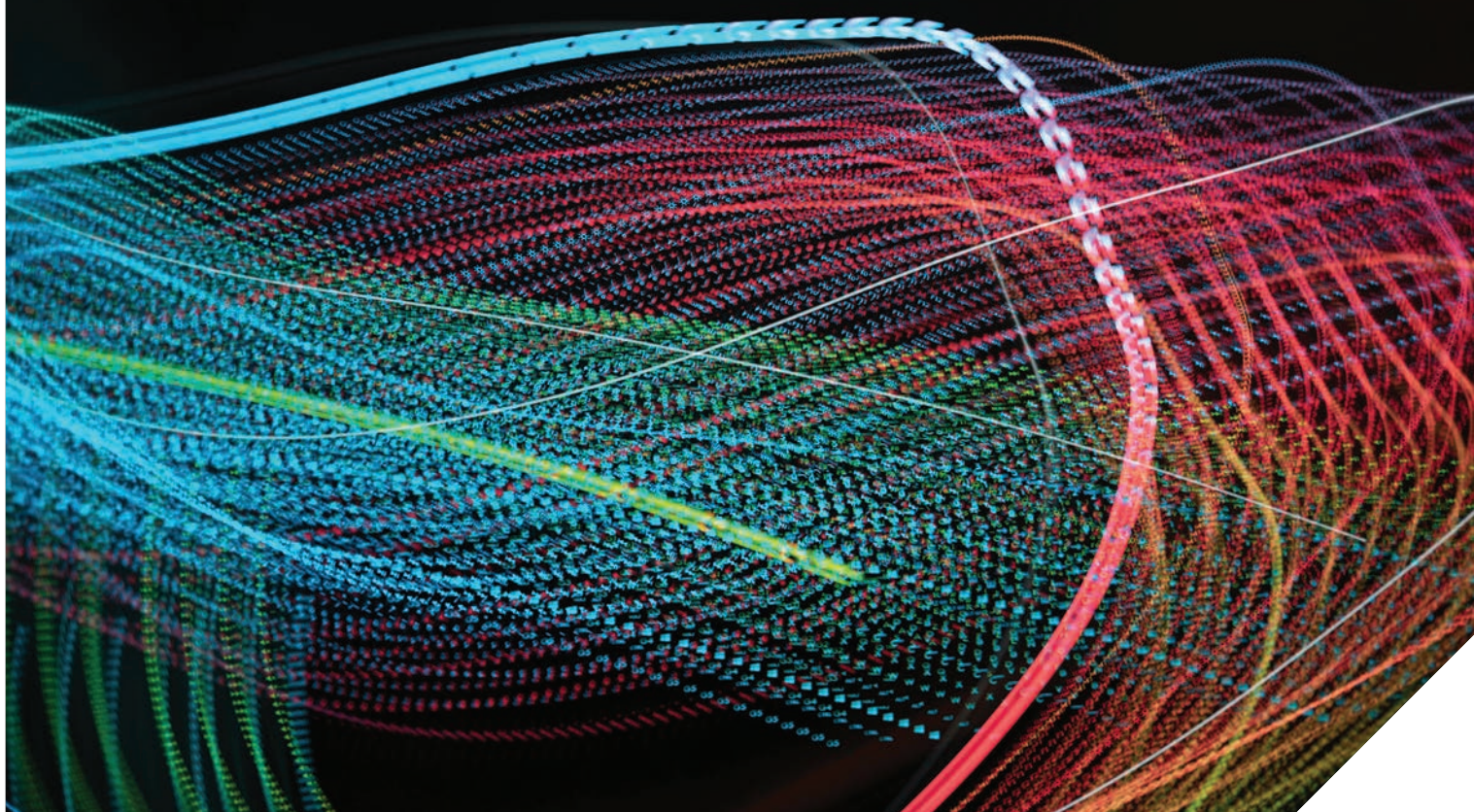


Annual Review

2025–2026



Australian Academy of
Technological Sciences
& Engineering



ATSE

Australian Academy of
Technological Sciences
& Engineering

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) Fellows and staff live and work on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands and waters across Australia.

As we help Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems, we remain mindful of the 60,000 years of science, technology and innovation represented by the world's oldest continuing cultures.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and pay respects to their Elders. We seek always to respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, both from history and today, and to respect the deep knowledge and history of innovation embodied in their ancient and sustainable cultures and knowledge.



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About ATSE

An independent, non-government organisation and registered charity, ATSE is led by a diverse Fellowship of over 900 of Australia's leading applied scientists, technologists and engineers.

We celebrate excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by appointing prestigious Fellows, awarding upcoming innovators and equipping the next generation with skills to build a better Australia and world.

We are an evidence driven voice to decision-makers, and our world-class STEM career programs are shaping the knowledge-makers and innovators we need to tackle our most urgent challenges – now and in the future.



OUR VISION

A sustainable and prosperous Australia where engineering and applied sciences protect our environment, nurture a skilled workforce, grow competitive industries and enable all Australians to reach their greatest potential.

OUR MISSION

We help Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems.

WHAT WE DO

First formed in 1975 and inaugurated in 1976, ATSE was formed as a Fellowship of Australia's leading applied scientists, technologists and engineers. It mobilised their expertise to address government and community priorities with input from an organised body of experts.

ATSE has since grown to more than 900 Fellows who are at the forefront of innovation in response to climate change and the energy transition, digital transformation, and technologies to support national security. Their expertise also spans food and water security, personalised medicine and health technology, advanced manufacturing, and resilient infrastructure.

ATSE's Fellows also work across many other areas of applied science, technology and engineering vital to Australia's and the world's economic, social and environmental sustainability.

ATSE brings together Fellows to exchange ideas, develop independent, evidence-based advice for government and industry, and connect with leaders and decision makers across Australia, supporting the development of effective policies and processes.

We build STEM skills and help catalyse national investment in research and development (R&D) urgently needed to solve these issues. We are an independent, non-government organisation and a registered charity, we help grow a diverse and thriving STEM sector in Australia through:

STELR

STELR is our hands-on, sustainability-focused science and engineering education program which is in more than 1,000 schools Australia-wide and internationally.

ELEVATE

Elevate: Boosting diversity in STEM is our undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship program which is supporting women and diverse people into STEM studies, networks and careers.

IMNIS

IMNIS is our industry mentoring network in STEM which pairs hundreds of PhD students and early-career researchers with industry leaders every year.

GLOBAL SCIENCE
& TECHNOLOGY
DIPLOMACY FUND
STRATEGIC ELEMENT

The **Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund - Strategic Element** provides grants to grow international collaboration in our region and drive innovation and commercialisation across advanced manufacturing, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, hydrogen production and RNA vaccines and therapies.

EMERGING
LEADERS
NETWORK

The **Emerging Leaders Network** brings emerging leaders from the STEM sector into ATSE's forums to add the voice of early-mid career professionals to ATSE's policy work and get mentored by Fellows.

PROPEL

The **Propel: Australian Submarine Scholarship Program** is awarding 3,000 two-year undergraduate scholarships, to provide students with access to education and career opportunities associated with AUKUS.

President’s message



Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM FTSE FAA
President, ATSE

WHEN I BECAME President on 1 January 2026, I knew I was joining an Academy with a rare strength: Fellows who understand not only how new knowledge is created, but how it is applied in industry, government and the community. My years as Australia’s Chief Scientist convinced me that frank, evidence-based advice, offered constructively and consistently, is one of the most valuable things a nation can have. Providing that advice is what ATSE exists to do.

This year we have sharpened our focus on where the Fellowship offers something governments cannot readily get elsewhere.

Advice that makes a difference

On the energy transition, our position statement *Pathways to Australian decarbonisation*, endorsed by the Board and Assembly in June, now anchors ATSE’s advice. It has informed our submissions on Australia’s cleaner fuels industry, the NSW Net Zero Commission’s pathways inquiry and the electricity and water demand of data centres.

Through our Water Forum, ATSE has provided sustained advice on one of the nation’s most essential resources, contributing to the Basin Plan Review, the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into National Water Reform, the Water Science and Research Review and the Independent Review of the Water Act 2007.

On artificial intelligence, our work with Kearney identified a potential \$235 billion opportunity for Australia, while making clear it will be realised only with the infrastructure, skills, data, research capability and businesses to turn AI into economic and social value here. We carried that message to the Senate inquiry into AI and data centres.

Our advice is having impact. For example, Queensland’s new science and innovation strategy, *Ideas into Impact*, adopted two of ATSE’s recommendations in full, making quantum technology a priority and using government procurement to support commercialisation, and drew on four others.

Turning research into prosperity

ATSE engaged closely with the Strategic Examination of R&D, which set out an ambitious agenda for Australia’s research and innovation system. Government commitments this year, including the formation of the National Resilience and Science Council to replace the National Science and Technology Council, additional investment in our national science agencies and progress towards association with Horizon Europe, are welcome steps.

But much remains to be done. Business investment in R&D remains well below that of comparable economies, and the gap left by recent program closures, including the Australian Economic Accelerator, must be filled quickly if excellent research is to become Australian industries and jobs. The changes to the R&D Tax Incentive have not yet landed in a way that will promote innovative industries in

Australia. ATSE will keep making that case constructively, independently and with evidence.

Investing in people

Technology ultimately depends on people. This year, more than 100 new Elevate scholars began their STEM journeys. Propel continued to build the skilled workforce Australia needs for its security and resilience, IMNIS connected researchers with industry, and we launched the STELR Fund, allowing 26 in-need schools to access partial and full STELR kit donations thanks to ATSE’s generous donors..

