Alumni network aims to provide the Fellows with an opportunity to connect with each other and with the broader network of Australian science and policy-making.

The Alumni network currently has 45 members, and will be supplemented each year by the graduating Fellows. The alumni joined with great excitement and enthusiasm to create a network that will help build their careers and provide them with an avenue to be influential in the world of science policy.

In the first year we held four alumni meetings and four meetings for the leadership group. The alumni attended Science Meets Parliament and the STA CEO and Presidents Forum networking event, and we held the first annual dinner. An online directory for the alumni was also created on the STA website, where alumni can search for each other and connect.



Images (from top): Dr Helen Smith and Dr Supre Ponnappa with Dr Cathy Foley, Australia's Chief Scientist; SPFA annual dinner networking (featuring baby Orla).

IN FOCUS

Forging American-Australian science policy links

In May 2022, two staff members of the American Science and Technology Policy Fellowship (STPF) program attended the SPF Alumni online meeting to exchange information about the programs.

The STPF has been running for more than 40 years, but they are just beginning to formalise their own alumni network. The Australian SPF Alumni were able to learn from the American experience as well as share lessons from the first year of operations of the Australian alumni network.

SPFA annual dinner

In July 2022, the SPFA annual dinner was held at Hotel Kurrajong in Canberra. The event was a great success, with 30 alumni representing all SPF cohorts attending. The alumni had a great time getting to know each other and talking about their plans for the network.

Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley welcomed the Fellows and shared stories and tips about her career. STA CEO Misha Schubert hosted a Q&A session with guest speaker Judi Zielke, CEO of the Australian Research Council. Judi provided interesting insider experiences about her years of public service.

ACTIVITIES

Image: Colourful layers in sandstone

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA'S POLICY WINS

A new research commercialisation fund



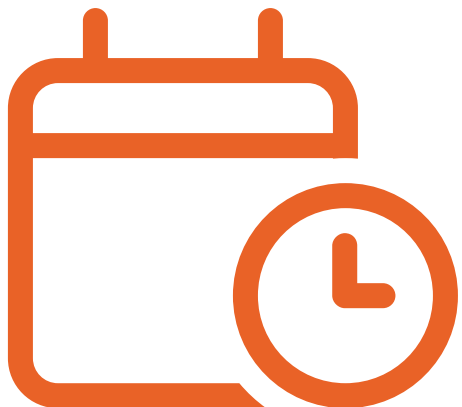
STA made a powerful case for a new Research Commercialisation Fund to deliver strong returns on investment to the nation. In February 2022, the Australian Government announced a \$2.2 billion investment in a research commercialisation fund, venture capital and new industry fellowships. STA also confirmed bipartisan support for the legislation.

Australia as a global STEM superpower

Science & Technology Australia's June 2021 Policy Vision urged policymakers to set an ambitious target of making the country a global STEM superpower. This ambition was endorsed in the election pledge made to STA's membership by the Labor Party at the 2022 Federal Election shortly before it formed Government.



Grant rounds on time to a fixed schedule



In December 2021, Science & Technology Australia called for all future Australian Research Council rounds to be delivered to a fixed timetable to avoid losing Australia's science research workforce. In August 2022, Education Minister Jason Clare included fixed grants timetables delivered on schedule in his Statement of Expectations to the ARC.

Reversing the ARC grants pre-prints ban



In 2021, STA worked behind the scenes with the leadership of the nation's professional scientific societies and engaged with the Australian Research Council to reverse a new ARC rule to ban the citation of pre-prints in grant applications. The pre-prints ban was successfully reversed in December 2021.

Voluntary research commercialisation IP templates

In October 2021, STA called for Intellectual Property templates for research commercialisation deals to be made voluntary – not mandatory. We advocated for the templates to have crucial flexibility, rather than a rigid one-size-fits-all obligation. In September 2022, the Australian Government issued the new templates for voluntary use.



Extending the Patent Box tax break to clean energy



In a pre-Budget Submission in January 2022, Science & Technology Australia called for the Government's proposed Patent Box scheme to be extended to include clean energy technologies. The extension of the new Patent Box tax break for Australian companies to manufacture clean energy technologies onshore was confirmed in the March 2022 Budget.

POLICY ADVOCACY

2022 has been a jam-packed year for policy developments.

The former Government made significant announcements in February 2022 on university research commercialisation, with a \$2.2 billion suite of measures under the University Research Commercialisation Action Plan. STA has long advocated for a dedicated research translation and commercialisation fund, so this was a huge policy win.

In the lead up to the 2022 Federal Election, STA invited all candidates to respond to the STA STEM sector priorities. We received responses from all major parties in the Parliament, as well as several small parties and independent candidates, pledging their support for the STEM sector and putting on the record their respect and esteem for the sector.

This included a commitment from the Australian Labor Party to support the research commercialisation measures with legislation.

Following the election, the new Government has hit the ground running, continuing many ongoing consultation processes and sparking off new ones in priority areas.

