



20 23

ANNUAL REPORT



The Hon. Dr Susan Close MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water
Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy

Dear Minister,

In accordance with Section 27 of the *Flinders University Act 1966*, I present to you the Annual Report and audited financial statements for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, as per resolution of the members of Council at its meeting on 23 May 2024.

Yours sincerely,

John Hood
Chancellor

Flinders University proudly acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located. These are the traditional lands of the Arrente, Dagoman, First Nations of the Southeast, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders and Custodians – past, present and emerging.

Flinders University's 2023 Annual Report was prepared and printed on Kurna Yarta.

Image above: Uncle Mickey Kumatpi O'Brien during a smoking ceremony at Yungkurinthe Inparrila.

For further information
Flinders University
Telephone: 1300 654 633 (local call cost)
Email: askflinders@flinders.edu.au

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Message from the Chancellor



In my first Annual Report as Chancellor, I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to Stephen Gerlach AM, for his dedicated service to Flinders and his significant contribution as our Chancellor. I feel extremely honoured and proud to be selected as Flinders University's seventh Chancellor, and the first alumnus, following Stephen's retirement in October 2023.

Having been part of the Flinders community my whole life, first as a child on campus while my father worked in our Science and Engineering laboratories and later as a student and Council member, it is a privilege to be part of the next chapter of an institution I care deeply about. I am also excited to be part of a team effort by so many wonderful Flinders people as we continue the innovation and impact Flinders is famous for, become even better at it, and grow our international recognition for it.

Attending my first graduation ceremonies as Chancellor in December, both in Darwin and Adelaide, was a personal highlight and a tangible reminder of how education can transform people and, in turn, society. I was proud and emotional to witness our graduates celebrate their achievements and embark on their next chapters. These moments are wonderful reminders of the importance of who we are and what we do through education and research – changing lives and changing the world.

As we approach Flinders' 60th anniversary in 2026, we recognise the transformation occurring in the higher education sector in South Australia, Australia and internationally. As one of the fastest growing research universities in the country, with an unrivalled student experience, together with an innovative and inclusive culture, Flinders is in an excellent position to rise to the challenges, embrace opportunities, and continue to deliver on our vision and future success.

As I transitioned into the role of Chancellor, I have been reminded of the dedication, commitment and contributions of the excellent people who are the Flinders community – our students, staff, alumni and partners. I am particularly grateful for the support of our Council, Vice-Chancellor, Secretariat, and Senior Leadership Team. We share a passion for Flinders, a desire to be different, and a commitment to lead and guide with the fearlessness and agility we need to achieve our vision in the dynamic and challenging landscape of higher education.

Also a special thanks to Flinders donors and benefactors. Without your support many of our students could not realise their dreams, nor researchers advance the knowledge to deliver outcomes that change lives for the better.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the service and dedication of George Freney, Emily Williams, and Sean Henschke during their time on Council and thank them for their valuable contribution to the University.

I am looking forward to working with our entire Flinders community as we build on the achievements and initiatives of 2023 and continue to pursue being one of the world's best places to study, work and research.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hood'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

John Hood

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



Before delving into our achievements, I must first extend a heartfelt thank you to former Chancellor Stephen Gerlach AM, whose unwavering support and advocacy have been the bedrock upon which Flinders University has flourished.

In welcoming John Hood as the University's seventh Chancellor, we embrace not only a distinguished leader, but also a proud alumnus deeply rooted in the essence of Flinders. John's commitment to our values ignites a new chapter for the institution filled with promise and vision, and we eagerly anticipate the guidance he will bring.

The past year has been nothing short of extraordinary. Our dedication to research, education, and community impact has propelled Flinders University to new heights, reaffirming our commitment to change lives and change the world.

Our researchers have once again showcased their brilliance with research income (from research grants and contracts) continuing to grow and exceeding \$120 million in 2023 for the first time in our history.

Their tireless pursuit of knowledge and innovation continues to shape the future across diverse fields.

In education, we take pride in maintaining our position as a leader in providing exceptional student experience, as evidenced by our top rankings in learner engagement, learning resources, skills development, student support, and teaching quality. Our commitment to student-centred values continue to empower our students to be bold and carve their path fearlessly.

Capital investments have been pivotal in our journey, symbolised by the topping out of our \$280 million Health and Medical Research Building at Bedford Park. Once complete, this state-of-the-art facility will not only house 600 brilliant minds, but will also serve as a beacon of hope for tangible health impacts.

Equally, the topping out and installation of sky signage on our Flinders City Campus also marked an exciting milestone. The University's strategic expansion into the heart of Adelaide provides our students with access to a diverse range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and honours programs, fostering an exceptional student experience amidst Adelaide's cultural precinct.

Our partnership with the Tonsley Technical College, co-located with Flinders' Factory of the Future, signifies our commitment to driving innovation and workforce development in critical sectors. Moreover, our tri-nation AUKUS partnerships with The University of Manchester and The University of Rhode Island underscore our commitment to excellence on a global scale, as we bring the world's best nuclear education to our students, while playing a critical part in supporting Australia's sovereignty.

Flinders University finds itself in the strongest position it has ever been in, poised to embrace the outcomes of the Australian Universities Accord. Our impact across South Australia and Northern Territory positions us uniquely to contribute to the Accord's objectives and advance our mission of changing lives and changing the world.

I extend my gratitude to retiring Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robert Saint AM for his outstanding service to advancing research excellence at Flinders, and welcome Professor Raymond Chan to this important role.

To our remarkable staff and Council, thank you for championing the spirit of Flinders. Your fearless actions resonate far beyond our campus, shaping a brighter future for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Stirling'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Professor Colin Stirling

Flinders at a glance

Mission

Changing lives and changing the world.

Vision

To be internationally recognised as a world leader in research, an innovator in contemporary education, and the source of Australia's most enterprising graduates.

Values

Courage
Excellence
Innovation
Integrity

with an underlying ethos of being student centred.

Students

25,921

18,946 domestic
6,976 international

Female

16,399

Low SES

3,894

Regional and remote

3,735



International students

6,976

5,354 onshore
1,622 offshore



Staff

2,189

957 academic
1,232 professional
from 96 countries



Alumni

125,000+

in 130 countries



Testamurs conferred

5,339



Campuses and locations

14



South Australia	Northern Territory
Adelaide CBD	Alice Springs
Bedford Park	Darwin
Barossa	Katherine
Berri	Nhulunbuy
Mount Gambier	Tennant Creek
Murray Bridge	
Renmark	
Tonsley	
Victor Harbor	

100+

partner institutions
across 34 countries



8

Transnational
education programs
in China, Malaysia
and Singapore



#1 in SA for undergraduate

Overall Student Experience

Learner Engagement

Learning Resources

Skills Development

Teaching Quality

Student Support

The Good Universities Guide 2023/2024 (undergraduate), public SA universities.

#1 in SA for postgraduate

Overall Student Experience

Graduate Salary

Full Time Employment

The Good Universities Guide 2023/2024 (Postgraduate), public SA universities.

Top 5 in Australia

Environmental Sustainability

QS Sustainability Rankings 2024.

Top 10 in Australia

Environmental Impact

QS Sustainability Rankings 2024.

Over \$120 million in
research income

#1 University in SA for

NHMRC income in 2023

Financial overview

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Student numbers					
Australian	20,531	21,031	21,122	19,831	18,946
International	5,225	5,086	4,553	5,417	6,976
Offshore	1,558	1,516	1,527	1,919	1,622
Onshore	3,667	3,570	3,026	3,498	5,354
Total	25,756	26,117	25,675	25,247	25,921

Gender

Female	16,809	17,206	16,935	16,301	16,399
Male	8,929	8,886	8,705	8,904	9,461
Intersex/Unspecified/Not entered	18	25	35	42	61
Total	25,756	26,117	25,675	25,247	25,921

Staff (FTE)

Academic	831	868	886	907	957
Non-academic	1,174	1,161	1,107	1,147	1,232
Total	1,995	2,026	1,993	2,054	2,189

Higher degree research enrolments

Masters research	61	66	83	89	81
PhD	916	858	915	961	1,016
Total	977	924	998	1,050	1,097

	2019 \$'000s	2020 \$'000s	2021 \$'000s	2022 \$'000s	2023 \$'000s
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University - consolidated results

Income

Teaching	379,815	386,047	383,605	377,888	421,411
Research	80,327	84,725	104,017	115,815	134,578
Other government (non research)	29,047	27,839	23,740	26,283	26,603
Investment	19,053	13,230	19,888	9,485	22,830
Other	22,019	23,219	25,552	30,286	32,557
Total income	530,261	535,060	556,802	559,757	637,979

Expenses

Employee related	321,749	324,300	327,295	338,141	374,550
Depreciation and amortisation	42,260	41,703	44,708	39,803	44,574
Other	141,439	130,680	148,422	165,547	195,114
Total expenses	505,448	496,683	520,425	543,491	614,238

Net result	24,813	38,377	36,377	16,266	23,741
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Operating margin	4.7%	7.2%	6.5%	2.9%	3.7%
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University - consolidated financial position

Assets

Cash and term deposits	85,733	124,913	179,556	276,780	250,497
Investments	140,527	148,336	173,312	139,204	153,289
Property, plant and equipment	627,701	648,592	662,555	797,758	973,347
Other assets	128,677	125,026	131,428	129,400	145,280
Total assets	982,638	1,046,867	1,146,851	1,343,142	1,522,413

Total liabilities	206,098	224,887	251,329	387,342	550,949
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Net assets	776,540	821,980	895,522	955,800	971,464
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Current ratio (CA/CL)	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.1	1.6
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2023 highlights

Pioneering partnerships in nuclear education

South Australia has become a home for international nuclear expertise ahead of AUKUS submarine construction, after Flinders struck agreements with leading nuclear science and technology universities in the United Kingdom and United States – The University of Manchester and The University of Rhode Island. These historic new partnerships bring the world's best nuclear education programs and research collaborations to Adelaide, equipping Flinders' graduates with the high-tech skills required to build the SSN-AUKUS submarines.



Professor Romy Lawson and Port Adelaide Football Club CEO, Matthew Richardson, at Alberton Oval.

Record research impact

Flinders University's research income continued to grow and exceeded \$120 million in 2023 for the first time in Flinders' history. Flinders also received the greatest amount of funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council of all SA universities in 2023.

Farewell Chancellor Stephen Gerlach AM

Flinders University bid farewell to Chancellor Stephen Gerlach AM, who concluded 13 years of dedicated service, stepping down as Chancellor of Flinders University in September 2023. During his tenure, Mr Gerlach oversaw a period of remarkable transformation, innovation, impact, and growth. The Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, joined members of the University community to celebrate Mr Gerlach's achievements and thank him for his 13 years of dedicated service.



Incoming Flinders University Chancellor John Hood is Welcomed to Country.

Appointment of Flinders University's seventh Chancellor

Respected South Australian business leader, John Hood, was appointed Flinders University's seventh Chancellor. As the first Flinders alumnus to hold this esteemed position as the University's highest officer, Mr Hood brings a deep understanding of the institution's ethos and vision to guide Flinders into a new era of growth and innovation.

Health and medical research reach new heights

The new heart of South Australia's largest integrated health and medical research precinct soared to unprecedented heights, with the topping out of Flinders' \$280 million Health and Medical Research Building at Bedford Park. Climbing to its peak of 51 metres, this ten-storey facility will be home to over 600 medical researchers, clinicians and professional staff, translating world-class research into health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

Historic agreement with US research leader to advance defence research

Making history, Flinders University became the first Australian institution to enter into a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with the United States Navy's Naval Undersea Warfare Centre Division Newport. This landmark agreement advances collaborative research efforts between Australia and the United States in the field of undersea technology.

NT's first home-grown paramedics

Flinders celebrated its first paramedicine graduates in the NT, leading a cohort of 20 aspiring paramedics seeking to qualify over the next two years, and providing a welcome boost to frontline ambulance services across the Territory.

Flinders lights up the city

Illuminating Adelaide's skyline, the installation of the sky sign atop the University's new vertical campus in Festival Plaza marked the official opening of enrolments at Flinders City Campus for 2024. Situated in the heart of Adelaide's cultural precinct, Flinders City Campus offers a diverse range of over 100 undergraduate, postgraduate and honours programs, prioritising an exceptional student experience.

Launch of *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2023 – 2025*

The launch of Flinders' second *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* for the years 2023 to 2025 underscores our commitment to Indigenous education and engagement. Comprising 79 deliverables, the RAP reflects ongoing efforts to embed reconciliation principles across all aspects of university operations, building upon past achievements.

Flinders switches on vehicle-to-grid chargers

Flinders unveiled a landmark electric vehicle charging station, showcasing award-winning bidirectional vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology. Backed by the South Australian Government, the collaboration between ENGIE and Flinders brought 10 V2G chargers online, allowing renewable energy from compatible electric vehicles to feed back into the campus grid. The project received the Sustainable Development Goals Initiative of the Year Award at the Triple E Awards in Barcelona.