Elevate’s results speak for themselves, with a 96 per cent retention rate, yet its long-term funding remains insecure. Securing it is a priority for the Academy. Women remain under-represented in engineering and the physical sciences, and too many leave the STEM workforce after graduating. This is unfinished business for our sector, and ATSE intends to help finish it.

Our Fellowship

In 2025 we welcomed 35 new Fellows whose achievements span research, industry, entrepreneurship, government and public life. Our Fellows give generously through policy advice, mentoring and education. In the year ahead, I want them to be more visible as ATSE’s experts and its public voice, not only contributors to our work, but leaders of the national conversation on technology and engineering.

A year of change

After more than six years as CEO, Professor Kylie Walker AM stepped down in July. Kylie made an enormous contribution to ATSE’s growth, influence and reputation, and I thank her sincerely. I am deeply grateful to Peter Derbyshire, who stepped in as Acting CEO, and Dr Alison Every, as Acting Deputy CEO, and to our professional staff, who keep the Academy’s work moving through a period of transition. I am delighted that the Board has appointed Jane O’Dwyer as ATSE’s next CEO, commencing in November, and I look forward to working with her to take the Academy forward.

Looking ahead

Australia faces profound change, from the energy transition and climate change to AI, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals and the changing nature of work. We urgently need to develop substitute industries, such as quantum, as we move away from fossil fuels. The good news is that this country has extraordinary expertise. Our task is to connect it to the decisions and investments that will shape our future, and to do so as a trusted, independent voice.

I thank my fellow Board members, our Vice-Presidents and our Fellows who volunteer so much of their time, and our partners and funders for their support. I am honoured to serve as President of an Academy so deeply committed to applying expertise for the public good.

Acting CEO’s message



Peter Derbyshire
Acting Chief Executive Officer, ATSE

IN MY SIX years here at ATSE I feel confident in saying that the past 12 months have been some of the busiest and most productive that I have seen.

While I was not the CEO over this period, it is my pleasure to look back on what we have achieved in a sector and in a world that is constantly changing and evolving.

Learned Academies are unique organisations whose power comes from the deep expertise of its Fellowship, the skills of the professional staff, and the ability to convene diverse organisations and groups of people to tackle the big issues. Some would argue now is the time of some of the biggest and most challenging issues in modern memory.

Over the past year, ATSE has used these attributes in every part of society. We have convened CAETS and we have led discussions nationally on key issues from the benefits and challenges of AI to clean energy generation and the creation of an Ambitious Australia. We have also continued to lead by example with nation-leading STEM Career programs that prepare the next generation of STEM professionals.

Contributions from Fellows

We would not be able to do all of this without the time and valuable contributions from our Fellowship. Around two-thirds of our Fellows made over 1,100 contributions to our policy and programs work throughout the year, informing submissions to state and federal inquiries and parliamentary hearings along with numerous meetings with ministers, politicians, advisers and government departments.

Advice from previous ATSE submissions and reports also helped shape government reports and funding decisions during the year. And while we are asked regularly to provide advice to decision makers, we continue to drive the conversation in ways decided by the Fellowship.

Policy reports shaping Australia

We released major new work on artificial intelligence and decarbonising diesel industries, alongside an updated position statement on pathways to decarbonisation and an action statement on Australia’s AI opportunity.

We also established a new Climate Change Forum, bringing the number of ATSE Policy Forums to 10 and connecting more than 500 experts across critical areas including agriculture and food, digital futures, energy, health technology, industry and innovation, infrastructure, minerals and water.

Growing industry partnerships

And we have grown our work with industry to see partnerships with Fortescue, Work Safe Australia, Fortinet, and Moderna. This work leverages ATSE’s unique role as a convenor of industry, academia and government to

provide evidence-based, peer-reviewed, and unbiased advice across all of society.

Providing advice is always more effective when you deliver on the solutions. Our STEM career programs don’t only provide opportunities for the next generation of the STEM workforce, they allow us, as an organisation, to speak with authority on what is needed to support the next generation.

Successful STEM programs

To have one of our STEM programs, Elevate: Boosting diversity in STEM, described in an independent review as the “gold standard” for fostering gender equity in STEM was certainly a highlight for the year.

The launch of the STELR Fund is also an excellent example of what ATSE can do when the expertise, networks and generosity of our community are brought together around a clear purpose. Real students who would not have had the chance for hands on engineering experience will now be given these opportunities thanks to the generosity of our donors to the STELR fund.

Over the year, we strengthened partnerships across industry, universities, government and philanthropy, including new collaborations through IMNIS and our STEM education and scholarship programs. These relationships extend our reach and, importantly, allow ATSE to deliver more for the people and communities we serve.

Leadership changes

The year also brought significant change for the organisation. I was honoured to take on the role of Acting CEO and help maintain momentum through the transition following the resignation of Professor Kylie Walker AM as CEO in July.

After six years in the role, Kylie left a strong organisation, with capable people, devoted Fellows, sound systems and a clear strategic direction. I am grateful for the foundations she and the team have built.

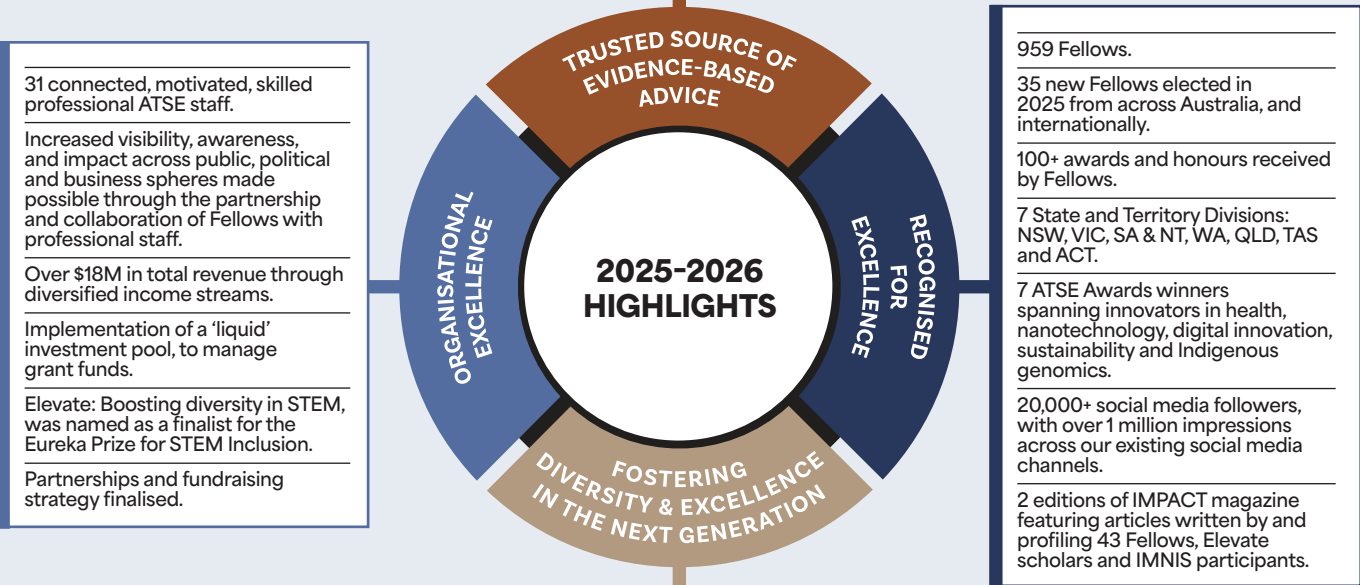
I am equally pleased to welcome Jane O’Dwyer as ATSE’s incoming CEO. Her experience across research, industry, government and innovation will be a valuable addition to the Academy as we enter the next phase of our development.

I want to thank our Fellows, my leadership team, staff, partners, funders, mentors, scholars, teachers and supporters for the contribution each makes to ATSE and the nation. Their commitment is what turns our purpose into action.

Australia has enormous technological and engineering capability. Our job is to help connect that capability with opportunity and to build an Academy equipped to do that well for many years to come.

Highlights

604 Fellows engaged 1,167 times in ATSE policy and programs work.	Established the new Climate Change Forum to work alongside ATSE's 9 other Policy Forums. These unite 500+ experts from agriculture and food, digital futures, education, energy, health technology, industry & innovation, infrastructure, mineral resources and water.
36 submissions to state and federal inquiries.	1,900 media mentions or stories across major Australian and international news media, 49 media releases, and 20 media inquiries or requests.
Advice from 22 previous ATSE submissions and reports influencing government reports and funding decisions made during the year	53 ATSE events across the nation uniting 3,200 people, spearheaded by our seven state and territory divisions and professional staff.
31 meetings with ministers, politicians, advisors and departments to support ATSE's policies and programs.	23 Division Events, 455 people.
4 parliamentary hearing appearances to provide expertise.	110,000+ website visitors.
Released two major reports on artificial intelligence and on decarbonising diesel industries, an updated position statement on pathways to decarbonisation and an action statement on Australia's AI opportunity.	