STA CEO Misha Schubert was invited to attend a Roundtable convened by the Minister for Industry and Science in the lead up to the Government's Jobs and Skills summit in September.

This event informed several measures in the October Budget. Misha also was invited to speak at events in the CEDA science x technology series.

Guided by the expertise of the STA Policy Committee, STA made 25 submissions to the Government since the previous Annual Report on issues including paid parental leave, critical technologies, the Australian Research Council governance, quantum capabilities, and climate change legislation.



A RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION FUND

Over the last few years STA has made a powerful case for a new Research Commercialisation Fund.

We have advocated for this fund as an essential ingredient to better bridge the valley of death between Australia's world-leading research and turning it into the products, services and jobs of tomorrow.

In February 2022, the Government announced a \$2.2 billion investment in a research commercialisation fund, venture capital and industry fellowships. In the lead up to the Federal Election, STA also confirmed bipartisan support for the legislation.

FIVE POLICY FIXES

In September, STA put in a submission to the Federal Government's Job and Skills Summit process. In our submission, we suggested five policy fixes that would put Australia on a pathway to the "economy powered by science" called for by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Our public commentary around this submission highlighted the staggering opportunity open to the country. By putting in place the 'bench-to-boardroom' plan STA has consistently made the case for, it would generate a phenomenal \$52 billion windfall for the Australian economy. We also warned our nation's economic competitors are rapidly scaling up their investments in science, technology, research and development and Australia needed to keep pace.

IN FOCUS

Young mangrove growing in the seagrass beds of Jawbone Sanctuary in Victoria Australia

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Science & Technology Australia is powerfully committed to honour the deep science knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - this country's first scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians.

Since launching our first Reconciliation Action Plan in July 2021, STA has forged stronger partnerships of trust with First Nations people, communities, and organisations.

STA's Board, staff and members have sought to deepen STEM sector connections between Australia's First Nations peoples and cultures and non-Indigenous Australians in STEM with relationships of respect and reciprocity. This includes through:

- Teaching knowledge about Indigenous science, history, culture, art and expertise through cultural learning programs and a local and researched Acknowledgement of Country at every STA gathering;
- Granting complimentary membership of STA to our First Nations member organisations to powerfully support their work;
- Securing the election of Quandamooka mathematician and Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance Professor Chris Matthews to the STA Board;
- Working with STA's First Nations member organisations to develop an Indigenous Partnerships Policy to guide us and our members to forge powerful partnerships with First Nations people and organisations;
- Partnering with STA's First Nations member organisations to elevate the voices of First Nations scientists on key policy advocacy and key issues;
- Amplifying First Nations speakers and content throughout STA's major events such as Science Meets Parliament and the Official Launch of National Science Week at Parliament House; and
- Supporting historic developments to establish the new National Indigenous STEM Professionals Network. STA's callout through our membership network in 2020 to build an initial membership list and pro bono administrative support over the past two years has helped to establish an initial network of 80 First Nations STEM professionals. STA President Mark Hutchinson and CEO Misha Schubert were deeply honoured to attend an historic first in-person gathering of this new network in November 2022 to underscore our organisation's strong support for these aspirations.

As we near the conclusion of our first RAP we are proud to report strong progress on our journey and also acknowledge, as we begin the development of our next RAP, there is further work to be done toward a reconciled and united nation.



'Diverse Communities'
by Lynnice Letty Church –
Ngunnawal, Wiradjuri,
Kamilaroi; and
Brendan Church – Barkindji

"Each circle represents a unique community, and celebrates their diversity and individual qualities. Each community has many differences, but also a lot of qualities, and it is those differences in qualities that we embrace. The pathways recognise and celebrate these differences, leading to the centre of the circle – one heart, one vision, one people."

MEDIA & ENGAGEMENT

Science & Technology Australia continues to advocate powerfully in the media on issues affecting our members and for the advancement of the STEM sector.

This year, STA has issued more than 30 media releases and generated widespread national coverage in newspapers, on television and on the radio.

Around one third of the media releases have promoted STA's policy submissions put into government.

Significant achievements in our communications and media engagement include STA President Professor Mark Hutchinson's National Press Club address, the launch of National Science Week at Parliament House and our release of the 3M State of Science report, and our work around the 2022 Federal Election.

STA's traditional media engagement has been supported by rapidly-growing social media channels. Twitter followers have grown by nearly 3,000 to 32,200, and Facebook to nearly 6,700 followers. We have had significant growth in our LinkedIn following - up from 5,400 last year to 7,900 followers currently. Our Instagram channel has more than doubled in size to more than 1000 followers.

IN FOCUS

In the lead up to the Federal election STA approached all the major parties and key independents to seek to publish their responses to the policy priorities identified by our member organisations.

The responses enabled STA to create a comprehensive online database of candidates' commitments towards science and technology.

This initiative also revealed bi-partisan support for the former government's research commercialisation fund. Following the election, we put out media releases welcoming the new government and the new shadow cabinet.

COMMUNITY

Image: Reef formations - Karijini National Park, Western Australia

OUR MEMBERS: THANK YOU

Science & Technology Australia is a member-based organisation which serves the grassroots STEM community in Australia throughout all of its work.