Australian Biofilm Research Centre, a magnet for world's best

Launching the Australian Research Council Training Centre for Biofilm Research and Innovation, Flinders University reinforced its leadership in advancing biofilm research on a global scale. With headquarters at Flinders, this \$12.5 million centre represents a significant step forward in enhancing our understanding of biofilms and pioneering innovations to control and eradicate them.



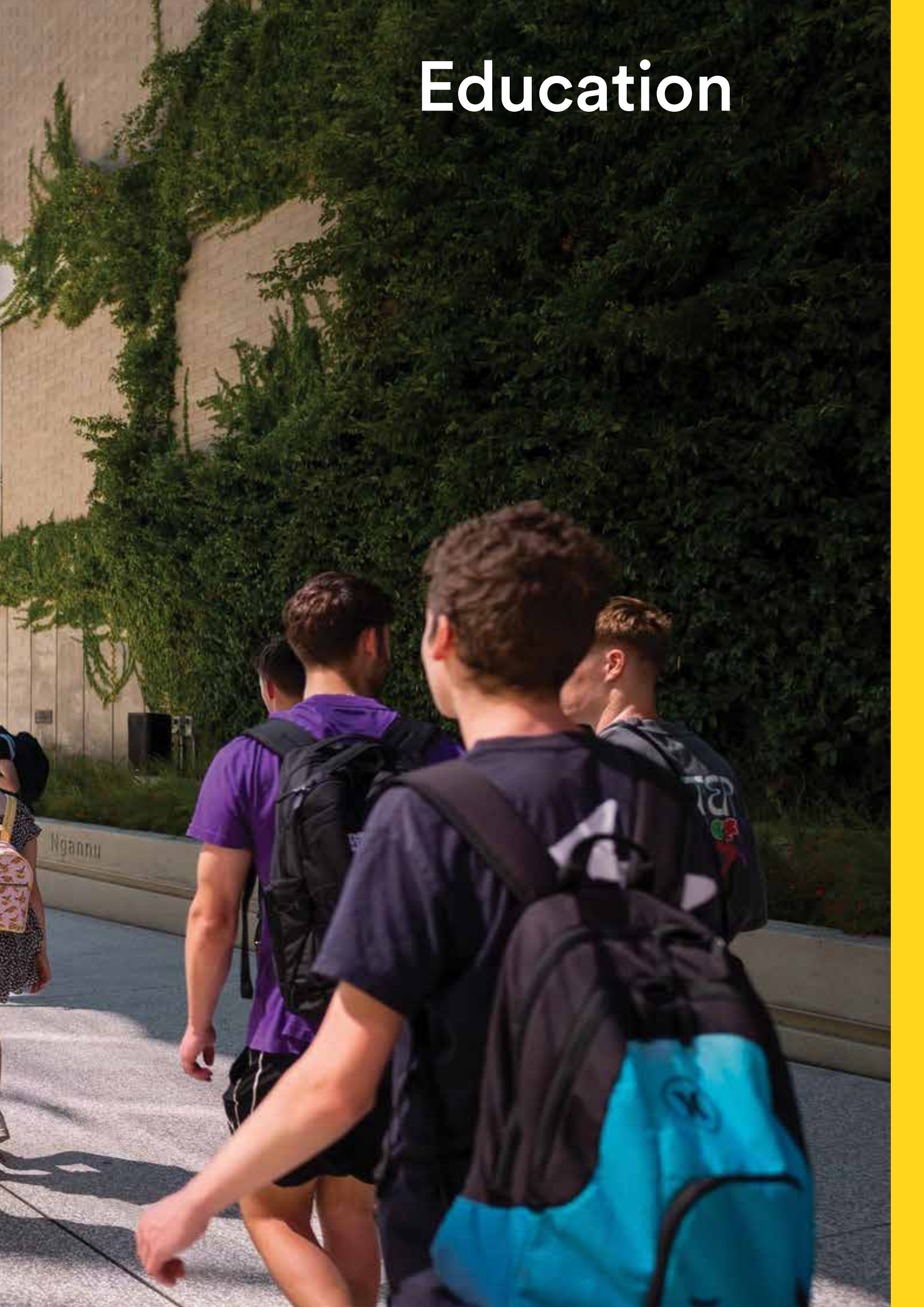
Professor Colin Stirling at the lighting of the sky sign atop Flinders' brand new vertical campus in Festival Plaza.

Flinders kicking goals with Port Adelaide Football Club

Flinders has been named the Official Education Partner of the Port Adelaide Football Club, building on the current portfolio of education offerings tailored for sports management careers. 40 students gained valuable AFL industry knowledge and hands-on work experience in the year-long diploma delivered at the Port Adelaide Academy of Sport, where students are able to access industry experts across the renowned club.



Education



Education

At Flinders University, our dedication to providing students with an education that meets their needs and equips them for both present and future challenges is unwavering. In 2023, our commitment yielded remarkable results, positioning us at the forefront of student engagement, support, and teaching quality.



Be
Fearless

Introducing Flinders University's
unique PhD and MBA program

Education innovations

In line with our commitment to inclusive education, Flinders launched a diverse array of new programs and pathways aimed at ensuring that all students can pursue their educational aspirations, regardless of their background or personal circumstances.

Recognising the growing demand for flexible learning options, Flinders introduced innovative new Allied Health courses delivered through a hybrid model. These combine online and regionally-based face-to-face learning and cater specifically to the needs of regional, rural and remote students while addressing community and workforce requirements.

Students seeking online education can also now access high-quality diplomas in Business and Health that seamlessly transition into 20 different degree programs. These sit alongside the newly-introduced hybrid Military Academic Pathway Program.

For students seeking to advance their academic or professional credentials, Flinders proudly offers Australia's first combined PhD/MBA program. This groundbreaking initiative allows postgraduate students to earn a doctorate and an accelerated Master of Business Administration qualification within a four-year timeframe, providing a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and career advancement.

330 new opportunities for AUKUS careers

The allocation of 330 Commonwealth supported places for the Nuclear-Powered Submarines Student Pathways program by the federal government marks a significant milestone in bolstering STEM career opportunities within the burgeoning nuclear-powered submarines industry. This initiative will enable a greater number of Flinders students to pursue careers in this sector, further supported by an educational suite of graduate certificates, apprenticeship degrees, micro-credentials, short courses, pathway programs, and executive education designed to meet the workforce needs of the industry.

To further augment South Australia's pool of skilled graduates, Flinders enhanced its capability with 15 additional academic staff specialising in critical STEM disciplines, supporting our delivery of comprehensive education at our new Flinders City Campus.



The Class of 2023 – including 22 Northern Territory Medical Program students – graduates in the Northern Territory.

Expanding medical training for regional communities

In a concerted effort to address healthcare disparities in rural South Australia, Flinders will expand our highly regarded Doctor of Medicine program across regional South Australia with a cohort of 46 students, after successfully securing an additional 20 Commonwealth supported places and \$19.7 million in funding. This exciting investment will create opportunities for regional medical students to complete their four-year degree entirely in rural South Australia.

The art of learning

Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA) serves as a vibrant hub for enriching student experiences and adds an extra dimension to our students' learning experiences. Throughout 2023, FUMA presented 46 talks and tours, 10 artist-led workshops, and reached more than 3,000 students through art-led learning innovations in more than 20 topics.

200 Territorian doctors and counting

Since 2011, the Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP), the first and only fully accredited medical program taught entirely in the NT, has been delivering an impressive pipeline of over 200 Territorian medical graduates, 10 per cent of whom are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The NTMP's emphasis on collaboration with Indigenous communities and cultural sensitivity ensures graduates are well-prepared to address the diverse health needs of the Territory. Priority entry is given to NT residents and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, fostering a workforce that reflects the communities it serves.

The unique program underscores Flinders' commitment to producing healthcare professionals who are not only skilled and knowledgeable, but also deeply attuned to the needs of the community. With the majority of graduates choosing to remain in the Territory, these individuals play a vital role in improving the health outcomes of all Northern Territorians.



Erin Thompson MP, Fiona Salmon, Associate Professor Ali Gumillya Baker, Professor Simone Ulalka Tur, and Professor Colin Stirling at the opening of the New Acquisitions / New Perspectives exhibition.



Janageeth Logeswaran, Assistant Minister Emily Bourke MLC, Flinders Neurodivergent Study Support and Advocacy Secretary Chloe Walton, Flinders Neurodivergent Study Support and Advocacy President Ayisha Fearnside, and Marat Sverdlov at the Sturt Campus launch of neurodiversity sensory rooms.

Investing in scholarships

In recognition of rising costs of living and the financial barriers faced by many students, Flinders has established 20 new scholarships for students from low socio-economic backgrounds or who are experiencing financial hardship. These scholarships create new opportunities for students to study Business at Flinders City Campus, connect more interstate students to our comprehensive STEM disciplines, and help more regional and rural South Australian and Territorian students to study undergraduate courses at Flinders.

Our new scholarships build on our existing suite of Matthew Flinders Scholarships, which support students in financial need. Entirely funded by Flinders' generous donor community, the University awarded 70 scholarships in 2023 to help students make ends meet and continue their education at Flinders.

A generous donation from Flinders Law graduate, Nick Llewellyn-Jones, will support two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students with \$10,000 each to undertake their Bachelor of Business, Commerce or Economics study each year. Flinders graduate and 2021 Convocation medallist, Dr Rosemary Brooks OAM, has also generously established a scholarship of \$15,000 per year to support an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student in financial need.

Building teachers' skills for diversity

As a leading Australian university provider of Inclusive and Specialised Education, Flinders is equipping our aspiring teachers with the necessary skills to address diverse student needs. This year, Flinders Education students engaged in positive partnerships workshops. These workshops are designed in alignment with a South Australian Government initiative aimed at ensuring every primary school in South Australia has an autism inclusion teacher. By fostering educators' understanding of autism and providing strategies for effectively supporting autistic students, these workshops contribute to positive outcomes in schools.

International learning experiences

224 Flinders students embarked on study abroad experiences, encompassing exchange and other programs throughout the year. Notably, 158 of these outbound experiences were facilitated through the New Colombo Plan college-led programs, reflecting Flinders' commitment to fostering global exchange and intercultural understanding.

Partnering with The Executive Counselling and Training Academy, Singapore

The Executive Counselling and Training Academy (ECTA) partnership set off to a strong start with the first intake of students in January 2023 with three nested courses on offer: Graduate Certificate in Counselling, a Graduate Diploma in Counselling, and the Master of Counselling. A total of 237 students enrolled in the courses on a fee sharing arrangement.

The Flinders Counselling courses are recognised by the Australian Counselling Association and the Singaporean Counselling Association. The ECTA collaboration has been important in expanding industry connections in Singapore, such as the prestigious Mount Elizabeth Hospital and large corporates Great Eastern Insurance and OSBC Bank.

Sensory rooms support neurodiversity

Recognising the diverse needs of our student body, Flinders piloted dedicated neurodiversity sensory rooms across multiple campuses, providing a tranquil space for individuals experiencing sensory overload. In collaboration with our community, effectiveness of the quiet and low-lit spaces will be monitored by Flinders Neurodivergent Study Support and Advocacy – a thriving student club with more than 300 members, led by General Councillor and incoming Student President, Janageeth Logeswaran.



Flinders University launched its new pathway for international students, Flinders University Academy.

Expanding international enrolments

In 2023, Flinders University experienced its largest-ever intake surpassing 3,000 new commencing international students, resulting in a total international enrolment exceeding 5,300, a 54% increase on 2022.

Facilitating this growth was the establishment of a new Flinders international admissions operation in Delhi, India. This expansion builds upon the existing network of 18 offshore recruitment roles, with new roles in Vietnam and Sri Lanka complementing existing positions in key recruitment markets such as India, China, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Flinders University Academy

In 2023, Flinders University officially opened the Flinders University Academy, an initiative aimed at empowering our international students to achieve academic success. The Academy serves as a direct pathway into university degree programs, offering tailored support through flexible and responsive teaching of pathway courses, and a hyper care student support model.

The Academy provides a comprehensive range of offerings, including five diplomas leading into second year of a wide range of university degrees, and Pre-Master's program, along with Foundation Studies and English language programs. The Academy was delighted to welcome its first pathway students in February 2023.



Research



Research

Driven by a mission to change lives and change the world, Flinders University continues its bold research endeavours, tackling society's most pressing challenges. In 2023, Flinders' research income totalled over \$120 million for the first time in our history. Our new Health and Medical Research Building is also taking shape, reflecting our steadfast commitment and investment in innovation and impact.



Associate Professor in Environmental Health, Harriet Whiley.

Triumphs in medical research funding

In 2023, Flinders University made significant strides in medical research funding, securing an impressive \$29 million from the Medical Research Future Fund for 19 grants.

