



**Professional  
Scientists  
Australia**

*The voice of scientists in Australia*



# SCIENCE - FUNDAMENTAL TO AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY

*There is no doubt that science and scientists are vital to Australia's health and economic recovery and to positioning us for a strong competitive future both globally and in our region post-COVID-19.*

Our scientists - from pathologists to vets, IVF experts, food technologists, geologists, surveyors, chemists, molecular biologists, agricultural scientists, environmental scientists, botanists, computer scientists, pharmacologists, medical physicists, medical scientists, meteorologists, defence scientists and forestry scientists - work each day in areas as diverse as they are critical to our future.

Just as critically, many scientists are engaged in industry – more likely to be working at a desk or on site in a high-vis vest than at the lab

bench. These people deploy the skills they gained in their undergrad and post-grad science degree/s in roles as diverse as quality assurance officers, software developers, health and safety officers, senior administrators, science communicators, technical officers and advisors, policy-makers and regulators, cyber-security advisors, web-developers, directors and CEOs.

No matter what roles and fields scientists work in, it's crucial that their voices are heard and expertise listened to as we recover from the coronavirus crisis and respond to the challenges we face across our communities and the economy. Professional Scientists Australia will defend science not only as fundamental to a healthier, more prosperous world but also for the \$330 billion it has contributed to Australia's economic output over the last 30 years and the one million-plus Australian jobs it supports.

## SCIENCE PRIORITIES

### 01 INCREASED R&D

A commitment to increasing Australia's R&D investment to 2.5% of GDP by 2025 and to reversing the decline of government R&D funding. We currently invest 1.88% of GDP in R&D, well below the OECD average of 2.38% with business investment at its lowest levels since records have been maintained.

### 02 PUT SCIENCE AT THE CENTRE OF POLICY-MAKING

Embed scientific advice in all government policy-making so that evidence is at the heart of the key decisions we make as a country.

### 03 A WORKFORCE PLAN FOR SCIENCE

A workforce development plan for STEM that includes proper planning, career paths, funding for research, industry and government agencies.

### 04 ONE PLAN FOR SCIENCE

We have had too many plans, too much change and too much politics. It's time to end the uncertainty so that science can deliver the jobs and scientists can deliver the innovation this country needs. We need a national strategy that values scientists' work and their place in shaping the nation's future.

### 05 SKILLS FOR THE MODERN SCIENTIST

Equip scientists with the right mix of technical and enterprise skills to make them effective scientists, people-managers, communicators and decision-makers.

### 06 A DIVERSE AND SUSTAINABLE WORKFORCE

A diverse and sustainable science and technology workforce has never been more important to Australia's future. We need to build capacity for the future, engage the next generation of scientists and increase the range of careers and roles where science qualifications are recognised and rewarded. Increasing women's participation in the STEM workforce is a mainstream economic issue and must be a key reform priority for the coming decade.

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