IMNIS 120 STEM PhD student mentees matched with industry mentors in the 2026 program. 2800+ program alumni connected. 14 participating organisations - universities and research institutes. 7 professional development and industry-focused sessions.	STELR 1,028 schools and 71 universities and education centres (connecting more than 5 schools each) Australia-wide. 38 international schools across 10 countries. 2,708 new hands-on STEM kits and resources supplied to 184 schools, universities and education centres. 41 new schools have joined the STELR school network this year. 46% of schools in the STELR network, have an ICSEA below 1000 and 40% are classified as rural or remote. 26 schools received donations of equipment through the STELR fund. <i>Shape Your Future</i> careers webinars connect experts and emerging leaders live to 410 teachers and 1436 students, and to more than 1200 people through YouTube and podcast channels. Over 1400 teachers and lab technicians engaged through conferences and in-person workshops.	ELEVATE 1,150 applications. 102 scholarships awarded in 2026. 28 scholarships supported through industry & philanthropic donations 34 undergraduate scholars, 53 postgraduate research scholars, and 15 leadership scholars. Scholars at 36 of 38 Australian universities that deliver eligible STEM degrees. Scholars across every state and territory of Australia. 96% retention rate. 11 networking events and professional development workshops, with over 240 attendees. Finalist for 2025 Eureka Prize for STEM Inclusion.	Propel 1,336 eligible applications received for the inaugural Propel 2026 cohort. 800+ undergraduate STEM scholars selected, onboarded and received their first \$3,000 payment, representing \$2.48 million paid directly to scholars. Scholars represented 27 universities from every state and territory. 80% of scholars were studying Tier 1 priority disciplines aligned with Australia's future nuclear-powered submarine workforce requirements. 42% of scholars were women, exceeding the 40% benchmark. 2.1% of scholars identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, meeting the program's 2% benchmark 510 participants attended the inaugural Propel Cohort 1 Welcome Session. 74.5% of commencement survey respondents could see a potential future career in Australia's nuclear-powered submarine enterprise.	Emerging Leaders Network Commenced third year of ATSE's Emerging Leaders Network, with 19 early career STEM professionals matched to the Academy's Policy Forums and International Strategy Group. This resulted in eight policy artefacts, 3 Impact articles and 1 webinar series with contributions from Emerging Leaders.
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Trusted source of evidence-based advice

Drawing on our expert network of Fellows which counts Chief Scientists, CEOs, ASX Directors, Vice-Chancellors and other STEM leaders among them, ATSE is a trusted adviser to industry, government, education and broader society. In 2025-26, we provided independent, timely and solutions-focused advice on Australia's most pressing challenges spanning climate change, artificial intelligence, manufacturing, education, research and development, energy and water security, and many more.

IMPACTFUL POLICY STATEMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

ATSE works with Fellows across Australia, through the Forums, Divisions and via direct outreach and general calls for input in Fellow communications, to compile evidence-based and experience-informed submissions to parliamentary inquiries on issues of importance to ATSE, its mission, and its Fellows.

In the 2025-26 financial year, ATSE provided 36 submissions to state and federal inquiries. Of the 6 inquiries that have published their outcomes to date, 6 reflected ATSE's input, including with references to our submission or alignment with our recommendations.

ATSE also reaped the outcomes from policy engagements in previous years, with 22 government reports and funding decisions reflecting advice from ATSE's respected submissions and reports.

ATSE was invited to provide formal evidence at 4 parliamentary inquiries this financial year and was invited to join two working groups. Many more meetings and discussions were held by Fellows and senior staff with leaders across the state and federal political spectrum.

Several measures in the 2026-27 Federal Budget matched recommendations made by ATSE's submissions and reports, across R&D funding, consumer energy resources, funding for student support at universities, emissions reduction and electric vehicles.

- Highlights of impact in 2025-26 include:
- Strategic Examination of Research and Development:** Recommendations for ATSE's SERD submissions were reflected in changes to the R&D tax incentive – with subsequent submissions helping to secure further tax changes to ensure support for startups. ATSE's recommendation to join Horizon Europe was also funded in the Federal Budget.
 - Funding and Resourcing for the CSIRO:** Calls for increases in CSIRO and other publicly funded research agencies funding was reflected in the budget.
 - Universities Accord:** ATSE submissions to the Australian Universities Accord called for a needs-based funding model, which was implemented in the 2025-26 budget.

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

ATSE engages regularly in high level conversations and provides thoughtful and evidence-informed advice, through events, meetings and conversations with state and federal political representatives and leaders from across the spectrum on a range of topics.

Strategic Examination of Research & Development

ATSE continued to engage with the Strategic Examination of Research & Development. Drawing on the deep expertise of Fellowship, ATSE provided multiple comprehensive submissions to the Strategic Examination of Research & Development, recommending systemic reforms to enhance efficiency and stimulate greater industry investment. These submissions resulted in 7 fully adopted recommendations and a further 5 partially adopted recommendations.

Economic Reform Roundtable

As part of the priority work from Treasury, ATSE produced submissions to the Productivity Commission's work around the Economic Reform Roundtable. ATSE's submission resulted in two of ATSE's recommendations being adopted by the Productivity Commission in their advice to Treasury, and a further three being partially adopted.

South Australian Election

Ahead of the 2026 South Australian election, ATSE provided resources to candidates introducing ATSE and our Fellows' priorities in South Australia. This has led to meetings with elected politicians and additional positive engagement from the South Australian government.

+ ATSE's policy statements and submissions
atse.org.au/what-we-do/strategic-advice

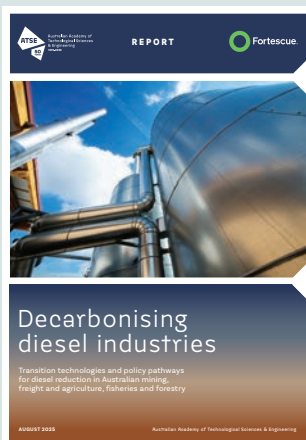
INFORMING AUSTRALIA'S INNOVATION FUTURE

ATSE Fellows hail from across the Australian economy, bringing a depth of expertise as well as a breadth of experience to inform our evidence-based work. Fellows work with policy analysts and writers in the professional staff to craft accessible, relevant, informative and informed reports, roadmaps and guidebooks to support decision and policy makers to address complex challenges and take advantage of evolving opportunities. In 2025-26 the following major reports were produced:



Made in Australia: Our AI opportunity

Aimed at highlighting the opportunities available to Australia by fully embracing AI, *Made in Australia* proposes a mission-based approach to AI. The Action Statement highlights how Australia compares on funding for AI innovations and Australia's advantages to, and benefits from, becoming an AI powerhouse. ATSE identifies 5 key drivers to accelerating Australia's AI capacity, including workforce, research, infrastructure, datasets and commercial pathways.



Decarbonising diesel industries

In partnership with Fortescue, ATSE examined how the mining, freight and agricultural sectors can reduce their reliance on diesel to help reach Australia's emissions targets and increase fuel security. The report examined biofuels, electrification and green hydrogen technologies, examining the technological and policy barriers to their wide-scale adoption. ATSE identified possible solutions including the phasing out of diesel subsidies, strengthening the Safeguard Mechanism, supporting industry investment, promoting cross-sector strategies and investing in R&D. *Decarbonising Diesel Industries* has led to significant industry and government interest and has led to more detailed work being undertaken on mining decarbonisation.



Unleashing Growth: Australia's AI investment blueprint

Building on the work in *Made in Australia*, *Unleashing Growth* provides a detailed look at what Australia needs to do to become an AI powerhouse. The report identifies six priority enablers that ATSE Fellows believe will drive the biggest economic impact for Australia – a national talent pipeline, population-scale AI training, purpose-built compute facilities, AI standards and regulation, and regional AI factories. Addressing these priority areas will allow Australia to unlock a potentially \$3 trillion industry.



Pathways to Australian decarbonisation

Pathways to Australian Decarbonisation is an update of ATSE's 2023 *Becoming a Net Zero Nation* that reflects changes in Australia's emission reduction policy and renewable energy deployment timeframes. In it, ATSE argues that Australia has both a significant opportunity and a responsibility to accelerate the national transition to net zero as one of the world's highest emitters per capita. The position statement outlines four major positions that reflect the considered view of the Fellowship on how Australia can best reach net zero. Topics of the position statement include electrification and energy decarbonisation, emissions accounting, skills and R&D investment.

STRONG INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

ATSE strengthened its position as a globally connected and influential collaborator during 2025-26. We built on targeted initiatives to support direct research and development, helping Australian innovators team up with international partners.

At the same time, we led global discussions through our leadership in the International Council of Academies of Technological Sciences (CAETS) and support of the International Network for Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES).

By leveraging strong ties with sister academies and professional societies worldwide, ATSE advanced applied science and engineering diplomacy. The International Strategy 2025-2030 aims to expand on these successes and open new channels for international engagement.

Beyond the major workshops, grant programs and multilateral collaborations outlined below, ATSE deepened relationships with global colleagues, with a strong focus on both traditional and emerging R&D partners and our region.

Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund – Strategic Element

ATSE proudly delivers the AUD \$25 million Global Science and Technology Diplomacy Fund – Strategic Element (GSTDF-SE) on behalf of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), in partnership with the Australian Academy of Science (AAS). The fund drives regional innovation by providing grants of up to \$1,000,000 for eligible Australian organisations collaborating on key areas of science and technology with priority partner countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

The program maintained strong momentum in 2025-26 with the announcement of Round 2 recipients in May 2026. To ensure long-term program success, ATSE is actively executing a strategic engagement plan, including conducting in-person site visits with Round 1 recipients to track their achievements, promote their work, and further solidifying Australia's position as a global science and technology leader.

Global Connections Fund

ATSE is administering the final round of the Global Connections Fund (GCF), on behalf of DISR. The program allocated \$560,733 across 8 grants to deepen research and development partnerships between Australian and the Republic of Korea researchers and SMEs, with a strong focus on commercialisation.