Among the recipients of these grants was distinguished researcher Professor Alan Wigg, who received \$2.96 million to optimise screening and surveillance models of care for liver disease in remote Indigenous Australian communities. Additionally, Professor Jamie Craig was awarded \$2.93 million to develop innovative glaucoma management strategies using polygenic risk profiling. This stellar performance was further bolstered by strong support from the National Health and Medical Research Council, which provided over \$15.6 million in grants across various categories.

Flinders University led the state in both the number of grants awarded and the total funding received, underscoring its prominence in medical research endeavours. Flinders also excelled in securing Australian Research Council (ARC) grants, totalling more than \$10.9 million. These grants, spread across multiple categories, cemented Flinders' position as one of the nation's top-performing research institutions. Flinders researchers were awarded four ARC Future Fellowships, valued at over \$4.45 million, two ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grants, four ARC Discovery Projects, an ARC Industry Mid-Career and Early-Career Fellowship Scheme, plus an ARC Linkage Grant.

Amplifying an Indigenous voice in health

Under the broad umbrella of health services and health systems research, Flinders is taking steps to de-colonise Australia's health services – to make them more acceptable and effective to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Through the work of Associate Professor Tamara Mackean, a Waljen woman and research leader for Flinders' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health Research Team, Flinders is driving a new program of research that will answer some of the shortcomings of the Closing the Gap policy.

Research drives a relentless appetite for change

With demand for food relief in South Australia rising, Professor Svetlana Bogomolova and Flinders University's Centre for Social Impact focussed their efforts on improving access to nutritious meals for communities experiencing food insecurity, and explored how to better use harvest surpluses while reducing food waste.

The project builds on *Towards Zero Hunger: Improving food relief services in Australia*, a strategic partnership between service providers, policymakers, researchers, volunteers and community members. The project aims to convert surplus fresh food into nutritional meals destined for people most in need through a social enterprise model.



Professor Svetlana Bogomolova pictured at FoodBank - the largest hunger relief charity in Australia.

From lab to application

In 2023, Flinders University researchers translated research breakthroughs into extraordinary practical applications in real-world settings. These initiatives demonstrate the University's ongoing efforts to bridge academia and industry, fostering innovation for societal benefit:

- Professor Kelton Tremellen successfully completed Phase 1 human trials of an infertility drug in collaboration with NuLife, marking a significant milestone in addressing reproductive health challenges.
- Professor Colin Raston's engineering scale-up of the Vortex Fluidic Device opened up new avenues for business applications, demonstrating the device's versatility and potential impact across industries.
- Commercial opportunities emerged for Professor Danny Eckert's innovative obstructive sleep apnoea analysis tools, highlighting the growing demand for effective diagnostic solutions in sleep medicine.
- Professor Justin Chalker collaborated with an electronic manufacturer to develop infrared polymer lenses, showcasing the interdisciplinary nature of research at Flinders and its potential to drive technological innovation.
- New patents were filed on Professor Krasimir Vasilev's antibacterial medical coating technology and Dr Aliakbar Gholampour's graphene-reinforced recycled concrete aggregates, underscoring Flinders' commitment to advancing sustainable and impactful materials research.
- New contracts were secured with commercial partner, 3RT, for synthetic wood developed by Professor David Lewis.

Opening an important new door

The University's Open Door research initiative, led by Professor Ben Wadham, has been named the sole research partner in the business case for a \$5 million Veterans' and Families' Hub in Northern Adelaide. This initiative stands as one of the anticipated positive outcomes resulting from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide.

Sowing seeds for future breakthroughs

Flinders University received generous support from donors, facilitating the awarding of Impact Seed Funding for Early Career Researcher grants to five emerging researchers. Dr Anne Mette Adams, Dr Lisa Furlong, Dr Sarah Giles, Dr Ben Lohmeyer, and Dr Gorica Micic each received up to \$10,000 to address pressing scientific challenges.

Their projects range from developing a mobile app to enhance basic reading skills, to exploring innovative methods of improving sleep with body-clock tracking and light therapy.

In addition, the Little Heroes Foundation contributed \$70,000 to advance critical childhood dementia research led by Flinders researcher Dr Siti Mubarakah. Dr Mubarakah's work focuses on developing a new cell model to identify potential drug treatment options for childhood dementia, aiming to slow the progression of this condition. Furthermore, a generous donation of \$150,000 from Hamish Ramsay reaffirms 18 years of support for Professor Robyn Young's autism research at Flinders University. These funds will aid research efforts in early detection of autism spectrum disorder and investigate the differential diagnosis of autism in females.

Addressing critical defence challenges

Flinders has continued to expand its defence-related initiatives by securing key projects aimed at addressing critical defence challenges. Professor Karin Nordstrom's research on sensorimotor transformation received a significant boost with a US\$406,992 grant from the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research, further enhancing the Digital Twin of a Shock Absorber project.

Associate Professor Rodrigo Praino's work in the area of Australian defence, Counterspace Technologies, and National Security Threats from Space was recognised with a research grant from the Department of Defence. Dr Stacey Henderson's research on the legal aspects surrounding the use of anti-material and anti-agriculture chemical and biological weapons also received vital funding, contributing to the broader understand of these complex issues.

Research Performance

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Research Income (Higher Education Research Data Collection)	\$53,795,792	\$68,523,036	\$81,353,894	\$114,513,721	\$120,167,056
Research Publications (count)	2,945	2,977	3,178	3,026	2,651
Higher Degree by Research Load (EFTSL)	582.8	553.2	579.9	651.5	672.6
Higher Degree by Research Completions	182	171	171	133	144

* Unaudited



Professor Aliakbar Gholampour has patented an eco-concrete, lifting the sustainability of the world's most used building material.

Good bacteria to boost infant immunisation

Professor David Lynn is combining his research interests of genomics and immunology to build a holistic picture of the human gut microbiome. His study of microbes that infect people and cause disease is supported by investigating vaccines and identifying 'good bacteria', which may help infants respond more effectively to immunisation. This research is informing a large study in collaboration with the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, to follow more than 250 infants for the first 15 months of their life.

Promoting positive body image

Associate Professor Ivanka Prichard's intensive research into the influence of social media on body image has helped Flinders University become home of the Embrace Impact Lab, a new health and wellbeing research initiative helping young Australians and their parents tackle body image issues. The lab represents the research arm of The Embrace Collective, a national charity led by 2023 Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt, and Dr Zali Yager, that promotes positive body image messages to more than one million Australian children. This ties to the federal government's \$6.2 million package for The Embrace Collective to develop and implement nine key programs in 2023-2024.

A discovery to combat Golden Staph

Professor Melissa Brown is finding ways to disable bacteria's ability to fight antibiotics and antiseptics. She has focused on *Staphylococcus aureus*, commonly known as Golden Staph, and identified a protein that sits in the Golden Staph bacterium's outer shell and expels harmful antimicrobial agents. Professor Brown's work is supported by international collaborations, with a group in Queensland computer modelling the protein to determine what will block it; a chemist in Perugia, Italy, making compounds to test; and a group in Belgium studying its structure.

Enabling earlier autism detection

Professor Robyn Young has been instrumental in devising practical solutions for early detection of autism, and advocates for a more unified approach to screening for autism. The Autism Detection in Early Childhood tool she created has been trialled as an online tool by clinicians in other countries who couldn't access child patients during COVID-19 disruptions – and its success has Professor Young confident it will be accepted more widely across rural and remote communities in Australia.

Phages to battle drug-resistant bugs

To solve the problem of multi-drug resistant bacteria, Professor Robert Edwards, Director of Bioinformatics and Human Microbiology for the Flinders Accelerator for Microbiome Exploration (FAME), is isolating and killing bacteriophages (commonly known as phages), which are the viruses that infect and replicate within bacteria. Professor Edwards has been isolating phages and working with SA Pathology to characterise them through genomics, then provide the phages back to hospitals – including Royal Adelaide Hospital and Westmead Hospital in New South Wales – to treat patients.



Adelaide United Women's player Alana Jancevski, Flinders student Andrea van Metzinger and AUFC Digital Content Creator and Flinders Graduate Courtney Pedlar.

Engagement and impact



Partnerships and collaborations

Flinders University is deeply engaged with government, industry, and academic partners to solve some of the most pressing issues of our time, while providing our students with real-world experience and application of their learning.

A tri-nation 'University AUKUS'

The emergence of the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine project presents unprecedented opportunities for South Australia. Flinders University is at the forefront of preparing students to seize these prospects, thanks to the University striking agreements with leading nuclear science and technology universities in the United Kingdom and United States.

In a landmark tri-nation 'university AUKUS', The University of Manchester, the lead university in the UK's Nuclear Technology Education Consortium, has partnered with Flinders for the Australian delivery of its nuclear Masters programs and doctoral level research training.

A second agreement with The University of Rhode Island, a leading public research university with strong ties to the US submarine manufacturing industry, will see Flinders deliver undergraduate nuclear education programs in Australia. These historic partnerships enable Flinders University to deliver a comprehensive suite of the world's best nuclear education programs in South Australia, including Australia's first undergraduate Nuclear Engineering major.

Factory of the Future

Flinders' Factory of the Future allows industry to effectively engage with Flinders University to accelerate the adoption of advanced manufacturing and digital technologies without leaving the human factor out of the equation.

Inspired by the enormously successful high value manufacturing catapult centres in the UK, Flinders partnered with BAE Systems Maritime Australia to adapt the catapult model to Australian circumstances.

The Factory serves as a catalyst for dynamic knowledge exchange that brings industry problems into the University and translates solutions into our economy to improve productivity and increase economic complexity.

Its fully reconfigurable layout is optimised for showcasing, testing and educating on the latest trends in areas such as automation and robotics to be prepared for a future made in Australia.

Providing solutions for defence

Flinders University has made history by forging a groundbreaking partnership with the United States Navy Naval Undersea Warfare Centre Division Newport, becoming the first Australian university to do so through a landmark Cooperative Research Development Agreement.

This collaboration with the US Navy's premier research, engineering and fleet support centre for submarine warfare systems signifies a significant leap forward for Flinders in advancing collaborative, cutting-edge research endeavours between Australia and the United States in the field of undersea technology.

Partnering for better access to quality healthcare

Flinders is a partner of choice for addressing some of our most enduring challenges in wellbeing. Professor Robyn Clark has embarked on a partnership with University of Technology Sydney, University of Glasgow, and health industry partners to investigate virtual care for people living with chronic disease in low socioeconomic neighbourhoods, with the aim of reducing hospital admissions and improving patients' quality of life.

With significant funding support from the National Health and Medical Research Council and Medical Research Future Fund, the Cancer Survivorship Program at the Caring Futures Institute partners with hundreds of general practices across the nation to improve the care for people after cancer. This novel work enables cancer survivors to access safe, integrated and quality care from their general practitioners who take a whole-person approach to managing their post-cancer health care.

Increased engagement with industry

Flinders University experienced significant growth in Higher Degree by Research (HDR) engagement with industry, resulting in an increase in internships aimed at providing students with essential skills for academic and professional success. This growth led to a rise in HDR student enrolments across all Flinders colleges in 2023, particularly among international students and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The establishment of new partnerships between Flinders, businesses, and government sectors resulted in the creation of 40 co-funded PhD Enterprise Scholarships. These scholarships allow students to collaborate with industry partners on research projects and acquire industry-relevant training.

Additionally, Flinders secured five grants in the National Industry PhD Program, an Australian Government initiative supporting PhD candidates undertaking industry-focused research projects. These students will collaborate with industry partners such as Clean Seas Seafood and Seeley International.

Furthermore, Flinders participated in the EXCITE Industry Doctoral Training Centres, an initiative by the Chief Scientist for South Australia, to enhance STEMM research. In 2023, the focus was on Biomanufacturing and Industrial Application of Quantum Technologies.

Innovative partnerships in sport

Driven by our commitment to offering unparalleled student experiences, Flinders has forged innovative partnerships to facilitate unique work integrated learning opportunities. Collaborations with Port Adelaide Football Club, Adelaide United Football Club, and the South Australian Cricket Association's Adelaide Strikers Women's Big Bash League have enabled students to complete a Diploma in Sports Management with exciting opportunities to learn with South Australia's best. Combining iconic partnerships with relevant curricula underscores our commitment to fostering career pathways in the dynamic field of Sports Management.



Sebastian Raneskold, Professor Colin Stirling, South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas, Professor Fang Fuquan and Professor Ma Ligeng signing an MoU with Capital Normal University.

Enduring relationship with Nankai University, China

In a testament to the enduring partnership between Flinders University and Nankai University in China, the two institutions marked a significant milestone in the longstanding relationship by co-hosting the largest-ever Sino-Australian collaboration program graduation.

