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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 2024 to 31 December 2024, as per resolution of the members of Council at its meeting on 22 May 2025.

Yours sincerely,

John Hood
Chancellor

Flinders University proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which our campuses are located. These are the traditional lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South-East, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders - past, present and emerging.

Flinders University's 2024 Annual Report was prepared and printed on Kurna Yarta.

Image above: Jack Kanya Bucksin during the smoking ceremony at the City Campus launch.

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Contents

Message from the Chancellor	04
Message from the Vice-Chancellor	05
Flinders at a glance	06
Financial overview	08
2024 highlights	10
Education	12
Research	18
Engagement and impact	
Partnerships and collaborations	26
Precincts and communities	28
Sustainability	30
People and culture	
Reconciliation and recognition	34
Celebrating our communities	36
Governance	40
Financials	52

Message from the Chancellor



2024 was a year of both challenge and determination for Flinders University.

In the face of significant external pressures, particularly the disruption to international student arrivals, our University remained focused on its mission and values.

We take great pride in our strong governance, prudent financial management, and dedication to the public good. These qualities enabled Flinders to navigate the uncertainty of the past year without compromising the bold, strategic investments that are shaping our future.

The opening of our Health and Medical Research Building and Flinders City Campus stand as powerful expressions of that vision. These are not just world class buildings for teaching and research, they are purposeful investments that will serve our students, partners, and the South Australian community for generations to come.

2024 was also a year of reflection. I had the honour of representing Flinders University at the reinterment of Captain Matthew Flinders in Donington, 250 years after his birth. To stand in the town where his journey began was a poignant reminder of the courage, curiosity, and fearlessness of the man whose name we proudly carry. His spirit continues to inspire us.

I want to express my deep gratitude to our donors and benefactors. Their generosity continues to unlock potential, drive research impact, and transform lives.

It was particularly humbling to hear the story of a nursing student from regional South Australia - a mother of three young children who, thanks to donor support, has been able to continue her studies. She spoke of how her education is not only changing her life, but her children's future as well. Stories like hers are a moving reminder of the human impact of giving, and of Flinders' unique role in expanding opportunity, especially in regional and remote communities.

I also wish to pay special tribute to our retiring Deputy Chancellor, Elizabeth Perry AM. Elizabeth's outstanding service has been marked by wisdom, integrity and an unshakeable commitment to the University's long-term success. Her leadership of both the Finance and Investment Committee and the Alumni Awards Selection Committee will leave a lasting legacy, culminating in the inspired selection of Dr Brendan Nelson AO as the 2024 Convocation Medallist.

As we look toward our 60th anniversary in 2026, Flinders stands at a pivotal moment – shaped by our past but focused firmly on the future. We remain grounded in the communities we serve and driven by our commitment to equity, excellence, and impact.

To our students, alumni, donors, partners, staff and Council – thank you. It is a privilege to walk this journey with you as we continue to challenge convention and push boldly towards what's next.

John Hood

Message from the Vice-Chancellor



At Flinders University, we continue our fearless pursuit of our mission: to change lives and change the world.

Our University has always offered life-changing opportunities to our students through the exceptional quality of our teaching. But now we are expanding access to a Flinders education through our new City Campus at Festival Plaza.

This world-class campus brings the Flinders Experience to the heart of the CBD, enabling even more students to easily access our courses.

At Bedford Park, we were proud to host the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, and South Australian Premier, the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, to officially open our new Health and Medical Research Building – a \$280 million investment set to deliver \$1.5 billion in economic benefit for South Australia. Home to more than 600 researchers, clinicians and partners, this outstanding facility is already accelerating breakthroughs in areas of greatest need, from chronic disease and infection to health inequality.

Our research performance continues to break records, with income soaring to \$133 million in research grants and contracts, demonstrating the quality and relevance of our research, and highlighting our growing capacity to deliver meaningful impacts.

Innovation remains one of our great strengths and in 2024, Flinders became the first university in Australia to launch an undergraduate nuclear engineering major – a bold, future-focussed step that equips our students with the skills to support the development and sustainment of Australia's nuclear-powered submarine program.