To promote the program and strengthen these international ties, ATSE undertook targeted engagement activities, including an official visit to South Korea, participating in the Australia-Korea partnership event in Sydney, and visiting a regional Western Australia grantee. These engagements successfully boosted the visibility of ATSE-DISR programs, advocated for cross-border linkages between Korean counterparts and additional Australia research institutions.



Leading the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS)

Serving as the president of CAETS, ATSE hosted the *CAETS 2025: Generations* conference in Brisbane from 8-11 September 2025, welcoming more than 270 experts from 28 countries, including 25 international member academies. This major event enabled Australia to showcase its top-tier science and technology capabilities on the world stage, while creating new connections to help nations work together on shared global challenges.

The main goal of the conference was to look ahead 50 years to the year 2075. A key highlight was exploring how diverse knowledge systems, including Traditional Knowledges, can work together to build a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future. By hosting this successful event, ATSE cemented its role as a leader in the international technology community.

Above: Gabriele Visentin EU Ambassador to Australia with Minister for Industry, the Hon Tim Ayres, at CAETS 2025 in Brisbane.



CAETS 2025: Generations featured a standout program, including: a Welcome cocktail function held for CAETS members; a networking event for attendees and STEM students supported through ATSE's Elevate scholarship program: Connections@CAETS; a full-day symposium featuring eight panels and three keynote addresses from the Minister for Industry, the Hon Tim Ayres, the Chief Scientist Professor Tony Haymet, and Andromeda robotics CEO Grace Brown; a black tie Gala Dinner at the Brisbane Town Hall; two sets of technical tours to four different Brisbane technical and innovation centres; an Olympics-focused session: Engineering the Games: Tech, success and the next generation featuring an Olympian and sports science and infrastructure experts.

EVENTS THAT INSPIRE AND INFORM

ATSE, along with its Forums, Divisions and STEM Careers programs, held more than 53 high-impact events nationally, bringing together over 3,200 people and covering issues ranging from the energy transition, artificial intelligence, health technologies, the health of our oceans, Indigenous traditional knowledge and much more.

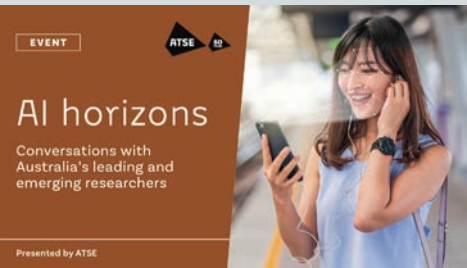
A highlight of the 2025-26 event calendar was the CAETS 2025: Generations conference in Brisbane in September 2025, as highlighted on page 9.

The event saw 270 attendees from 28 countries, including 25 CAETS member academies, attend across four days with the Olympics-focused *Engineering the Games* sessions drawing a packed crowd of CAETS attendees, early-career researchers and school students.

The ATSE Awards showcased Australian top-tier science and technology capabilities on the world stage, while creating new connections to help nations work together on shared global challenges.

In October 2025 ATSE celebrated its new Fellows and ATSE Awards winners through a public showcase, keynote presentations, panel discussions and technology demonstrations. The showcase brought together more than 300 STEM participants, followed by the ATSE Awards dinner recognising achievement across six award categories.

The ATSE Divisions ran many events throughout the year and two of the most well attended events were for a discussion on QLD's Energy Roadmap and a symposium hosted by the NSW Division on where AI is going, and what that means for technology, productivity and society.



WORKING WITH THE OTHER LEARNED ACADEMIES AND ACOLA

ATSE collaborates both formally and informally with other Australian Learned Academies, and the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) on a regular basis.

ACOLA's *Energy Transition Research Plan* brought together expertise from ATSE and the other Learned Academies to identify research priorities for Australia's energy transition.

During 2025-26, this work produced two important reports: *Vulnerability and Australia's Energy Transition*; and *Examining JUST Energy Metrics: Exploring Australian Research Priorities*.

Both were released in December 2025 and focused on making the energy transition fairer and more inclusive.

The work continued into 2026 with *Accelerate 2035*, released in March 2026, which examined whether Australia's R&D system is aligned with the new 2035 emissions target and identified research gaps and priorities.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

ATSE and our Fellows were mentioned in stories from a range of local, national, and international news organisations, with over 1,900 media mentions total, a 5.5% increase in coverage compared to the year prior.

Media continued to proactively seek out ATSE and our Fellows on a range of important issues.

ATSE's *Unleashing growth: Australia's AI investment blueprint* report with Kearney, launched in November 2025 was the biggest news story for ATSE for this period.

ATSE also received strong media coverage of coverage on the launch of ATSE's Propel program and our role in the national science funding debate, particularly CSIRO and research investment. ATSE Fellow Katherine Bennell-Pegg becoming Australian of the Year also generated strong media interest.

Cathy Foley, Kylie Walker, Peter Derbyshire and Katherine Woodthorpe all appeared in the media as ATSE spokespeople throughout the year on a range of topics, across broadcast, online and print media. Not to mention the countless Fellows that appear in the media in their own professional capacity.



Invest or lose: AI warning

AUSTRALIA could miss out on a \$150 billion boost to its economy if it fails to invest in artificial intelligence - but decisive investments in the technology could deliver an additional \$235 billion within a decade, a study has found, and would help the nation catch up to the rest of the world. The study by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and consulting firm Kearney analysed investments

in artificial intelligence technology from around the world. It found other nations were on track to surpass \$3 trillion in spending on AI in 2026, with a national average of \$13.8 billion over five years. By comparison, Australia had invested just over \$300 million in that time - significantly less than its nearest competitors Canada (\$1.7 billion), the UK (\$2 billion), Germany (\$3.4 billion) and Singapore (\$4.4 billion).

The Canberra Times

'Getting worse': unsafe water

KEIRA JENNINGS

REMOTE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are dealing with inadequate drinking water, sanitation, and access to hygiene, but a lack of data hides the true extent of the problem.

An explainer from the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, released on Friday, said "water quality issues are long-term, persistent and, in some cases, getting worse in remote communities".

The School of Civil Engineering head said there is evidence remote communities deal with mineral and chemical contaminations from sodium, uranium, fluoride, arsenic and nitrate that exceed safe thresholds set by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Evidence indicates the water is also susceptible to microbial contamination, which can cause serious health issues.

"We do identify these problems with both chemical contaminants in some drinking water supplies but also susceptibility to micro-

bial contamination," Prof Khan told AAP.

"When you end up with bacteria in water, it potentially causes all sorts of illnesses, skin infections and eye infections, gastroenteritis - so vomiting and diarrhoea - and some of these illnesses can be very dangerous particularly for young children and the elderly."

Prof Khan said Australia's water quality data exclude communities with less than 10,000 households, which means remote areas get overlooked.

"We don't include those smaller communities because the data is harder to collect," he said. "They are by definition a long way from larger centres, so collecting water samples on a regular basis, getting to the laboratory in a timely manner and proper data analysis and collection, all of that is more difficult when you're dealing with smaller, remote communities."

"The statistics refer only to communities with more than 10,000 connections and by doing that we overlook about eight per cent of the Australian population."

"We can't actually put our hands on our heart and say (remote communities) have great water quality because we don't know that."

Concerns have also been raised over water security for remote residents.

The Katherine Times

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

ATSE continually builds its public visibility through targeted digital communication campaigns, including in large part through social media. The positioning of the ATSE brand and key messages in public forums grows the Academy's credibility and impact of its programs and projects.

By highlighting the people and the stories behind what ATSE does – Fellows, Elevate scholars, IMNIS mentor-mentee pairs, event speakers – the organisation showcases the networks and communities of STEM leaders we bring together.

ATSE's #FellowFriday social media campaign shone a spotlight on remarkable Fellows with a new one each week, celebrating their achievements, thought leadership and their service to the nation and ATSE. The campaign generated 162,000 impressions and 5,160 engagements across Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

The #MentorMonday and #ScholarSaturday campaigns continued to highlight the great outcomes and relationships being formed in our highly recognised STEM education programs. In 2025-26, they generated more than 86,000 impressions and nearly 3,000 engagements, with a particularly encouraging growth trend with ATSE's younger Instagram audience.

In 2025-26, ATSE surpassed one million impressions and 35,000 engagements across all platforms, a significant increase from previous years propelled by continued growth in followers and a wider reach across professional and student demographics.



NEW FELLOWS 2025

NEW FELLOWS

Recognised for excellence

Excellence in applied science, engineering and technology is at the heart of ATSE. We attract diverse and outstanding talent to our Fellowship, national Awards, and programs. Our Fellows are highly engaged, mobilised and professionally supported to proactively and positively contribute to achieving a sustainable and prosperous Australia.