Graduates from 2023, as well as those who graduated in absentia in 2020, 2021, and 2022 across three master's programs, came together for a special celebration. 1600 graduates were joined by over 1200 friends and family members to honour their achievements. Furthermore, an alumni dinner provided an opportunity for over 1200 Flinders graduates to reconnect and celebrate their shared academic journey.

Collaborating with Capital Normal University, China

Flinders reaffirmed its commitment to teaching the teachers, signing a new Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Normal University, building on a relationship that was first forged close to 20 years ago.

One of the longest-standing Sino-Australian teaching programs of its kind, the partnership sees Flinders academics travel to China each year to deliver masters subjects in an intensive-mode, upskilling Chinese educators by equipping them with advanced teaching knowledge, innovative curriculum, and assessment design.



Professor Colin Stirling and The University of Manchester Interim Director of the Dalton Nuclear Institute Professor Clint Sharrad sign the 'university AUKUS' partnership agreement with South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas.

Precincts and communities

Our commitment to vibrant, integrated campuses and communities is at the core of Flinders University's purpose. With modern facilities supporting education and research, we prioritise safety and connectivity, ensuring our university is deeply intertwined with the communities we exist to serve.

Flinders City Campus shines in Adelaide skyline

The University lit up the city of Adelaide this year with the installation of the sky sign atop the University's brand-new vertical campus in Festival Plaza, officially marking the opening of enrolments for 2024.

Located at the heart of Adelaide's premier thoroughfare, Flinders City Campus is strategically positioned amid the pulse of Adelaide's arts, business, sports, health, technology, law, and government precincts, propelling students into the epicentre of their future careers.

The campus is located right next to the Adelaide Railway Station, which provides easy access for students commuting to the city from suburban Adelaide, while also conveniently connecting the campus to Flinders University's other main locations at Tonsley and Bedford Park.

Located across eight floors of One Festival Tower, Flinders City Campus spans 11,000 m², accessed via a bespoke entrance and spacious public area, leading to ultra-modern learning spaces. The contemporary design includes flexible collaborative learning spaces and study hubs, and is furnished with the most advanced learning technologies, while still designed to focus on the importance of personal interactions and face-to-face learning.

Seeing a fearless future

The Flinders University-led Optometry Clinic at Baptist Care SA's WestCare Centre marked its first year of operation in 2023. The community clinic, run by Flinders Optometry students, provided essential support to 160 individuals facing homelessness or who were at risk, offering complimentary optometric eye examinations and, when necessary, free eyeglasses. Students conducted tests under the supervision of a senior optometrist, with industry suppliers donating lenses and frames, and the clinic furnished by Sight for All.

Flinders' health and medical research reaches new heights

The new heart of South Australia's largest integrated health and medical research precinct soared to new heights this year, with the topping out of Flinders' \$280 million Health and Medical Research Building (HMRB) at Bedford Park.

Climbing to its peak at 51 metres, the purpose-built ten-storey building will be home to more than 600 medical researchers, clinicians, and professional staff, translating world-class research into better health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

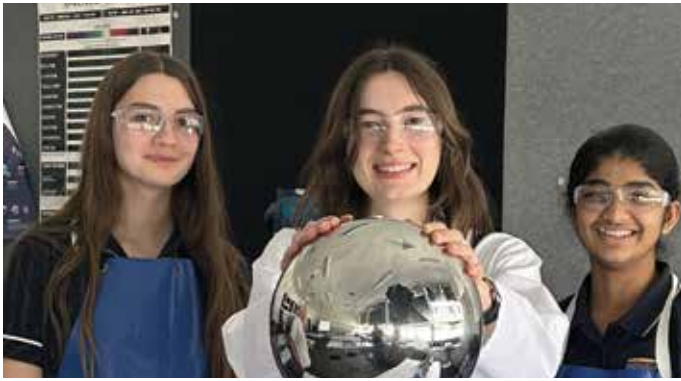
Building on more than 50 years of exceptional health and medical teaching and research, HMRB will feature one of South Australia's largest bank of PC2-rated physical containment labs spread across five floors. The building will also be equipped with state-of-the-art cell imaging equipment for use by researchers working on improving health, preventing disease and combating community health inequities.

Located adjacent to Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders Private Hospital, HMRB is the flagship building of the wider Flinders Village development – southern Adelaide's biomedical research precinct that brings together research, education, accommodation, and amenity.

Building on Flinders' proud history as a pioneer in innovative health as the first medical school in the nation to be integrated into a public hospital, HMRB is a \$280 million gift by the University to the people of South Australia.



Nadia Clancy MP, Premier Peter Malinauskas, Erin Thompson MP, Louise Miller-Frost MP, Professor Colin Stirling and Minister Chris Picton celebrate the topping out of HMRB.



Flinders physics student Victoria Rowe demonstrates the Van de Graaf generator to Glenunga International High School students.



Minister Blair Boyer, Nadia Clancy MP, Professor Colin Stirling and Deputy Premier Susan Close at the official announcement of Flinders' partnership with Tonsley Technical College.

STEM Enrichment Academy

Thanks to support from the Department of Industry and Science and a Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship (WiSE) grant, Flinders continued its STEM Enrichment Academy program for Year 9 girls across South Australia and Northern Territory. Bringing together over 300 girls, teachers, facilitators, role models, and associated teams, the program featured workshops, conferences and activities aimed at empowering and advocating for women and girls in STEM fields.

A significant \$996,144 funding boost from the Commonwealth Government will expand its reach to regional and suburban schools, reaching an additional 1,000 schoolgirls through tailored STEM enhancement courses and supporting a new diploma course for up to 150 secondary school STEM teachers.

Investing in our communities

Flinders University reaffirmed its commitment to rural communities through its partnership with the Australian Government to offer Community Partnership grants. The eight 2023 recipients, spanning Flinders' South Australian footprint, were selected with a focus on community health and inclusion.

Beneficiaries included Riding for the Disabled Oakbank, Rotary Club of Murray Bridge, Encounter Lutheran College, Port Elliot Community Garden, Loxton Rotary Satellite Club, Focus One Health, Mt Gambier Children's Centre, and Four Reasons Why. These grants will facilitate various initiatives, such as children's cooking programs, art-based mindfulness, support for Year 6 students attending camp, and the creation of spaces for community connection.

A place international students can call home

To enhance the experience for international students, Flinders has partnered with The Switch student accommodation provider on North Terrace, Adelaide – a few minutes' walk from Flinders City Campus at Festival Plaza. Flinders has preferential access to its 347 student-focussed residential apartments. Integrated into StudyLink at the point of application, over 100 Flinders students resided at The Switch during 2023.

New perspectives on the power of art

Throughout the year, Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA) captivated over 10,000 staff, students, and members of the community through exhibitions, programs, and online resources. Notable highlights included the exhibition, *New Acquisitions / New Perspectives*, which showcased acquisitions from 2018 to 2023, highlighting the complexity and diversity of contemporary Indigenous Australian art while exploring intersecting themes and shared concerns.

Another standout exhibition, *Mane-djang-karirra: the place where the dreaming changed shape*, was curated in partnership with Maningrida Arts and Culture. Presented for the Tarnathi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, it featured the work of a new generation of artists who are quietly reshaping the traditions of central Arnhem Land art.

Flinders partners with Tonsley Technical College

In a collaborative partnership to drive innovation and future workforce development, Flinders University is working with the South Australian Government to build the Tonsley Technical College with the Factory of the Future, which will place South Australia at the forefront of developing vibrant industry-linked research, education, and training facilities.

The dual facility will provide incredible learning experiences for secondary students, where they can be immersed in innovation and make choices about their careers based on that experience. The College's partnership with defence company, ASC, will also provide high school students with job opportunities in the defence industry once they complete their studies.

The Tonsley Innovation District is South Australia's home of world-class innovation and the ultimate gateway for skills development and career paths in critical sectors.

Sustainability

In pursuit of our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, Flinders University continues to prioritise sustainability across all aspects of our operations. From innovative campus designs to community initiatives, we strive to lead by example in fostering a greener, more resilient future.

Building a sustainable future

Flinders University has achieved significant recognition for its strides in environmental sustainability, climbing to the 112th place worldwide in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Sustainability Rankings. This accolade underscores the University's commitment to addressing global environmental, social and governance challenges, as evaluated among 1,404 universities worldwide by the *QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024*.

Amidst the development of the forthcoming *Flinders 2030 Sustainability Strategy*, the University's sustainability team has been actively engaging with staff and students across campuses, seeking input and discussing key actions and priorities. Scheduled for release in 2024, the strategy will outline Flinders University's roadmap towards a more sustainable future.

Reusing waste to tackle toxins

Professor Justin Chalker's incredible suite of new polymers is challenging some wicked problems. Made from mining waste and used cooking oil, these versatile products can tackle all kinds of environmental pollution. This novel approach of reusing waste to tackle toxins has caught the attention of Singapore-based firm Clean Earth Technologies, which is teaming up with Flinders University to support the polymers into commercial production and make the world a cleaner place.

Microplastics a risk to food web

PhD candidate Elise Tuuri and Professor Sophie Leterme, Director of the Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Biofilm Research and Innovation, have been instrumental in highlighting the threats posed by microplastics. Their comprehensive review of plastic debris and associated chemicals in marine organisms underscores the widespread presence of this issue, with their findings revealing a critical knowledge gap regarding the impact of microplastics on the food web.

Bolstering seaweed species for agriculture

In the marine realm, an Australian Research Council Early Career Industry Fellowship for Dr Georgina Wood will see her partner with Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) to bolster the growth and resilience of key seaweed species for aquaculture. Combining genomics, artificial intelligence and experimental ecology, the initiative is expected to contribute 10% towards the nation's emissions reduction target by 2040 and deliver thousands of jobs to regional Australia.

Movement of plastic waste

Working with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) – the research arm of PIRSA – Flinders' experts are mapping the accumulation of microplastics in local coastal areas and the Gulf St Vincent, home to vital marine parks and commercial fisheries. As it is with the giant Pacific garbage patch, understanding the movement of plastic waste is the first step to addressing it.

Climate smart farming

SARDI is also a key partner in a major new initiative to build resilience to climate change. It brings together 39 research partners, agri-businesses and farming communities to test, refine and deliver drought-resilient innovations for dryland broadacre cropping, livestock and mixed farms – and in doing so will cement South Australia's reputation as a world leader in climate-smart farming for the future. The \$117 million program is buoyed by an \$8 million federal government Future Drought Fund grant – the largest to be awarded – and signals that a new era of climate-smart farming is on the horizon.

Flinders switches on vehicle-to-grid chargers

In August, Flinders unveiled a pioneering electric vehicle charging station featuring ten vehicle-to-grid (V2G) chargers as part of the South Australian Government's Electric Vehicle Smart Charging Trial, in collaboration with ENGIE. These chargers utilise groundbreaking technology to store excess electricity in the University's fleet of electric vehicles during periods of ample energy availability. The stored electricity is then seamlessly fed back into the campus grid to support power demands during peak periods, effectively operating as a virtual power plant.

With a fleet of 15 electric vehicles, Flinders has integrated four of them into the V2G system during enhancement of its sustainability efforts. Notably, the University's South Australian operations already run entirely on 100% renewable energy for electricity, with approximately 20% of its energy needs being met by 7,647 onsite solar panels and the remainder sourced from the Willogoleche wind farm.

This innovative project has garnered global recognition, with the University securing the Triple E Awards' Sustainable Development Goal initiative of the year for the Asia Pacific region, further solidifying our commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

Predicting the future of coastlines

Flinders and SARDI are collaborating with the District Council of Robe to extend a network of wave buoys stretching from Adelaide and Kangaroo Island to the waters of the upper southeast. Working with a rock lobster fisher, the team strategically placed two wave buoys in a line off the coast of Robe to observe the wave transformation from offshore to the nearshore. Not only will this help predict the future of the coastlines, but access to the data is freely available to the public through the www.sawaves.org website.

Solid footing for concrete progress

Under the looming threat of over 2.6 billion tonnes of demolition and construction waste destined for landfills by 2030, Flinders University and The University of Melbourne have pioneered a solution to mitigate this environmental crisis. The innovative approach involves repurposing old concrete fragments by blending them with coarse aggregate and a trace of graphene, creating a robust and long-lasting recycled concrete. This method not only diverts substantial waste away from landfills, but also significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with traditional concrete production, paving the way for a more sustainable future.



Flinders University nanoscale researcher Dr Xuan Luo, ENGIE Australia & New Zealand CEO Rik De Buyserie, Professor Colin Stirling and Dr Kasturi Vimalanathan at the V2G trial launch.



Petiola Wilson and his daughter Welcome guests to Kaurna Yarta at the annual Staff Awards.

University

People and
culture



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Reconciliation and recognition

Our vision is to establish Flinders University as a place where reconciliation is embedded in the lived actions of our community. We've started our unique journey towards reconciliation, but recognise it is a journey that will be ongoing.