In 2021/22 STA welcomed 25 new members – taking our membership total to 118 organisations (and counting). STA’s grassroots membership encompasses the full spectrum of scientific disciplines and represents over 105,000 scientists and technologists.

The STA team regularly engages with members to identify and understand key issues and opportunities in the STEM sector. This combined input shapes our policy advocacy and strategic engagement with key decision-makers.

NEW STA MEMBERS

This year’s strong membership growth has been driven by the exceptional calibre of our key programs, a higher public profile for the organisation, and deep engagement in political advocacy for the sector.

Amongst our new members we welcomed a National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme facility, our first Cooperative Research Centre and three companies delivering commercialisation expertise.

The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) is a world-class NCRIS facility specialising in cutting-edge micro- and nano-fabrication techniques. ANFF services the STEM community by providing expert training and support for product commercialisation.

The Digital Health CRC is responding to the rapidly changing priorities in health. As a key enabler of healthcare innovation, the DHCRC is equipping our professionals with the latest data and technology for enhanced service delivery.

Australia is a powerhouse of world-class research. However, this expertise is too infrequently transformed into onshore products and services. Three of STA newest members work with scientists and industry to bridge this ‘valley of death’ in research commercialisation.

Campus Plus connects our universities to a world of commercialisation potential and expertise. Through training, strategic partnerships and more, Campus Plus is driving the development of Australia’s next STEM entrepreneurs.

Spiegare is collaborating with our bio-based sciences to create a roadmap for product commercialisation. By breaking down the language barriers and tapping into their vast network and expertise, Spiegare is bringing the spark to innovation.

And recent members Sparklabs Cultiv8 / Cultiv8 Management Fund are accelerating Agri Food-tech startups through targeted investment and expert support. Their aim is to modernise agricultural practices, leveraging new sustainable technologies for greater long term food security.

IN FOCUS

NEW STA MEMBERS



STA INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

UQ Research and Innovation
Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Sustainable Minerals Institute
Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology

Urban Transformations Research Centre
Western Centre for Cybersecurity Aid & Community Engagement
The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development
Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science
La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food
School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment

The Optical Sciences Centre
Space Technology and Industry Institute
The Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing
Centre for Mental Health & Brain Science

Centre for Rural and Regional Futures
Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation
The Institute for Frontier Materials
Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation

Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute
Monash Data Futures Institute

SPONSORS & PARTNERS: THANK YOU

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2022



FOUNDATION PARTNER



TITANIUM PARTNER



GOLD PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS



EDI PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM PARTNER



BRONZE PARTNER

GALA DINNER PARTNER



NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS PARTNER



SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

SPONSORS & PARTNERS: THANK YOU

SUPERSTARS OF STEM 2021



Major Supporter



Partners



Supporting partners

OUR LEGAL PARTNER: THANK YOU



STA is deeply grateful to Gilbert + Tobin for extensive pro-bono legal support and guidance in the complex process of modernising our legal and governance structure and constitution.

OUR BOARD AND STAFF 2022

As we move into our new governance structure we thank the current and previous STA Board members for their leadership, insight and putting us on the path toward the constitutional modernisation of Science & Technology Australia.

STA EXECUTIVE



President
Professor
Mark Hutchinson



Vice President
Dr Anita Goh



Secretary
Jas Chambers



Treasurer
Mark Stickells



Ordinary Member
Professor
Chris Matthews



Policy Committee Chair
Professor
Sharath Sriram



Early Career Representative
Dr Chloe Taylor



Early Career Representative
Diana Zhang

STA BOARD

Agricultural & Food Sciences Cluster Representative
Michael Walker

Aquatic Sciences Cluster Representative
Dr Rachel Przeslawski

Biological Sciences Cluster Representative
Dr Tatiana Soares da Costa

Chemical Sciences Cluster Representative
Dr Thomas Cresswell

Geographical & Geological Sciences Cluster Representative
Marina Costelloe

Mathematical Sciences Cluster Representative
Professor Adrian Barnett

Medical & Cognitive Sciences Cluster Representative
Dr Karen Gregory

Physical Sciences Cluster Representative
Professor Jodie Bradby

Plant & Ecological Sciences Cluster Representative
Professor Rachel Burton

Technological Sciences Cluster Representative
Dr Vipul Agarwal

General Science Cluster Representative
Dr Kathy Nicholson

General Science Cluster Representative
Heather Catchpole

STA STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
Misha Schubert

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Dr Sandra Gardam

Events and Membership Director
Lucy Guest

Director of Communications
Martyn Pearce

Director of Policy & Engagement
Dr Sarah Tynan

Digital Communications
Emily Downie

Programs Officer
Evelyn Fetterplace

Membership Assistant
Shannon Wong

Membership Engagement Officer
Emma Hibbert

Executive Assistant
Jess Casha
(from June 2022 onwards)
Kelvin Peh (until June 2022)

PO Box 259 Canberra ACT 2601

scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au