Katherine Bennell-Pegg FTSE
Astronaut, Australian Space Agency
Pioneering engineer and first astronaut to represent Australia



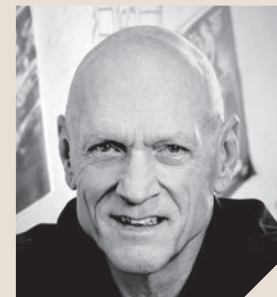
Professor Eva Bezak FTSE
Professor in Medical Radiation, University of South Australia
Powerhouse in medical physics



Kerry Coker FTSE
Senior Executive
Sustainable engineering leader



Dr Nick Fleming FTSE
Managing Director, Innergise Pty Ltd
Multidisciplinary problem-solver



The Hon Peter Garrett AM FTSE
Acclaimed voice for people and planet



Dr Victoria Gordon FTSE
Co-founder & director, QBiotics
Pharmaceutical pathbreaker



Professor Yuming Guo FTSE
Distinguished Professor, Climate, Air Quality Research Unit, Monash University
Climate-health expert



Professor Matthew Harrison FTSE
Professor, University of Tasmania
Change agent in sustainable agriculture



Professor Susan Harrison FTSE
Deputy Vice-Chancellor:
Research & Innovation, The
University of Queensland
Bioprocess engineering
groundbreaker



**Professor Kourosh
Kalantar-Zadeh** FTSE
Professor, The University
of Sydney
Cutting-edge engineer



**Professor Michael
Kassiou** FTSE
Professor of Medicinal
Chemistry, The University
of Sydney
Leading-edge chemist



Neil Kavanagh FTSE
Global Innovation Officer,
Woodside Energy (former)
Global energy technology
leader



Dr Bruce Leslie FTSE
Manager – Technologies,
Vast Renewables Ltd
Solar energy changemaker



**Professor Christina
Lim** FTSE
Professor, Department of
Electrical and Electronic
Engineering, The University
of Melbourne
Shaping optical-wireless
communication technology



**Professor Robert
Mahony** FTSE FAA
Professor, Australian
National University
Revolutionising aerial robotics



Sarah McSwiney FTSE
Head of Engineering,
Jetstar Airways
Aerospace engineering leader



**Professor Bradley
Moggridge** FTSE
Faculty of Science
Associate Dean –
Indigenous Leadership
& Engagement, University
of Technology Sydney
Indigenous water
management champion



**Distinguished
Professor Lidia
Morawska** FTSE FAA
Distinguished Professor,
Queensland University
of Technology
Air pollution paradigm-shifter



**Pamela Naidoo-
Ameglio** FTSE
Director, Exige (NSW)
and Nuclear and Mining
Executive
Leader elevating excellence
and safety



Professor Ian O'Hara
FTSE
Professor & Deputy Dean,
Faculty of Engineering,
Queensland University of
Technology
Australia's biofuture shaper



**Professor Maurice
Pagnucco** FTSE
Professor of Computer
Science and Engineering,
Deputy Dean (Education)
Faculty of Engineering,
UNSW
Expanding ICT frontiers



**Professor Shi-Zhang
Qiao** FTSE FAA
Chair Professor in
Nanotechnology,
University of Adelaide
Catalysing next-generation
energy



Professor John Rasko
AO FTSE FAHMS
Professor
Cell & gene therapy
pathfinder



**Professor Federico
Rosei** FTSE
Professor of Industrial
Chemistry, University
of Trieste (Italy)
Nanomaterials maestro
FOREIGN FELLOW



**Professor Yansong
Shen** FTSE
Professor and Director
of SCOPE Lab for Green
Metals, UNSW
Forging sustainable
innovation



Professor Peng Shi FTSE
Professor, School of
Electrical and Mechanical
Engineering,
The University of Adelaide
Electrical engineering
luminary



Professor Cori Stewart
FTSE
CEO, Advanced Robotics
for Manufacturing Hub
Supercharging AI & advanced
manufacturing



Dr Kimberley Swords
FTSE
Founder and CEO, Riffle
Advisory; Program Director,
UQ – Oxford Transformative
Project Leadership Program
Shaper of sustainability policy



Professor Ying Tan FTSE
Professor of Mechanical
Engineering, The University
of Melbourne
Robotics innovator



Suzanne Thompson FTSE
Managing Director, Yambangk
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
and Tourism Development
Aboriginal Corporation
Advocate for Indigenous
Knowledge



Eric Vanweydeveld FTSE
Aquanex Water
Management
Leader in remote water
services innovation



**Distinguished
Professor Guoxiu
Wang** FTSE FAA
Distinguished Professor,
University of Technology
Sydney
Battery trailblazer



**Professor Hongxia
Wang** FTSE
Professor, Queensland
University of Technology
Solar innovator



Kathryn West FTSE
Chief Officer, Business
& Markets, APAC, Arup
Transformative engineering
leader

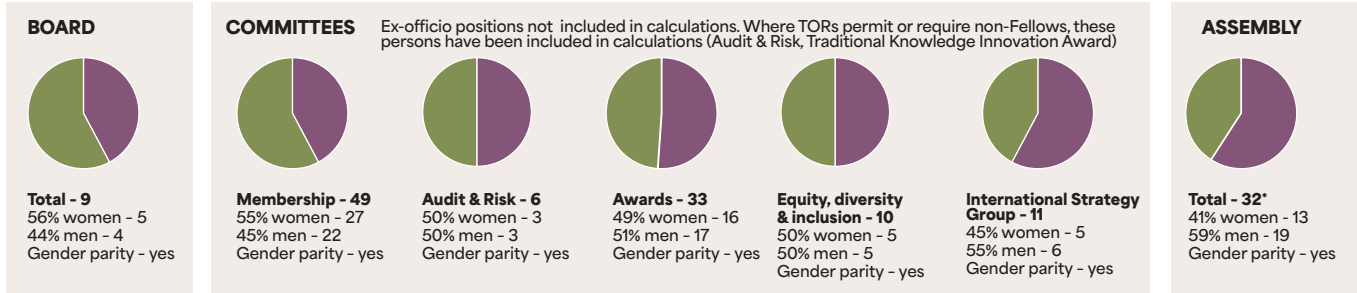


Professor Juliet Willetts
FTSE
Professor & Research Director,
Institute for Sustainable
Futures, University of
Technology Sydney
Inclusive water advocate

Equity, diversity & inclusion

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering commits to equity, diversity and inclusion action and outcomes as core business with our strategic priorities.

ACADEMY GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP



DIVISION Committees*	Total	Women	%	Men	%	Gender parity*
Total	72	32	45%	40	55%	yes
ACT	10	4	40%	6	60%	yes
NSW	19	7	37%	12	63%	no
QLD	13	6	46%	7	54%	yes
SA/NT	8	3	38%	5	62%	no
TAS	4	2	50%	2	50%	yes
VIC	10	6	60%	4	40%	yes
WA	8	4	50%	4	50%	yes

*Gender balance: ATSE commits to a contemporary and practical 40:40:20 approach to ensure a balanced gender representation: 40% women, 40% men, and 20% of any gender across our leadership, representative and advisory bodies. Where a Forum Committee is 3 persons (minimum requirement), the threshold for gender balance achieved has been reduced to 33%.

FORUM Committees*	Total	Women	%	Men	%	Gender parity*
Total	43	16	37%	27	63%	no
Agriculture & Food	6	2	33%	4	67%	no
Climate change	7	2	29%	5	71%	no
Digital futures	8	3	38%	5	62%	no
Education	3	1	33%	2	67%	no
Energy	3	0	0%	3	100%	no
Health & medical technology	4	4	100%	0	0%	yes
Industry & innovation	2	1	50%	1	50%	yes
Infrastructure	5	1	20%	4	80%	no
Mineral resources	3	1	33%	2	67%	no
Water	2	1	50%	1	50%	yes

*Average of voting members across two meetings

FELLOWSHIP

TOTAL FELLOWS

by state + residing overseas

959

NT
2 Fellows
50% women - 1
50% men - 1

HONORARY FELLOWS
(included in state figures)
10 Fellows
40% women - 4
60% men - 6

QLD
126 Fellows
28% women - 35
72% men - 91

SA
77 Fellows
27% women - 20
73% men - 57

NSW
268 Fellows
22% women - 59
78% men - 209

ACT
80 Fellows
19% women - 15
81% men - 65

VIC
245 Fellows
19% women - 46
81% men - 199

FOREIGN FELLOWS
29 Fellows
14% women - 4
86% men - 25

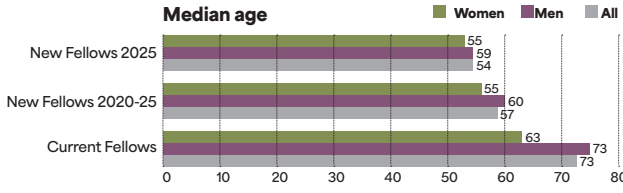
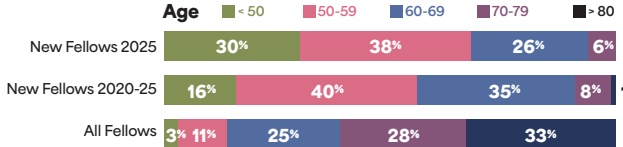
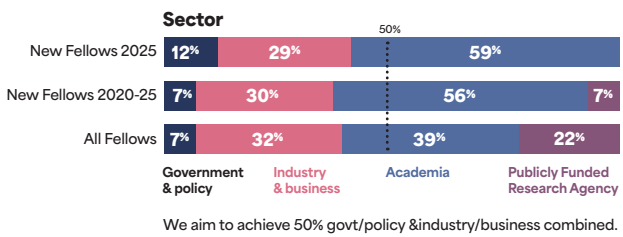
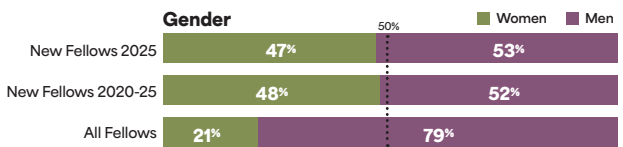
FELLOWS RESIDING OVERSEAS
(excludes Foreign Fellows)
39 Fellows
15% women - 6
85% men - 33

TAS
19 Fellows
21% women - 4
79% men - 15

ATSE has nine Fellows who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Fellowship status / age	Total	Women	%	Men	%	Average Age	Median Age
All Fellows	959	451	47%	508	53%	73	74
Financial	643	180	28%	463	72%	72	73
Non-Financial	248	15	6%	233	94%	73	74

Financial Fellows are still working or fully retired. Non-financial Fellows are those fee exempt, foreign or honorary Fellows or those with lifetime membership, aged 80+.