Flinders staff had the opportunity to learn about the traditional art of weaving and the cultural significance behind it during the 2023 RAP Conference.

Our vision for reconciliation

Flinders University affirms its commitment to reconciliation, advocating for tangible social accountabilities and sustainable change that honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our inaugural *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* set the foundation for meaningful progress, guiding us towards authentic reconciliation. Building upon this momentum, the University launched its second Innovate RAP, which envisions a community where reconciliation is ingrained in our ethos, transcending mere words to tangible actions.

Aligned with our vision, the RAP serves as a roadmap, emphasising key elements such as mutual respect and understanding, championing self-determination, acknowledging Country, and embracing the dualities of knowledge and culture. Through deep listening, reciprocity, and a commitment to sharing the weight of colonisation, we strive to foster a more inclusive future where diverse knowledges and cultures are valued. Together, we forge a path towards lasting reconciliation, enriching our journey with the wisdom and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Voice to Parliament

Flinders University took proactive steps to foster informed community debate on the national referendum for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament. The centrepiece of our initiative was a Fearless Conversations public lecture delivered by esteemed speaker Professor Tom Calma AO, attended by staff, students, and members of the community. Following Professor Calma's insightful address, a distinguished panel of experts, including Ashum Owen, Celeste Liddle, Dr Rowan Nicholson, and Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts delved into key issues surrounding the proposed Voice to Parliament.

To ensure comprehensive engagement, Flinders' Office of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement and the College of Business, Government and Law co-hosted information sessions. These sessions provided staff with invaluable opportunities to engage with panellists and deepen their understanding of the complexities involved. Additionally, an Elder Forum in Darwin and yarning circles across campuses in South Australia and Northern Territory allowed staff to gain firsthand insights from Indigenous Elders, enriching the dialogue and fostering mutual understanding.

Coming together for reconciliation

In the wake of the Voice to Parliament referendum, the Flinders University community convened to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to reconciliation. More than 250 staff, students and alumni gathered in Flinders campuses across South Australia and Northern Territory to connect via livestream to hear impactful speeches delivered by Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Professor Simone Ulalka Tur, and Vice-President and Executive Dean of the College of Medicine and Public Health Professor Jonathan Craig, serving as Co-Chair of the RAP Oversight Committee.

Adding a poignant touch to the event, Uncle David Tarnda Copley, Kurna/Paramangk Elder and Lecturer in the College of Medicine and Public Health, delivered a Welcome to Country and facilitated a yarning circle, fostering connection within the community.

Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration

During National Reconciliation Week, the Hon. Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia, delivered the 2023 Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration, marking the historic moment of a sitting Prime Minister delivering this annual address for the first time. Hosted by Flinders Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Professor Simone Ulalka Tur as Master of Ceremonies, the event was presented by the Don Dunstan Foundation in collaboration with Reconciliation SA, Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, the Lowitja Institute, and the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation.

The Oration, honouring influential Aboriginal leader Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, serves as a platform to highlight crucial issues facing Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Prime Minister Albanese focused his discussion on the referendum for constitutional recognition, emphasising the imperative role for all Australians in directly involving First Nations people in decision-making process on issues that impact them. Additionally, he paid tribute to Dr O'Donoghue's exemplary leadership over many decades and acknowledged Australia's reconciliation journey since the landmark 1967 referendum, which granted voting rights to First Nations Australians.

John Chalmers Oration

The College of Medicine and Public Health honoured the inaugural Professor of Medicine, John Chalmers, with the 2023 John Chalmers Oration. The thought-provoking talk, titled "*Why a dose of accountability is needed to close the gap,*" was delivered by Leanne Liddle. Ms Liddle, an Arrernte woman from Alice Springs, is a passionate advocate for justice. As Director of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Justice Unit, she has spearheaded transformative initiatives, including the Aboriginal Justice Agreement. This groundbreaking partnership aims to reduce imprisonment rates, elevate Aboriginal leadership, and enhance justice outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians.

Ms Liddle's extraordinary journey, from South Australia's first Aboriginal policewoman to her roles in high-profile government positions and the United Nations, exemplifies her unwavering commitment to justice. Her significant contributions were recognised with a Distinguished Alumni Award from Flinders University in 2021 and the honour of being named the 2022 Northern Territory Australian of the Year. Flinders University proudly welcomed Ms Liddle as a member of the governing Council in 2023.

Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien Oration

The 2023 Oration, titled "*A Story of Friendship: Betty Fisher and the Collective Living-Legacy of Aunty Gladys Elphick and the Council of Aboriginal Women in South Australia,*" was delivered by Narungga poet and Flinders Research Fellow Associate Professor Natalie Harkin. In 2018, Elizabeth 'Betty' Fisher OAM, entrusted a significant archive – tracing the life and work of her good friend, the late Kurna, Ngadjuri, Narungga Elder Aunty Gladys – to Associate Professor Harkin. In her Oration, Professor Harkin reflected on the challenges and cultural responsibilities inherent in honouring the living-legacy archive of a notable figure such as Aunty Gladys.

Celebrating our communities

In celebrating our University communities, we recognise the diverse achievements, talents and contributions of our students, staff, and alumni. Together, we embrace the richness of our collective experiences and accomplishments, fostering a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence within Flinders University.



The 2023 Flinders University Alumni Award winners (L-R): Dr Mehrdad Aghamohamadi, Professor Simone Ululka Tur, Dr Michael C Smith, Emily Korir, Professor Bogda Koczwara AM, Cav. Maurice Crotti AO, Professor Cassandra Szoeko, Madison Siegertsz, Eloise Hall, Professor Robyn Clark, and Dr I Gusti Ayu Agung 'Dhani' Dharmaprani.

Research recognition

Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling awarded the prestigious title of Matthew Flinders Professor/Fellow to seven distinguished Flinders University research leaders, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to research:

- Professor Damien Keating
(College of Medicine and Public Health)
- Professor Chris Karapetis
(College of Medicine and Public Health)
- Professor Youhong Tang
(College of Science and Engineering)
- Professor Robyn Clark
(College of Nursing and Health Sciences)
- Professor Gerry Redmond
(College of Business, Government and Law)
- Professor Emma Thomas
(College of Education, Psychology and Social Work)
- Professor Amy Roberts
(College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences)

Humboldt Research Award

Professor Stella Vosniadou (College of Education, Psychology and Social Work) was awarded the Humboldt Research Award for her work in learning and conceptual development and will conduct research projects with specialist colleagues in Germany.

Higher Degree by Research Student Research Impact

Flinders University celebrated the exceptional research achievements of its students, with Higher Degree by Research Student Research Impact Prizes awarded to Ali Dymmott for her work on enhancing the rural allied health workforce strategy, and to Matthiew lasiello for assessing mental wellbeing amid psychological distress.

Three Minute Thesis competition

The Three Minute Thesis is a national competition that challenges higher degree by research students to explain their research effectively to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes. Flinders University's 2023 winner was Vinicius Guedes Gonçalves de Oliveira with his presentation "*I repeat, this is not science fiction! Assessing Australia's space infrastructure security*". Vinicius was also a finalist in the Asia-Pacific Three Minute Thesis semifinal.

Cassandra Haines was Flinders University's runner-up with her presentation "*Vision for the future: brightening lives through vision screening*". Iriana Freitas De Jesus Ximenes took home the People's Choice Award with her presentation "*Economic reintegration of return migrants: a case of temporary labour migration programmes for Timor-Leste*".



2023 SA Young Tall Poppy in Science Dr Stephanie Wong.

StudyAdelaide International Student Awards

The StudyAdelaide International Student Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of international students during their time studying in Adelaide. Flinders University student Muawiyath Mohamed Didi (Muthu) from the Maldives, studying Master of Disability Policy and Practice, won the Postgraduate (Coursework) award and Peer Support Award. Sirikkattuge Rashmi Sherina Leesa Fernando from Sri Lanka, studying Bachelor of Clinical Sciences, Doctor of Medicine, won the Undergraduate award. Flinders University alum Saadia Adnan from Pakistan, who studied a Master of Education (Leadership and Management) was recognised with the prestigious Outstanding Alumni award.

SA Young Tall Poppy Science Award

Dr Stephanie Wong (College of Education, Psychology and Social Work) was named the 2023 SA Young Tall Poppy in Science for her work in clinical dementia research. Dr Wong's research combines neuropsychology, cognitive neuroscience, and neuroimaging to investigate the neurobiological basis of cognitive decline in ageing and dementia.



2023 StudyAdelaide Award Winners (from left) Md Alimuzzaman Milon, Tuan Mohammed Rushdi Cassim, Muawiyath Mohamed Didi (Muthu), Saadia Adnan, and Keith Censoro.

Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours

Several notable members of the Flinders University community were among the Australians recognised in the 2023 Australia Day and King's Birthday Honours. A full list is available on our website.

Australia Day Honours

- Associate Professor Rhonda Muriel Faragher AO
- Dr Anne Tonkin AO
- Emeritus Professor Linda Barwick AM
- Emeritus Professor Debra Claire Henly AM
- Ms Susan Pearce AM
- Reverend Peter Sandeman AM
- Professor Barbara Spears AM
- Mrs Ingrid Alderton OAM
- Mr Paul Crate OAM
- Mrs Clare Hopley OAM
- Dr Evelyn Yap OAM

King's Birthday Honours

- Professor Michael Kidd AO
- Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Justine Smith AM
- Ms Sue Broadway AM
- Dr Neville Highett AM
- Professor Rebecca Ivers AM
- Dr Philip Tideman AM (deceased)
- Mr Michael Bakker OAM
- Dr Andrew Barling OAM
- Mr Ross Barnett OAM
- Mrs Susanne Harris OAM
- Mr Geoffrey Moore OAM
- Mr William Sergeant OAM

Flinders University Awards

The 2023 Flinders University Awards celebrated exceptional contributions and staff successes across the University.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence

Outstanding researchers across various disciplines were honoured in the 2023 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Research Excellence:

- Early Career Researchers: Dr Bastien Lechat (Sleep Medicine and Engineering), Dr Norma Bulamu (Public Health and Health Economics), Dr Ben Lohmeyer (Youth Studies), Dr Stacey Henderson (International Law), and Dr Molla Wassie (Cancer and Nutrition Epidemiology).
- Mid-Career Researchers: Dr Ashley Hopkins (Clinical Pharmacology, Clinical Oncology, Epidemiology and Pharmacy), Associate Professor Zhongfan Jia (Chemistry), Associate Professor Martin Breed (Ecology), Dr Emmanuelle Souzeau (Glaucoma Genetics), and Professor Melanie Takarangi (Clinical Cognition).

- Research Leadership: Professor Danny Eckert (Sleep Medicine), Professor Tracey Wade (Mental Health), and Professor Corey Bradshaw (Ecology, Evolution and Environment).

Awards for Research Impact and Engagement

Recognised for their contributions to research impact and engagement were Dr Brooke Spaeth, Dr Eddie Banks, and the Health Services Research team comprising Professor Julie Ratcliffe, Dr Jyoti Khadka, Dr Claire Hutchinson, Dr Rachel Milte, and Associate Professor Ruth Walker.

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Distinguished educators were honoured for their exceptional contributions to student learning and experiences:

- Dr Ali Enright, Associate Professor Ingo Koeper, Dr Jeanne Young, Dr Narelle Hunter, Dr Liu-Fei Tan, Ms Margaret Alexander, and the Screen Studies team including Dr Claire Henry, Helen Carter, Dr Tom Young, Associate Professor Julia Erhart, Dr Nicholas Godfrey, Dr Matt Hawkins, Cameron Nelson, and Todd Pursche.

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Innovation in Teaching

- Dr Gareth Butler, Professor Karen Burke da Silva, Katie Cavanagh, Helen Carter, and Dr Julian Beaman were recognised for their cross-disciplinary project supporting Kangaroo Island's recovery post-bushfires.
- Commendations were also extended to Dr Jessica Genauer, Dr Luis da Vinha, Dr Elke Sokoya, and Dr Timna Garnett for their innovative approaches.

Flinders Reconciliation Awards

- Individual awards went to Dr Joanne Buckskin and Chris Hince.
- Team awards were presented to the Library RAP Working Group, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advancement, Rural and Remote Health NT – eGFR3 Study Team, the Remote Health Practice Program – Indigenous Knowledges and Culture Lecture Team, and the First Nations Researchers Collective Leadership Team.

Professional Staff Awards

Distinguished for the contributions and upholding Flinders' values, winners included Jacob Blokland (Student-Centred Award), Evelyn Bennett (Innovation Award), Katherine Reaiche (Integrity Award), Nalini Klopp (Courage Award), Chris Hince (Excellence Award), and Dr Gareth Furber (Wellbeing Award). The Biodiversity Facility Team from the College of Science and Engineering was recognised with the Flinders Dream Team Award.

Alumni Awards

Flinders University Alumni Awards recognise alumni who have significantly contributed to their communities. They represent the embodiment of our core values – a dedication to knowledge, innovation, and the betterment of society. Their stories are a testament to the transformative power of a Flinders education and the unyielding spirit of human endeavour.

In 2023, the Alumni Awards ceremony was held at Adelaide Town Hall on Thursday 16 November and comprised of three award categories: Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni, and Early Career Alumni.

Thank you to the members of the 2023 Alumni Award Selection Committee: Elizabeth Perry AM, Kim Cheater, Kerry Heysen AM, Adjunct Associate Professor Jenny Hurley, Matt Johnson, Professor Ross McKinnon, and Shona Reid.

Convocation Medal

Cav. Maurice Crotti AO

(BA '71)

Joint Chairman and CEO of San Remo

Awarded for his outstanding entrepreneurship and ambassadorship for food manufacturing, export and economic development in South Australia.

Professor Maria Makrides

(BNutDiet(GradEntry) '91)

PhD(Med) '95)

Executive Director of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

Awarded for her outstanding leadership in translational nutrition research in the fields of pregnancy and perinatal health, to improve maternal-infant outcomes.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Professor Robyn Clark

(DipAppSc(Nurs) '86, BNg(PostReg) '94)

Professor of Nursing at Flinders University and Director of Nursing and Midwifery Research for the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)

Awarded for her distinguished contribution to research that is improving access to evidence-based cardiovascular care for underserved and disadvantaged populations.

Professor Bogda Koczwara AM

(BM, BS '90)

Medical Oncologist and Senior Staff Specialist, Department of Medical Oncology, Flinders Medical Centre

Professor, Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute, Flinders University

Clinical Investigator, Cancer Council SA

Awarded for her distinguished leadership in the medical oncology profession and health services research.

Emily Korir

(GradCertDisSt '16)

Chief Executive Officer of BET Group Global

Awarded for her distinguished leadership and advocacy, through lived experience, in supporting people with disability and in recognition of volunteer work in Africa to end female genital mutilation.

Dr Michael C Smith

(GradCertPHCDev '12, PhD(BiomedEng) '16)

Biomedical Engineer at Purple House (Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation)

Awarded for his distinguished contribution to the health and wellbeing of people in remote Aboriginal desert communities through the design and support of water-treatment systems for medical dialysis services.

Professor Cassandra Szoeki

(BM, BS(GradEntry) '99)

Director, Healthy Ageing Program, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne

Awarded for her distinguished leadership in dementia, women's health research, and influence of policy and guidelines internationally to improve healthy ageing.

Professor Simone Ulalka Tur

(MEdSt '02, PhD (EHLT) '18)

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Flinders University

Awarded for her distinguished leadership in Indigenous advocacy within South Australia and nationally, through art and education.

Early Career Alumni Award

Dr Mehrdad Aghamohamadi

(PhD '22)

Energy Market Analyst, Cornwall Insight Australia

Awarded for his significant research in renewable and sustainable energy development models accelerating Australia's net zero emissions target.

Dr Dhani Dharmapranj

(BEng(Biomed)(Hons) '16, PhD(Med) '20)

Research Fellow in Cardiac Electrophysiology, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University

Awarded for her significant research in cardiac electrophysiology through the use of engineering techniques to further develop technologies improving cardiovascular health.

Eloise Hall

(BIntRel/BBus '23)

Co-founder and Managing Director, TABOO

Awarded for her significant entrepreneurship with the social enterprise, TABOO, in addressing period poverty in Australia, ensuring women have equal access to safe and dignified period care.

Madison Siegertsz

(BCreatArts(Screen) '20)

Producer

Awarded for her significant contribution to the creative industries sector, showcasing South Australian talent and ensuring accurate representation of neurodiverse communities on screen.

FEARLESS



Flinders
University



Governance

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University Council

Left to right: Leanne Liddle, Abhishek Jain, Brenda Wilson AM, Kim Cheater, Sharon Wilson, Professor Colin Stirling, John Hood (Chancellor), Kate Walsh, Elizabeth Perry AM, Professor Christopher Kee, Douglas Gautier AM, Associate Professor Amanda Muller, Benjamin Grillett. Absent: Matthew Johnson, Lucinda Hewitson.





Council members

The Council farewellled and thanked former Flinders University Chancellor Stephen Gerlach AM, George Freney, Emily Williams, and Sean Henschke, whose terms concluded in 2023.

John Hood Chancellor

Commenced 1 October 2023

John Hood was appointed to the role of Chancellor on 1 October 2023. He is a Flinders University alumnus (BEC 1984 GradDipAcc 1985) and chartered accountant. He has a long history of engagement with Flinders and has served two terms on the governing Council (2004-2010; 2017-present). In 2007, John was presented with a Flinders University Alumni Award for his significant contributions to the University and to business in South Australia. John is an experienced company director, business manager, and founder of both his chartered accounting and advisory firm, Humanee, and his coworking business, Intersect. Over his career, John has worked with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, and mhm, and served in governance roles with Port Adelaide Football Club, Momentum Food and Wine, Foodbank SA, Guildhouse, Mighty Craft, and several community and sporting organisations.

Professor Colin Stirling President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Colin Stirling has extensive experience in research, teaching and management. As President and Vice-Chancellor, he is responsible for ensuring the success and efficacy of Flinders University while providing strategic direction to its employees. Educated in Scotland, his early genetics research took him to the University of California, followed by The University of Manchester, where he was awarded several prestigious prizes. Throughout an esteemed academic career, Professor Stirling has established a record of leadership, innovation and successful change management through roles including Vice-President at The University of Manchester, and Provost and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Curtin University.

Professor Christopher Kee

Professor Christopher Kee is a professor of law and the Dean (Education) in the College of Business, Government and Law, joining Flinders University in 2018 from the University of Aberdeen after prior positions at the University of Basel and Deakin University. An expert in international arbitration, he is a director of the prestigious Willem C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, a past Co-Chair of Asia Pacific Forum for International Arbitration, and has served on the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration Rules Drafting committee. He joined Council in 2021 as the Chair of Academic Senate.

Elizabeth Perry AM Deputy Chancellor

Elizabeth Perry AM has an extensive background as a non-executive director, and in corporate governance and leadership, particularly in the areas of tertiary education, insurance, health, and mobility. Working as a lawyer for more than 35 years, she is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Bachelor of Law degree. Awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in 2020 for significant service to tertiary education, business, and community, she has served on Flinders University Council since 2013, and as Deputy Chancellor since 2016.

Douglas Gautier AM Deputy Chancellor

Douglas Gautier AM is CEO and Artistic Director of Adelaide Festival Centre – South Australia's principal arts venue, hosting more than one million people annually, and which he has positioned as a hub for Asian-Australian cultural engagement since 2006. A past director of the Hong Kong Arts Festival, he was formerly part of the leadership team of News Corp's Asian STAR TV network, Deputy Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourism Board. He currently chairs the Association of Asia Pacific Performing Arts Centres and is a member of the Advisory Board of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. In 2016 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the arts and the community. He has served on the Flinders University Council since 2012, and as Deputy Chancellor since 1 January 2023.

Brenda Wilson AM

Brenda Wilson AM is an experienced board director who has held several senior executive and CEO roles in the health sector and served almost eight years from 2014 as the state's first female Lieutenant Governor. While CEO at Cancer Council SA, she was appointed the inaugural Chair of the Cancer Clinical Network and produced South Australia's first state-wide Cancer Control Plan. She has volunteered her time to mentor senior executives for the Australian College of Health Service Management mentoring program and the College of Nursing Australia, and served as a volunteer board director on the Opera SA board. She joined Flinders University Council in 2015.

Sharon Wilson

Sharon Wilson is the Business Development and Continuous Naval Shipbuilding Director at BAE Systems Australia Maritime, and the Chair of the Defence Innovation Partnership Board. Responsible for strategy, innovation, business development, and new business incubation, she has three decades' experience at BAE Systems, including leadership roles in project management, procurement, estimating and as the General Manager of the BAE Systems Global Supply Chain program and Head of Industrial Strategy. She joined Flinders University Council in 2019.

Associate Professor Amanda Muller

Associate Professor Amanda Muller has been at Flinders for 25 years and has served as a previous student member on Council, as well as on governance bodies including Senate, Resources Sub-Committee, Research Advisory Committee, and numerous school- and course-based committees. A researcher in public health, assistance dogs, nursing, CALD populations, and language testing, she is a recognised TEQSA expert member in international education, and an Australian Research Council Assessor. She joined Council in 2018 as the Academic Staff Member.

Kate Walsh

Kate Walsh is an experienced Senior Coordinator, Student Representation and Partnerships, and advocates strongly for the role of professional staff as the connection between management, academics, and students. She is an advocate in social justice, inclusivity and partnership, and passionate about the tertiary sector and the vital role of public institutions. She joined Council in 2021 as the Professional Staff Member.

Kim Cheater

Kim Cheater is a former Managing Partner of PwC and led their Governance and Risk Consulting practice in Adelaide for over 20 years, and their reconciliation initiatives for over 10 years. He is an experienced board director, holding roles as the Chair of the South Australian Museum, Chair of Alwyndor Aged Care, and as a director for Australian Unity, SARAH Group, RAA, RAA Insurance, and Return to Work SA. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He was recognised as a Distinguished Alumnus by Flinders University for his contribution to business and reconciliation. He joined Council in 2023.

Leanne Liddle

Leanne Liddle is an Arrernte woman from Central Australia. Leanne has academic qualifications in Science, Law and Management, but she believes her most important knowledge has come from her grandmother and great-grandmother who taught her about traditional land management skills, particularly with the use of fire. She was South Australia's first Aboriginal police woman and has dedicated her career to principles of equity and social justice. She is currently the Acting First Nations Chief Health Officer for Northern Territory's Department of Health, alongside her roles as Deputy Chair of the Menzies School of Health Research, and board member for the NT/SA Central Royal Flying Doctors. In 2022, she was Northern Territory's Australian of the Year. She joined Council in 2023.

Benjamin Grillett

From 1/01/2024

Benjamin Grillett is the Undergraduate Student Elected Member for 2024 to 2025. Ben is a trade union official and studying a Bachelor of Law and Legal Practice at Flinders University. Ben also serves on the Flinders University Student Association as Education officer, and to the National Union of Students as the Vice-President of the South Australian Branch. Ben is committed to advocating for students amidst cost-of-living pressures, and for student welfare.

Abhishek Jain

From 1/01/2024

Abhishek Jain is the Postgraduate Student Elected Member for 2024 to 2025. Abhishek was born and raised in India, and is currently studying Information Technology, and has a passion for management and leadership. Abhishek is committed to volunteering and the power of community engagement. In his spare time he volunteers for an NGO to give back to the community.

Governance

The University Council acknowledges and observes the Universities Australia and Universities Chancellors Council *Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities* and confirms that it complies with this code.

Flinders University and its governing Council are established under the *Flinders University Act 1966*. The University is regulated by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and is registered as a self-accrediting institution. The University's governing Council exercises stewardship of the University's activities and governance framework.

The primary responsibilities of Council are:

- Appointing and monitoring the performance of the Vice-Chancellor as Chief Executive Officer;
- Approving the mission and strategic direction of the University, including its annual Budget and Business Plan;
- Overseeing and reviewing the management of the University and its performance;
- Establishing policy and procedural principles consistent with legal and community expectations;
- Approving and monitoring systems of control and accountability, including controlled entities;
- Overseeing and monitoring the assessment and management of risk, including commercial undertakings;
- Overseeing and monitoring the academic activities of the University; and
- Approving significant commercial activities of the University.

Council members

The Council consists of the following members:

- The Chancellor *ex officio*;
- The Vice-Chancellor *ex officio*;
- The presiding member of the Academic Senate *ex officio* or if the presiding officer is the Vice-Chancellor, an academic staff member of the Academic Senate who is not a student at the University, elected by the Academic Senate;
- Eight persons appointed by the Council on the recommendation of a selection committee (the term of office is 2 or 4 years determined on the recommendation of the selection committee);
- If the Council so determines, one person co-opted and appointed by the Council (the term of office is 2 or 4 years determined by Council);
- One member of the academic staff elected by the academic staff (the term of office is 2 years);
- One member of the professional staff elected by the professional staff (the term of office is 2 years); and

- Two students at the University (not being persons in the fulltime employment of the University), one of whom must be a postgraduate student and one of whom must be an undergraduate student, appointed or elected in a manner determined by the Council (the term of office is 2 years).

Council committees

The Council has established a number of committees which meet regularly and contribute to effective governance, while supporting Council in making informed decisions on issues of significance to the University. The Council refers matters to its committees in accordance with their terms of reference.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for advising and assisting Council in the performance of its responsibilities, including governance requirements; composition, structure and monitoring of Council and its committees; the appointment of the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellors and Vice-Chancellor; succession planning; and advising Council on the University's strategic plan, emerging risks and opportunities.