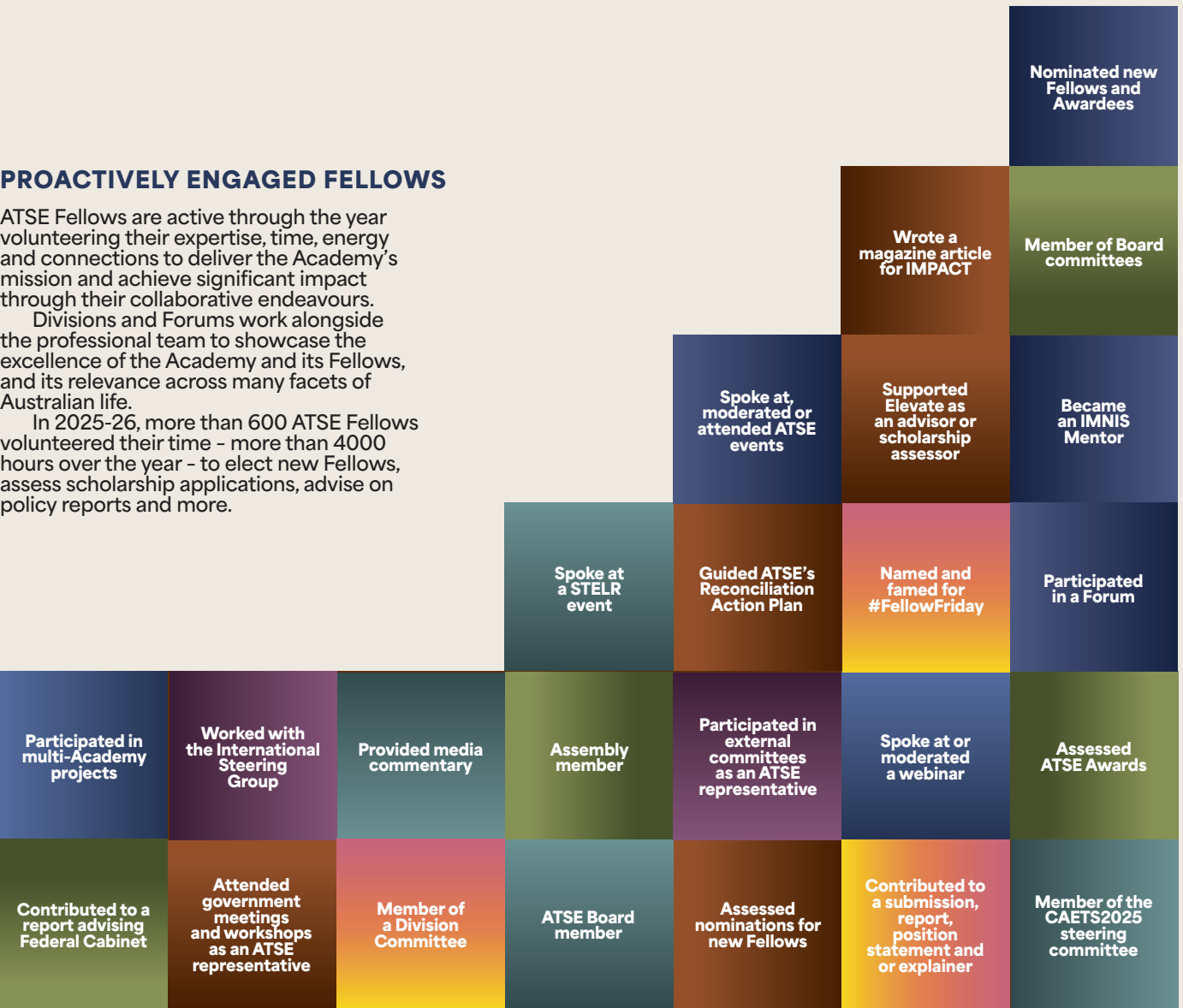
*All data as at 30 June 2026

PROACTIVELY ENGAGED FELLOWS

ATSE Fellows are active through the year volunteering their expertise, time, energy and connections to deliver the Academy's mission and achieve significant impact through their collaborative endeavours.

Divisions and Forums work alongside the professional team to showcase the excellence of the Academy and its Fellows, and its relevance across many facets of Australian life.

In 2025-26, more than 600 ATSE Fellows volunteered their time - more than 4000 hours over the year - to elect new Fellows, assess scholarship applications, advise on policy reports and more.



Vale

The ATSE community was saddened to lose treasured friends and collaborators through the year. We recognise and remember the following late Fellows who passed away between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Dr Graham Allison FTSE
21/5/1943–2/9/2025

Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO FTSE
1/12/1930–20/1/2026

Dr David Boger FRS FTSE FAA
13/11/1939–5/7/2025

Dr Brian Booth AM FTSE
11/8/1928–16/1/2026

Professor Margaret Bullock AM FTSE
24/3/1933–1/1/2026

Professor Emma Johnston AO FTSE FAA
9/4/1973–28/12/2025

Don Little AO FTSE
18/6/1926–5/2/2026

Professor Paul Nestel AO FTSE
12/12/1929–9/6/2026

Dr Jim Peacock AC FRS FTSE FAA
14/12/1947–22/10/2025

Professor Alek Samarin FTSE
18/11/1935–6/3/2026

Dr Erica Smith AC FTSE FAICD
1/1/1952–13/11/2025

Ron Spithill OAM FTSE
28/10/1941–7/12/2025

Ted Stapinski FTSE
1/8/1947–12/7/2025

Dr Neil Willetts FTSE
10/4/1939–9/2/2026

ATSE Awards 2025

As part of ATSE’s mission, we aim to celebrate and recognise those people who are making significant advances in their fields and can act as an inspiration for the power of technology and innovation to improve people’s lives.

Seven outstanding Australian researchers and innovators were recognised in the 2025 ATSE Awards for their world-leading contributions across health, nanotechnology, digital innovation, sustainability, Indigenous genomics and championing the Academy. From life-saving medical devices to world-first environmental leadership, the award winners demonstrate how Aussie innovation can deliver global impact.

Professor Lei Zhang, joint winner of the Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Award, has developed and commercialised AI-assisted tools for STI and cervical cancer screening and shaped international health practices.

Associate Professor Noushin Nasiri, winner of the David and Valerie Solomon Medal, has developed groundbreaking nanotechnology and nanosensing innovations such as SunWatch, a watch that measures how much UV is absorbed by someone’s skin and can help prevent skin cancer, and the NanoElectronic Nose, a sensor that can detect disease in someone’s breath, which can help detect disease early and in a less invasive way.

Professor Shaun Gregory, winner of the Batterham Medal, is developing world-leading artificial heart technology – implantable devices that respond to the patient’s body and can offer a more long-term solution for patients than previous technologies. He also launched the Heart Hackathon, where student teams from around the world design and develop prototype artificial hearts.

Associate Professor Azure Hermes, winner of the Traditional Knowledge Innovation Award and a proud Gimuy Walubara Yidinji woman and Deputy Director of the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics, is recognised for her national leadership in culturally safe genomics. Her work includes developing culturally safe resources for people experiencing a rare disease, strengthening trust between science and community.

Professor Andrew Harris, joint winner of the Clunies Ross Technology Innovation Award, is one of Australia’s most prolific academic entrepreneurs, who has worked on innovations including making paper from straw rather than wood pulp, a low-cost means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from underground coal mines by 90 percent, and a process of ‘farming’ minerals using plants.

Zachary Di Pietro, winner of the Ezio Rizzardo Polymer Scholarship, is a PhD student at the University of Newcastle who is developing new low-friction polymer coatings, which can help make more reliable, durable and energy-efficient medical devices, machinery used in transport, and more.

Dr David Cook, winner of the ATSE President’s Medal for 2025, is celebrated this year in recognition of his efforts to modernise the Fellowship elections. He is a former member of the ATSE Council, Board and Vice-President Membership. He has reviewed hundreds of Fellowship nominations over more than 13 years involved in the Fellow election process. He played an instrumental role in helping modernise and improve the processes for the election of new Fellows, thereby helping to shepherd into the Academy.

The winners of the 2025 ATSE Awards (left to right): Professor Lei Zhang, Associate Professor Noushin Nasiri, Professor Shaun Gregory, Associate Professor Azure Hermes, Professor Andrew Harris, Zachary Di Pietro, Dr David Cook.



ATSE
AWARDS

Fostering diversity and excellence in the next generation

ATSE’s high-profile suite of STEM careers programs take a lifecycle approach to supporting skills development and successful careers by:

- Skilling, engaging and empowering secondary school students and their teachers
- Providing scholarships for studying STEM disciplines where the workforce need is greatest, at all levels of university
- Providing a launchpad for post-graduate students and early career researchers to grow collaborations and careers with and in industry
- Broadening capability for STEM students at all levels of university with essential skills and networks for professional careers.

ELEVATE

Addressing inequities in STEM through comprehensive scholarships for diverse women and non-binary people.