Academic Senate

Academic Senate oversees and monitors the academic activities of the University and ensures the academic quality and integrity of the University's academic operations.

Academic Senate has four sub-committees to support its functions:

- Education Quality Committee
- Learning and Teaching Innovation Committee
- Research Quality Committee
- University Higher Degrees by Research Committee.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee assists Council to discharge its oversight and monitoring responsibilities by providing advice on financial reporting, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, internal control structure, risk management procedures, and the internal and external audit functions.

Finance and Investment Committee

The Finance and Investment Committee advises Council on matters concerning the overall financial performance and management of the University, including matters having a significant financial impact, annual budget setting and performance, and monitoring of investments and resources.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee assists Council to discharge its oversight and monitoring responsibilities in relation to the setting and annual review of remuneration and performance goals for the Vice-Chancellor and senior executive remuneration and succession planning.

2023 Council Attendance Record

	First Appointed / Elected	Term Ended	Council	Standing Committees [#]				
				Academic Senate	Audit and Risk Committee	Executive Committee	Finance and Investment Committee	Remuneration Committee
Stephen Gerlach AM* Chancellor	1/03/10	30/09/23	4/4*			4/4*		1/1*
John Hood** Chancellor	9/03/17	N/A	5/6			5/5	4/4**	2/2
Professor Colin Stirling President and Vice-Chancellor	1/01/15	N/A	6/6	5/5		5/5	4/5	
Professor Christopher Kee Presiding Member of Academic Senate	1/07/21	N/A	6/6	5/5		5/5		2/2
George Freney*	1/01/19	30/06/23	2/2*		2/3*			
Douglas Gautier AM Deputy Chancellor	19/04/12	N/A	6/6			4/5		2/2
Elizabeth Perry AM Deputy Chancellor	8/08/13	N/A	4/6			5/5	4/5	2/2
Kim Cheater	1/1/23	N/A	6/6		5/5			
Leanne Liddle	11/5/23	N/A	4/6					
Brenda Wilson AM	1/10/15	N/A	5/6		5/5	5/5		2/2
Sharon Wilson	23/08/19	N/A	2/6		2/2*			
Associate Professor Amanda Muller	13/07/18	N/A	5/6					
Kate Walsh	1/01/17	N/A	6/6					
Emily Williams	1/01/22	31/12/23	5/6					
Sean Henschke	1/01/22	31/12/23	5/6					

[#]Data for Council Members only

*attendance only tracked for meetings during their tenure.

**commenced as Chancellor on 1/10/2024 and ceased as Finance and Investment Committee Chair.

Statutes

No statutes or regulations were allowed by the Governor during the calendar year.

Risk management

The University has a risk management framework which is supported by risk management and legislative compliance policies and regular reporting to Council and its Committees. The approach to risk management is consistent with the Australian and New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS ISO 31000:2018).

The University maintains a rolling Internal Audit Plan that is undertaken by the University's internal auditors and is developed with regard to the University's Risk Register. The Risk Register is reviewed at least biennially by the Senior Executive Team, Audit and Risk Committee, and Council. A comprehensive review of the University's Risk Management Framework commenced in 2023 and continues into 2024.

The University also maintains a corporate insurance program that is regularly reviewed with regard to the University's risk profile.

Freedom of speech and academic and intellectual freedom

Flinders maintains an Academic and Intellectual Freedom and Freedom of Speech Policy as part of its commitment to the exercise of academic freedom, intellectual freedom, and freedom of speech. The Policy is supported by legally binding commitments made under Flinders' Enterprise Agreement.

The Policy expressly affirms Flinders University's commitment to academic freedom, intellectual freedom and freedom of speech, and specifically states that staff, students and others to whom the policy applies must not prevent, harass, disrupt, vilify or intimidate those seeking to exercise those freedoms in accordance with the Policy.

As part of this commitment, our Policy Development and Review Procedures specifically require that academic freedom and freedom of speech must be taken into account when policies are developed or reviewed. Academic freedom and freedom of speech are also expressly called out in our Code of Conduct, which is part of our staff induction processes. In 2023, the Policy was amended to include a right for professional staff to exercise intellectual freedom. Previously the Policy only provided a right for academic staff to exercise academic freedom, however the extension of intellectual freedom to professional staff affirms the University's commitment in this area.

No issues of concern have been raised with the University's governing bodies regarding freedom of speech, intellectual freedom or academic freedom in 2023.

Modern slavery statement

Flinders University is committed to eliminating all forms of slavery and human trafficking from our operations and supply chain, in keeping with our mission to change lives and change the world and supported by our strategic plan *Making a Difference – The 2025 Agenda*.

Flinders has been working closely with the Australian University Procurement Network (AUPN) as a member of the Modern Slavery Working Group, where a sector-wide effort to analyse, identify, educate, and address modern slavery within supply chains has been progressing.

Pursuant to the federal *Modern Slavery Act 2018* Flinders University publishes an annual statement which sets out the actions taken to identify, assess, and address modern slavery risks across our operations and supply chains. Our statement is published on the Australian Government's Modern Slavery Statement Register.

The supply chain for Flinders University, together with the entities it owns and controls, is diverse and reflects a similar risk profile to that of most universities. We purchase goods and services across several high-risk groups, especially IT hardware (laptops, computers and mobile phones), clothing and apparel, construction and cleaning.

The University has established contracts for many of these categories with first tier suppliers, many of whom are reporting entities under the Modern Slavery Act. A significant percentage of Flinders spend, however, is with smaller non-reporting entities.

Most of Flinders' spend is with suppliers based in Australia (>82%), with spend across a broad range of industry sectors. In many of these cases, the Australian supplier is merely an agent for the product sold.

Our major international spend in 2023 was with the United States of America, the United Kingdom, India, China, Canada, and Germany, with transactions involving suppliers across 62 countries.

Prior to and during 2023, Flinders has incorporated a modern slavery assessment into the procurement decision-making process, as part of a broader *Social Procurement Framework*.

We are continuing to work to assist our suppliers in understanding their supply chain and to educate them on how to identify and address areas of modern slavery risks.

Organisational structure

Flinders University Council

Stephen Gerlach AM, Chancellor
(retired 30/09/23)

John Hood, Chancellor
(commenced 1/10/23)

President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Colin Stirling

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Professor Romy Lawson

- Office of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement
- Curriculum Impact, including New Venture Institute
- Learning and Teaching Innovation
- Academic Quality and Enhancement
- Student Experience and Management
- Marketing and Student Recruitment

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Professor Robert Saint AM

Succeeded by Professor Ray Chan from 1/1/2024

- Office of Graduate Research
- Research Development and Support
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Impact)

Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)

Sebastian Raneskold

- International Recruitment and Admissions
- International Partnerships
- International Student Services

Vice-President (Corporate Services)

Mark Gregory

- Directors of College Services (matrixed)
- Property, Facilities and Development
- Finance and Procurement Services
- Flinders Living
- Information and Digital Services
- Library
- People and Culture

Chief Financial Officer

Richard Porter

Office of the Vice-Chancellor

General Counsel and University Secretary

Marc Davies

- Office of the Chancellor
- Governance, Legal and Risk

Chief of Staff

Jayne Flaherty

- Office of the Vice-Chancellor
- Alumni Relations and Advancement
- Business Intelligence and Planning
- Government and External Relations
- Media and Communications

Vice-President and Executive Dean

College of Business, Government and Law

Professor Michael Gilding

Vice-President and Executive Dean

College of Education, Psychology and Social Work

Professor Deborah West

Vice-President and Executive Dean

College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Peter Monteath

Vice-President and Executive Dean

College of Medicine and Public Health

Professor Jonathan Craig

Vice-President and Executive Dean

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Professor Alison Kitson

Vice-President and Executive Dean

College of Science and Engineering

Professor Alistair Rendell

Senior Executive Team



President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Stirling

Professor Colin Stirling has extensive experience in research, teaching and management. As Vice-Chancellor, he is responsible for ensuring the success and efficacy of Flinders University while providing strategic direction to its employees. Educated in Scotland, his early genetics research took him to the University of California, followed by The University of Manchester where he was awarded several prestigious prizes. Throughout an esteemed academic career, Professor Stirling has established a record of leadership, innovation and successful change management through roles including Vice-President at the University of Manchester, and Provost and Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Curtin University.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students), Professor Romy Lawson

Professor Romy Lawson commenced at Flinders University in January 2022, bringing 25 years of national and international experience in learning and teaching, and strategic curriculum development in both Australia and the UK. Prior positions include Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Provost, and Interim Vice-Chancellor at Murdoch University, and roles at Edith Cowan University, the University of Wollongong, James Cook University and the University of Technology Sydney. Professor Lawson has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Psychology and Physical Education, and a Master of Philosophy and PhD from the University of Wales, Bangor, where she studied and worked for 18 years prior to moving to Australia.



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Robert Saint AM

Professor Robert Saint oversaw research including research students. A University of Adelaide graduate, he has a notable background in science research and innovation, particularly in the area of molecular biology. Professor Saint has been a member of the Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council, the ARC College of Experts, NHMRC Grant Review Panels and the Human Frontier Science Program Grant Review Panel. Prior to Flinders University, he led research teams across Australia including while at the Australia National University and Dean of Science at The University of Melbourne. Professor Saint has received several prestigious awards throughout his career, including his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017. Professor Rob Saint retired on 31/12/2023 and was succeeded by Professor Raymond Chan.



Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Sebastian Raneskold

Sebastian Raneskold has responsibility for international strategy and activities. With 25 years of international education experience across both the public and private sector, he has a strong track record in strategic business development, student recruitment and international partnership development. He chairs the Flinders University Academy Board, sits on the Study Adelaide Board and is a member of Universities Australia's DVCI group, and the International Committee of the Innovative Research Universities (IRU), and previously served on the Ministerial Advisory Committee for International Education in South Australia. Sebastian is the Honorary Consul of Sweden, supporting Swedish interests and providing consular support to the Swedish community of South Australia.



Vice-President (Corporate Services), Mark Gregory

With a leadership background in Australia and the United States, Mark Gregory has over 25 year' experience in higher education, capital projects, regional development and start-up incubation. He has been Chief Information Officer at The University of Adelaide and Associate Vice-President, Finance and Administration at Portland State University. Mr Gregory oversees a broad portfolio including finance, people and culture, information technology, property, governance, student accommodation and the University Library. He holds an MBA and degrees in computer science, mathematics and psychology.



Chief Financial Officer, Richard Porter

With previous roles as CEO and CFO across a range of South Australian sectors, Richard Porter has a wealth of experience in corporate governance and finance, business strategy, property, and investment management. A graduate of both The University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, he holds a Bachelor of Economics and an MBA and is a Certified Practising Accountant. Mr Porter is charged with managing Flinders University's finance and procurement function including reporting, operations, investments, procurement, tax, and financing.



Chief of Staff, Jayne Flaherty

Jayne Flaherty joined Flinders University in October 2022 as Chief of Staff. She has previously led strategic communications, policy and government relations functions within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and for a number of iconic South Australian organisations, including BankSA, ASC and RAA. She brings industry experience in defence, financial services, tourism, higher education, and the public sector. Ms Flaherty is a graduate of both The University of Adelaide and University of South Australia, and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Cultural Studies), Master of Communication Management, and a Master of Marketing.



General Counsel and University Secretary, Marc Davies

Marc Davies is a legal, risk and governance professional, with international experience in commercial and higher-education sectors. He has a passion for good corporate governance, the importance of trust and integrity in decision making, and the value proactive risk management can add to an organisation. Marc has advised on significant transactions across a range of diverse industries and brings significant expertise to the University in corporate governance, commercial transactions, public integrity and accountability laws, and commercialising the results of research. He is an experienced lawyer and non-executive director, and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Governance Institute of Australia.



Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Business, Government and Law, Professor Michael Gilding

Professor Michael Gilding joined the College of Business, Government and Law in 2021, leading an extensive program of educational renewal and research concentration and scale. He has previously worked at ANU, Monash and Swinburne University of Technology, where he was Executive Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law (including foundation of the law school). He is a member of the National Education Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the national board of the Centre for Social Impact. Professor Gilding is an economic sociologist, with particular expertise in the creation of new markets and intergenerational business families, and has published across multiple disciplines, including management, entrepreneurship, sociology, politics, public administration, criminology, communications and history.



Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Education, Psychology and Social Work, Professor Deborah West

Professor Deborah West accepted the role as Vice President and Executive Dean after a period as interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students). Previously as Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching Innovation she led the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching at Flinders University, and oversaw Education Quality, Online Teaching Support, Student Learning Support, Work Integrate Learning and Careers and Employability teams. Her research work has focused on learning and teaching innovation and improvement, particularly the use of educational technology in higher education.



Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Peter Monteath

Professor Peter Monteath has taught history extensively in Australia at The University of Queensland, Griffith University, Deakin University, The University of Western Australia and the University of Adelaide, before coming to Flinders University. He has also been Adjunct Professor at The University of St Louis Missouri in the US and the Technical University of Berlin, where he was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow.



Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences Professor Alison Kitson

Professor Alison Kitson joined Flinders University following her leadership of the University of Adelaide's nursing school. She has held executive roles at the Royal College of Nursing in the United Kingdom and published extensively on nursing and health care, with a focus on research translation. Professor Kitson is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, the American Academy of Nursing, the Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom and she is a distinguished Matthew Flinders Professor. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Aalborg University, Denmark and she also was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Malmo University Sweden for her work on nursing quality and standards of care.



Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Medicine and Public Health, Professor Jonathan Craig

Professor Jonathan Craig has contributed substantially to kidney disease research, including leading the formation of state, national and international networks for trials and being instrumental in the development of best-practice methods and guidelines. A Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and past member of a WHO expert review panel for public health, Professor Craig's many current advisory roles include member of the National Health and Medical Research Council's Health Impact Committee, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, Medical Services Advisory Committee and the Health Life Savings Drug Program.



Vice-President and Executive Dean, College of Science and Engineering, Professor Alistair Rendell

Professor Alistair Rendell joined Flinders University in 2019 following a 23-year career with the Australian National University, including more than five years as Director of the Research School of Computer Science where he oversaw a near trebling of its size. He has significant experience in both academic leadership and high-performance computing research. With an undergraduate degree in chemistry and a PhD in theoretical chemistry he has made contributions to several widely used computational chemistry software packages and is part of a US-based team developing software for the world's leading fastest computer.



Financials



Financial performance statement

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income statement				
Total income from continuing operations	637,979	559,757	634,753	555,850
Total expenses from continuing operations	614,238	543,491	609,091	538,439
Operating result	23,741	16,266	25,662	17,411
Operating margin	3.7%	2.9%	4.0%	3.1%
Balance sheet				
Net assets	971,464	955,800	972,439	954,854
Current ratio	1.6	2.1	1.7	2.1

In 2023, the University reported a commendable consolidated operating surplus of \$23.7 million, up from \$16.3 million in 2022, marking another year of financial health. This success coincides with the near completion of significant projects like the Health and Medical Research Building (HMRB), poised to boost research capabilities, and the new Flinders City Campus, set to strengthen the University's presence in central Adelaide.

The University's total revenue climbed to \$638 million in 2023, a 14% increase amounting to \$78.9 million more than the prior year, reflecting its ability to meet growth targets to support broader strategic goals. While international student fees continued to rise, domestic student fee income saw a marginal lift compared to 2022.

Research income saw a notable increase of 16.2% to \$134.6 million, primarily due to enhanced funding from Commonwealth and State governments, underscoring the University's strategic emphasis on expanding its research infrastructure.

Investment returns also improved significantly over 2022, thanks largely to rising interest rates and strong performances in both domestic and international stock markets.

Expenditure in 2023 mirrored the growth in research and teaching activities, increasing by 13%. Salaries rose by 10.8%, in alignment with the enterprise agreement, while strategic and operational non-salary expenses increased by 17.9%.

Asset growth was substantial, with the University's total assets expanding by \$182.1 million to \$1,521.3 million, largely driven by HMRB construction costs. The year-end cash and term deposits stood at \$250.5 million. Liabilities also grew, corresponding with the \$255 million investment in the HMRB.

Despite the economic headwinds confronting the sector, the University's core financial operations remain robust, backed by a solid foundation of financial resources.

Income statement

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Revenue and income from continuing operations				
Australian Government financial assistance				
Australian Government grants	282,664	266,567	282,664	266,567
HELP - Australian Government payments	103,494	103,099	103,494	103,099
State and local Government financial assistance	14,944	11,639	14,944	11,639
HECS-HELP - Student Payments	7,597	6,024	7,597	6,024
Fees and charges	162,450	119,233	162,370	119,132
Investment revenue	17,576	9,112	17,507	9,090
Royalties, trademarks and licences	122	1,330	118	1,323
Consultancy and contracts fees	18,516	19,027	18,482	19,011
Other revenue	25,337	23,353	22,287	19,965
Gains on disposal of assets	25	-	36	-
Other investment gains	5,254	373	5,254	-
Total revenue and income from continuing operations	637,979	559,757	634,753	555,850
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee related expenses	374,550	338,141	368,921	334,393
Depreciation and amortisation	44,574	39,803	44,488	39,714
Repairs and maintenance	20,034	16,949	19,928	16,849
Borrowing costs	1,554	498	1,554	498
Impairment of assets	1,885	641	1,473	276
Loss on disposal of assets	-	73	-	73
Other investment losses	-	6,482	-	6,482
Other expenses	171,641	140,904	172,727	140,154
Total expenses from continuing operations	614,238	543,491	609,091	538,439
Net result from continuing operations	23,741	16,266	25,662	17,411
Net result attributable to				
University	23,950	16,166	25,662	17,411
Non-controlling interest	(209)	100	-	-
Total	23,741	16,266	25,662	17,411

Statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Net result for the period	23,741	16,266	25,662	17,411
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:				
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of land, buildings, library and artworks	757	56,590	757	56,590
Gain / (loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(8,834)	(12,578)	(8,834)	(12,578)
Total	(8,077)	44,012	(8,077)	44,012
Total other comprehensive income	(8,077)	44,012	(8,077)	44,012
Total comprehensive income	15,664	60,278	17,585	61,423
Total comprehensive income attributable to:				
University	15,873	60,178	17,585	61,423
Non-controlling interest	(209)	100	-	-
Total	15,664	60,278	17,585	61,423

Statement of financial position

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	180,497	226,780	175,507	223,633
Receivables	29,702	42,416	33,463	41,899
Contract Assets	3,497	4,194	3,497	4,194
Inventories	279	342	278	342
Other financial assets	70,000	50,000	70,000	50,000
Other non-financial assets	15,084	13,693	15,051	13,626
Total current assets	299,059	337,425	297,796	333,694
Non-current assets				
Receivables	58,955	33,678	58,955	33,678
Other financial assets	141,764	127,079	142,990	128,303
Property, plant and equipment	973,347	797,758	972,380	796,382
Investment properties	11,525	12,125	11,525	12,125
Intangible assets	36,552	33,703	36,456	33,625
Other non-financial assets	1,211	1,374	1,211	1,374
Total non-current assets	1,223,354	1,005,717	1,223,517	1,005,487
Total assets	1,522,413	1,343,142	1,521,313	1,339,181
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	52,615	52,109	51,107	49,071
Borrowings	1,321	2,767	1,321	2,767
Provisions	30,298	27,202	29,629	26,788
Other liabilities	1,236	1,044	1,456	1,622
Contract liabilities	96,501	76,818	96,477	76,677
Total current liabilities	181,971	159,940	179,990	156,925
Non-current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	7,732	8,436	7,732	8,436
Borrowings	261,519	124,290	261,519	124,290
Provisions	61,744	59,378	61,650	59,378
Contract liabilities	37,983	35,298	37,983	35,298
Total non-current liabilities	368,978	227,402	368,884	227,402
Total liabilities	550,949	387,342	548,874	384,327
Net assets	971,464	955,800	972,439	954,854
Equity				
University interest				
Reserves	238,122	246,199	241,875	249,952
Retained earnings	732,665	708,715	730,564	704,902
University interest	970,787	954,914	972,439	954,854
Non-controlling interest	677	886	-	-
Total equity	971,464	955,800	972,439	954,854

Statement of changes in equity

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Consolidated	Reserves \$'000	Retained Earnings \$'000	University Interest \$'000	Non- controlling Interest \$'000	Total \$'000
Balance as at 1 January 2022	219,491	675,245	894,736	786	895,522
Net result	-	16,166	16,166	100	16,266
Gain on revaluation of land, buildings, infrastructure, library and artwork	56,590	-	56,590	-	56,590
Gain/(loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(12,578)	-	(12,578)	-	(12,578)
Gain/(loss) on investment transfer between reserves	(17,304)	17,304	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	26,708	33,470	60,178	100	60,278
Balance at 31 December 2022	246,199	708,715	954,914	886	955,800
Balance at 1 January 2023	246,199	708,715	954,914	886	955,800
Net Result	-	23,950	23,950	(209)	23,741
Gain on revaluation of land, buildings, infrastructure, library and artwork	757	-	757	-	757
Gain/(loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(8,834)	-	(8,834)	-	(8,834)
Total comprehensive income	(8,077)	23,950	15,873	(209)	15,664
Balance at 31 December 2023	238,122	732,665	970,787	677	971,464
University		Reserves \$'000	Retained Earnings \$'000		Total \$'000
Balance as at 1 January 2022		223,244	670,187		893,431
Net result		-	17,411		17,411
Gain on revaluation of land, buildings, infrastructure, library and artwork		56,590	-		56,590
Gain/(loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		(12,578)	-		(12,578)
Gain/(loss) on investment transfer between reserves		(17,304)	17,304		-
Total comprehensive income		26,708	34,715		61,423
Balance at 31 December 2022		249,952	704,902		954,854
Balance at 1 January 2023		249,952	704,902		954,854
Net Result		-	25,662		25,662
Gain on revaluation of land, buildings, infrastructure, library and artwork		757	-		757
Gain/(loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income		(8,834)	-		(8,834)
Total comprehensive income		(8,077)	25,662		17,585
Balance at 31 December 2023		241,875	730,564		972,439

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Australian Government Grants	386,153	369,659	386,153	369,659
OS-HELP (net)	902	(4,283)	902	(4,283)
Superannuation Supplementation	2,861	2,534	2,861	2,534
State Government Grants	15,280	11,459	15,280	11,459
Local Government Grants received	74	182	74	182
HECS-HELP - Student payments	7,597	6,024	7,597	6,024
Receipts from student fees and other customers	240,834	215,092	234,187	210,102
Dividends received	1,777	1,805	1,777	1,805
Interest received	13,031	4,054	13,031	4,054
Other investment income	2,699	3,230	2,699	3,230
GST recovered/paid	12,613	3,673	12,613	3,673
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(603,251)	(531,110)	(598,373)	(526,260)
Interest and other costs of finance	(244)	(498)	(244)	(498)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	80,326	81,821	78,557	81,681
Cash flows from investing activities				
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long term assets	46	186	36	186
Proceeds from sale of investment	17,744	17,997	17,744	17,399
Other investing outflows	171	(257)	(188)	(70)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long term assets	(211,902)	(107,109)	(211,607)	(106,904)
Payments for financial assets	(55,529)	(53,191)	(55,529)	(53,191)
Loans to related parties	(3,271)	(1,309)	(3,271)	(1,309)
Repayments of loans by related parties	45	260	45	260
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(252,696)	(143,423)	(252,770)	(143,629)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Proceeds from borrowings	128,773	115,805	128,773	115,805
Repayment of lease liabilities	(2,686)	(6,979)	(2,686)	(6,979)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	126,087	108,826	126,087	108,826
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(46,283)	47,224	(48,126)	46,878
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	226,780	179,556	223,633	176,755
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	180,497	226,780	175,507	223,633

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



Government of South Australia

Auditor-General's Department

Level 9
State Administration Centre
200 Victoria Square
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel +618 8226 9640
ABN 53 327 061 410
audgensa@audit.sa.gov.au
www.audit.sa.gov.au

To the Chancellor Flinders University

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Flinders University and the consolidated entity comprising Flinders University and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

In my opinion the accompanying consolidated financial report has been prepared in accordance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and Australian Accounting Standards, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of Flinders University and its controlled entities as at 31 December 2023, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, and
- b) complying with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

The consolidated financial report comprises:

- an Income Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023
- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2023
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2023
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2023
- notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information
- a Certificate from the Chancellor, President and Vice Chancellor and the Chief Financial Officer.

Basis for opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report' section of my report. I am independent of Flinders University and its controlled entities. The *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* establishes the independence of the Auditor-General. In conducting the audit, the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* have been met.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the President and Vice Chancellor and the Council for the financial report

The President and Vice Chancellor is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with relevant Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the President and Vice Chancellor is responsible for assessing the entity's and consolidated entity's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account any policy or funding decisions the government has made which affect the continued existence of the entity. The President and Vice Chancellor is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

The Council is responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by section 31(1)(b) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, I have audited the financial report of Flinders University and its controlled entities for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Independent Auditor's Report

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Flinders University's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the President and Vice Chancellor
- conclude on the appropriateness of the President and Vice Chancellor's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities and business activities within the university and the group to express an opinion on the financial report. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the university and the group. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

My report refers only to the financial report described above and does not provide assurance over the integrity of electronic publication by the entity on any website nor does it provide an opinion on other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the report.

I communicate with the President and Vice Chancellor about, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during the audit.



Andrew Blaskett
Auditor-General

29-May-2024

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