Elevate: Boosting diversity in STEM has awarded more than 500 scholarships to address inequities in STEM through comprehensive scholarships for diverse women and non-binary people.

The Elevate program provides unique wrap-around support for over 500 scholars, including financial assistance, 24/7 wellbeing and psychosocial support, access to peer mentoring & networking events and skill-building workshops. In the last year, the Elevate program was a finalist for the 2025 Eureka Prize for STEM Inclusion and was recognised on the national stage for the way Elevate is changing the way people are accessing the skills they need for a science, technology and engineering powered career, bringing deep changes to our future workforce and powering a generation to shape Australia’s future.

Smrithi explains how she has benefited from understanding the opportunities that are available through the STEM sector.

“Through Elevate, I’ve also had the chance to meet and network with incredible scholars who continue to inspire me. The programs [and events] I attended through Elevate made it much easier to understand the opportunities available after my studies. I now have a much broader understanding of potential pathways in industry, and several of the events genuinely inspired me by planting the seed that there are many exciting possibilities beyond academia.”

— Smrithi Babu 2023 postgraduate scholar

atse.org.au/elevate



In 2025 Elevate was shortlisted for the Eureka Prize for STEM inclusion.

5000+
applications
submitted to date

500+
scholarships
awarded to date

8%
of scholars identify as
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander

96%
of scholars say they
have benefited from
participating in the
program

Proportion of current scholars

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	8%
Coming from regional, rural or remote area	30%
Belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community	34%
Culturally and/or linguistically diverse	39%
Low socio-economic background	33%
First in family to attend university	27%
Neurodiverse	23%
Living with a disability	17%

Gender

Identify as a woman	50%	13%
Identify as a man	39%	12%
Use another term / prefer not to say	11%	75%

STELR



1000+

schools and education centres Australia-wide



41

new STELR schools



100+

Hands-on activities



300+

Lessons to deliver the curriculum



400+

teachers supported with STEM education workshops & webinars



1400+

students engaged in live career conversations with experts

97%

of teachers surveyed credit STELR for higher student engagement in STEM

96%

of teachers surveyed credit STELR for increased academic achievement

School demographics

	Regional or remote*	Below 1000 ICSEA**
All schools in STELR network	40%	46%
New to STELR in 2025-26	21%	56%

* Regional or remote schools are those located outside of Australia's major cities relating to their relative geographic access to services according to the ABS.

** Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA) is a scale developed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to assess the level of socio-educational advantage or disadvantage of students in a school. ICSEA values are calculated on a scale which has a median of 1000.

Fostering a STEM-ready generation

Established in 2010 by ATSE Fellow and former Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel AC FTSE FAA FAHMS, STELR (Science and Technology Education Leveraging Relevance) provides hands-on, curriculum-aligned resources for secondary schools with a focus on sustainability, and renewable energy.

Reaching more than a third of Australian secondary schools and over 35 schools in countries around the world, STELR is aligned with the national science curriculum. It takes a hands-on enquiry approach to learning, tapping into students' curiosity and concerns about the impact of climate change, and teaching them to understand and use the technologies necessary to actively tackle it. STELR empowers teachers to grow their confidence in science, technology and engineering, with resources, professional development and connections with industry.

Twenty six schools received donations of equipment through the STELR Fund.

This year we launched our brand-new STELR Fund, allowing in-need schools to access donations and partial funding of STELR kits thanks to ATSE's generous donors. We also expanded STELR to Primary kits and resources for the first time in our history, as well as launching a suite of new secondary education modules reviewed by and featuring ATSE Fellows.

STELR's *Shape Your Future* series features live talks and Q&A sessions beamed directly into Australian classrooms, featuring diverse innovators across the STEM disciplines to celebrate the broad range of STEM career opportunities available to students, and the pathways to get them there.

STELR's *STEM Beyond School* program gives teachers from across Australia the opportunity to tour state-of-the-art science and industry spaces to understand what's up and coming, keeping teachers current with the STEM skill needs and career opportunities of tomorrow, to better support their students.

atse.org.au/STELR



200,000+ students engaged with STELR equipment.

IMNIS

Industry Mentoring Network in STEM

IMNIS (Industry Mentoring Network in STEM) is our award-winning industry engagement initiative, which pairs motivated PhD students and early-career researchers (mentees) in science, technology, engineering and maths with industry professionals (mentors) in a one-year structured mentoring relationship. Both mentors and mentees are offered additional professional development and networking opportunities.

The program proactively builds a cross-sector collaboration culture, growing connections, understanding, shared language and skills.

Participating organisations benefit from the professional relationships forged with mentees through the development of a warm talent pipeline, enabling them to secure some of the brightest, industry-ready talent. Organisations also benefit from investing in leadership development for staff (mentors), and opportunities to network across a broad cross-section of STEM-dependent sectors and people.

In the lead-up to its 10-year anniversary, IMNIS went through a strategic expansion process, engaging in targeted consultations with Fellows, universities, mentors, and alumni. This expansion aimed to ensure the program is well positioned for long-term impact and continued relevance in the sector. As part of this process, IMNIS shifted its activity schedule from the financial year to the calendar year to better align with university timelines. The consultation also led to a more structured and supported mentor-mentee journey, including the development of tailored modules and meeting resources to better support both mentors and mentees.

atse.org.au/IMNIS

94%

of mentees agree they have an understanding of transferable skills beyond academia after completing the program

14

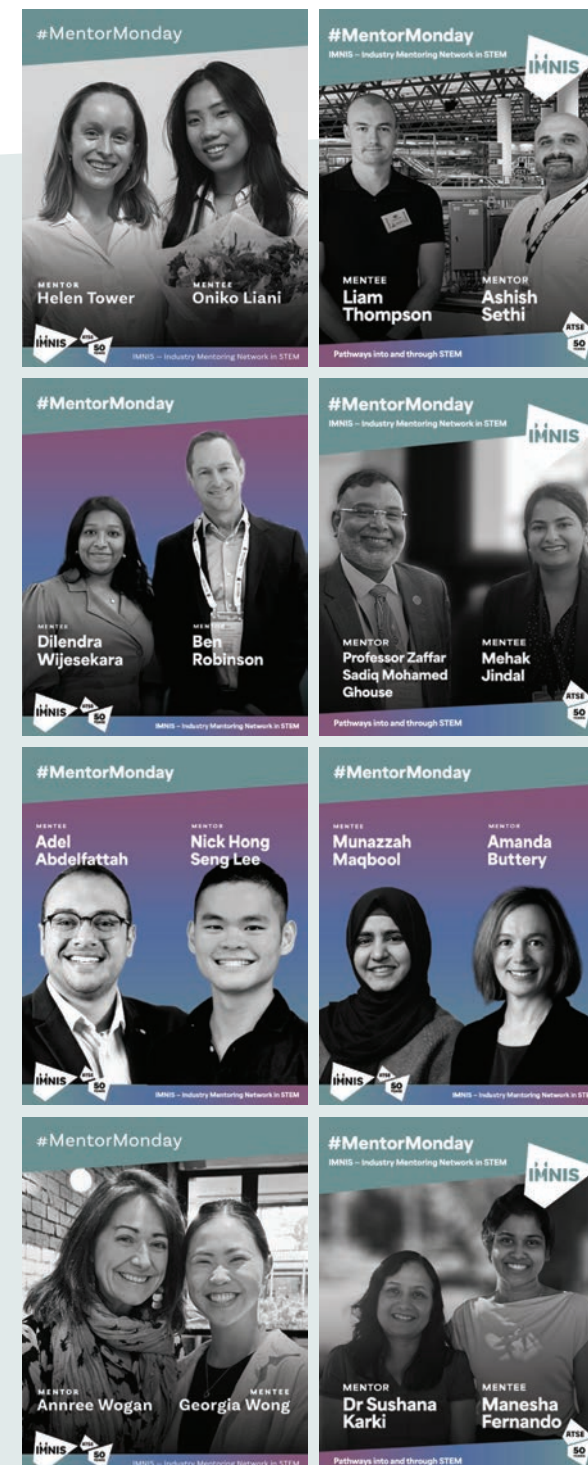
participating universities

IMNIS offered exceptional clarity on opportunities across industry and academia, and my mentorship with Aysegul was the standout experience. Her thoughtful guidance helped me translate my research background into industry-ready skills and shaped my post-PhD vision.

—Shehab Khan Noor, IMNIS mentee

The IMNIS mentoring program was one of the most valuable professional development experiences of my PhD. It gave me clarity about my career, strengthened my confidence, and connected me with a mentor whose support has continued long after the program ended.

—Demagi Kalmalee Herath Ariya Subasinghe Mudiyanse, IMNIS mentee



Gender	Mentees	Mentors
Identify as a woman	51%	45%
Identify as a man	39%	52%
Use another term / prefer not to say	10%	3%



There are now more than 2800 IMNIS alumni.

PROPEL

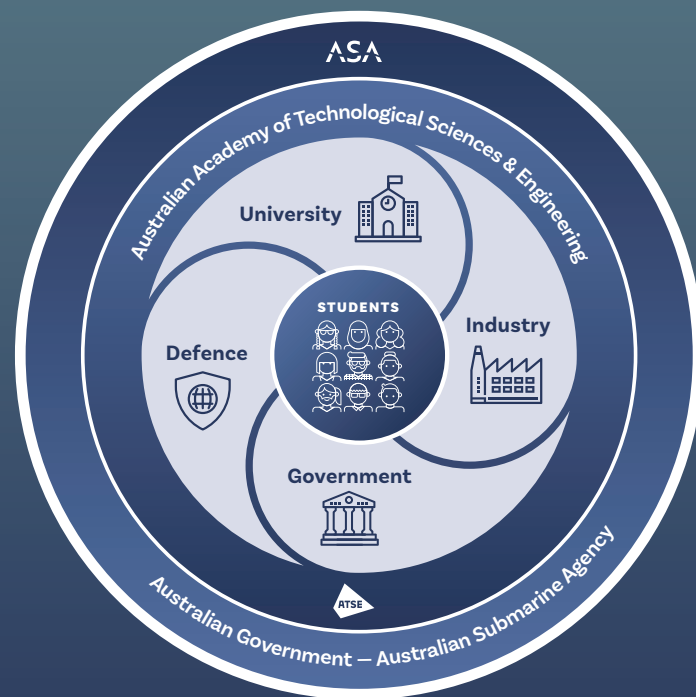
Propel: Australian Submarine Scholarship Program

In 2025-26, ATSE commenced delivery of Propel: Australian Submarine Scholarship Program, an Australian Government-funded initiative in partnership with the Australian Submarine Agency. The program will provide up to 3,000 two-year undergraduate scholarships, supporting the development of Australia's future STEM workforce for the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine (NPS) enterprise.

In its inaugural year, Propel provided scholarships to 800+ undergraduate STEM students across Australia, offering financial support throughout their studies and opportunities to explore future career pathways.

Beyond financial assistance, Propel connects scholars with the broader NPS enterprise through professional development activities, industry engagement and networking events. These opportunities are helping students build awareness of the diverse STEM careers supporting Australia's sovereign defence capabilities. Drawing on ATSE's extensive networks across academia, industry, defence and government, Propel is establishing a national community of emerging STEM professionals and strengthening connections between universities, students and the broader NPS enterprise.

atse.org.au/Propel



ATSE Emerging Leaders Network

The ATSE Emerging Leaders Network, now in its third year, has been established to support high-potential rising professionals in STEM to learn about and participate in evidence-informed policy responses, and connect with Fellows and other leaders across the STEM-powered sectors. The Network provides members with an opportunity to develop their leadership capacity, work and learn alongside established leaders from the ATSE Fellowship, access mentorship from the ATSE Fellowship and contribute their perspectives to Australia's big debates. They are engaged in ATSE's policy work to help Australians understand and use technology to solve complex problems. Through participating in the Network, members also have the opportunity to expand their professional networks across the breadth of Australian STEM leadership.

+ All 19 ATSE Emerging Leaders
atse.org.au/what-we-do/pathways-into-through-stem/emerging-leaders-network/

EMERGING LEADERS NETWORK



Reconciliation Action Plan Innovate

This year ATSE progressed on its reconciliation journey unveiling our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in February 2026 mapping out a clear pathway for the next two years.

The plan outlines ATSE's continued commitment to elevating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems, increasing representation within the ATSE Fellowship, and implementing new and innovative ways to recognise and amplify the work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applied scientists, technologists and engineers.

ATSE has a target of population parity for Fellows identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (currently 0.93% of our Fellowship). We maintain a structural intervention which permits additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellows to be elected each year to accelerate progress towards our target.

Along with continuing to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation within the Academy Fellowship, we are excited by the opportunities to continue acting in collaboration with Australia's original and continuing innovators.

The Traditional Knowledge Innovation Award - having now awarded 3 phenomenal winners in 2023, 2024 and 2025 - stands out nationally for the way it has reframed the conversation around the inherent value and worth of Traditional Knowledge. With similar awards being created at federal and state levels, this clear outcome from our initial reconciliation efforts is worthy of celebration.

Our policy work continues to include and acknowledge the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

STEM professionals, and we continue to advocate for diversity and inclusion programs in STEM that include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are proud to have developed a supportive environment through Elevate such that eight per cent of scholars identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

ATSE staff and leaders across our Fellowship continue to embrace opportunities to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and knowledge systems.

During NAIDOC Week 2025, we discovered how Traditional Knowledge systems are being integrated into contemporary STEM practices in fields from health, climate, culture and immersive technologies, hosting a webinar titled *Traditional Knowledge - Empowering STEM for the next generation*.

ATSE continues to collaborate with the other Australian Learned Academies and the Royal Societies of New Zealand and Canada on the trilateral partnership on Indigenous engagement.

ATSE sent a delegation of Indigenous Fellows and executive leaders to the second summit, Taikura in Auckland on 24-26 November 2025 - a gathering of over 130 Indigenous scholars, knowledge-holders, and delegates

to advance reconciliation initiatives in our academies, including processes and systems to elevate Indigenous-led research agendas, protect Indigenous research rights, and promote shared decision-making.



Above: *Ripples of memory, pathways of tomorrow* by Robbie Beresford, Wiradjuri artist

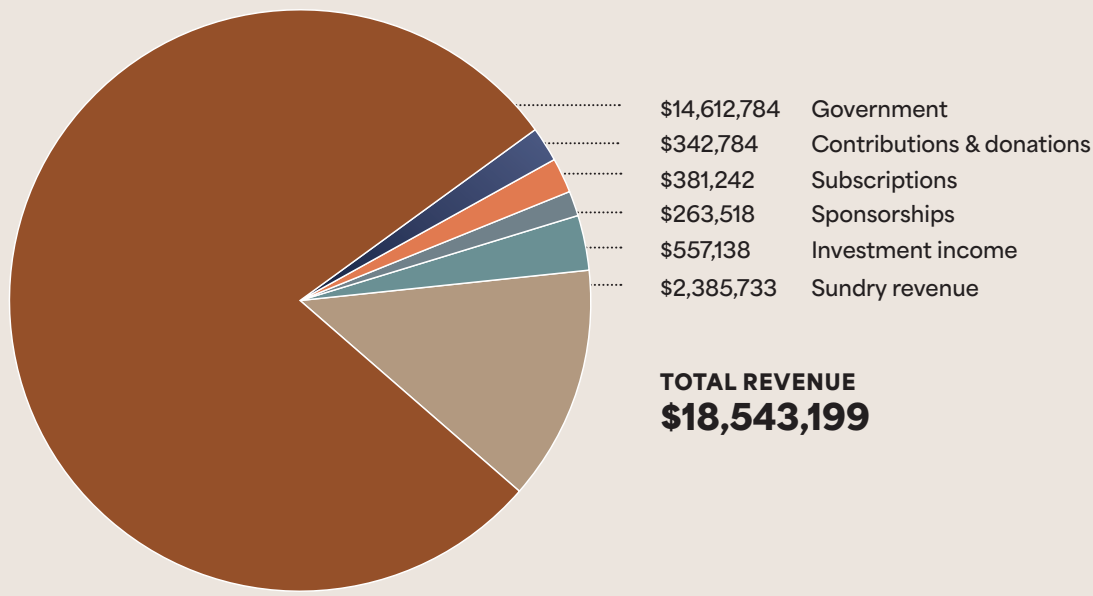
This artwork is a visual narrative celebrating the continuing power of Traditional Knowledges and their essential role in the modern era. The central motif addresses the fundamental human need for belonging and connection. It begins with self and community, represented by the traditional "U" shapes gathered in a communal space. Encircling this core is the circuit board pattern, the new pathway of technology and science. This arrangement showcases the belief that a strong culture is the core operating system for advanced innovation. Moving outward, the artwork addresses the advancement of knowledge and the journey of future generations. The molecular-like structures within the corners represent the complex scientific frontiers. Alongside this, the footprints walking along the pathways symbolise the continuous journey of learning and the need for representation. These tracks connect the path of our ancestors to the paths of future generations. It calls on the next generation to walk proudly in these footsteps to learn, innovate, and lead with the strength of culture and the curiosity of science.

Organisational excellence

The past financial year has brought significantly higher visibility, awareness and impact for ATSE, across public, political and business spheres. This achievement was made possible through the partnership and collaboration of Fellows with the ATSE professional staff. Considerable effort has been made to increase satisfaction across the Fellowship through the Academy's performance and activity, and through increased engagement. ATSE continues to strive to be an employer of choice and an attractor of outstanding talent to support our people-first approach to developing a high-performance culture.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

	FY26	FY25
Revenue	\$18,543,199	\$18,936,633
Expenses	\$18,112,700	\$18,240,356
Operating surplus / (deficit)	\$430,499	\$696,277
Revenue from operating activities (by source)		
Government	\$14,612,784	\$15,090,432
Contributions & donations	\$342,784	\$623,531
Subscriptions	\$381,242	\$368,266
Sponsorships	\$263,518	\$252,741
Investment income	\$557,138	\$276,095
Sundry revenue	\$2,385,733	\$2,325,568
Total revenue	\$18,543,199	\$18,936,633



MAJOR PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND COLLABORATORS

ATSE works with our values-aligned partners to inspire, build and support the STEM workforce of the future, and to provide evidence-based advice to help inform business strategy, influence public policy, and grow industry capability. We acknowledge and thank our key government, corporate, collaborating and sponsorship partners from the last year.

Government partners



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment



Australian Government
Defence



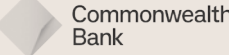
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The Academy acknowledges and expresses its gratitude to the following individuals and organisations for their extraordinary generosity throughout the past year. The support from this growing community of donors enables ATSE to expand our impact and acquit our mission.

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We are grateful to all donors, including eight over the past year, who wish to remain anonymous.

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