Our global reputation continues to grow. In our debut appearance in the *Times Higher Education Impact Rankings*, Flinders achieved top 10 global rankings for Gender Equality (8th) and Reduced Inequalities (10th), recognising our unwavering commitments to fairness and equity of opportunity for all.

Finally, I want to thank our staff for their exemplary dedication to our students and their proven ability to deliver research that changes lives.

And to every student who chooses a Flinders education – thank you. You are the heart of our University and the very reason we do what we do.

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

25,062

18,661 domestic
6,401 international

15,925 female
3,828 low SES
3,747 rural and remote



International students

6,401

4,857 onshore
1,544 offshore



Staff

3,063

1,368 academic
1,695 professional
from 99 countries



Alumni

135,000+

in 130 countries



Testamurs conferred

7,206



Campuses and locations

15



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

100+

partner institutions
across 34 countries



8

transnational
education programs in China,
Singapore and Malaysia



Over \$133 million

in research income

#1 in SA for undergraduate
Learning Resources

The Good Universities Guide 2025 (undergraduate), public SA-founded universities.

#1 in SA for postgraduate
Full-time Employment

The Good Universities Guide 2025 (postgraduate), public SA-founded universities.

#3 in Australia for student
teacher ratio

The Good Universities Guide 2025.

#8 in the world for gender
equality

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2024.

#10 in the world for reduced
inequalities

Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2024.

5 stars in education
and training for learner
engagement

The Good Universities Guide 2025 (undergraduate), public SA-founded universities.

5 stars in education and
training for learning resources
and teaching quality

The Good Universities Guide 2025 (postgraduate), public SA-founded universities.

Financial overview

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Student numbers (EFTSL)					
Australian	14,107	14,183	13,226	12,745	12,863
Offshore International	469	704	692	732	636
Onshore International	2,968	2,296	2,536	3,927	4,015
Total	17,544	17,183	16,454	17,404	17,514

Gender (EFTSL)					
Female	11,481	11,264	10,621	10,958	11,006
Intersex/Unspecified/Not entered	19	23	23	39	54
Male	6,044	5,896	5,810	6,407	6,454
Total	17,544	17,183	16,454	17,404	17,514

Staff (FTE)					
Academic	868	886	907	957	989
Professional	1,161	1,107	1,147	1,232	1,309
Total	2,029	1,993	2,054	2,189	2,298

Higher degree research enrolments (EFTSL)					
Masters research	27	36	45	30	28
PhD	526	544	607	642	662
Total	553	580	652	672	690

EFTSL – Equivalent Full-Time Student Load
FTE – Full-Time Equivalent

	2020 \$'000s	2021 \$'000s	2022 \$'000s	2023 \$'000s	2024 \$'000s
University - consolidated results					
Income					

Teaching	386,047	383,605	377,888	421,411	451,348
Research	84,725	104,017	115,815	134,578	148,781
Other government (non research)	27,839	23,740	26,283	26,603	27,610
Investment	13,230	19,888	9,485	22,830	27,958
Other	23,219	25,552	30,286	32,557	44,282
Total income	535,060	556,802	559,757	637,979	699,979

Expenses					
Employee related	324,300	327,295	338,141	374,550	414,072
Depreciation and amortisation	41,703	44,708	39,803	44,574	57,351
Other	130,680	148,422	165,547	195,114	220,667
Total expenses	496,683	520,425	543,491	614,238	692,090

Net result	38,377	36,377	16,266	23,741	7,889
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Operating margin	7.2%	6.5%	2.9%	3.7%	1.1%
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University - consolidated financial position

Assets					
Cash and term deposits	124,913	179,556	276,780	250,497	294,669
Investments	148,336	173,312	139,204	153,289	154,975
Property, plant and equipment	648,592	662,555	797,758	973,347	1,090,822
Other assets	125,026	131,428	129,400	145,280	128,593
Total assets	1,046,867	1,146,851	1,343,142	1,522,413	1,669,059

Total liabilities	224,887	251,329	387,342	550,949	698,817
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Net assets	821,980	895,522	955,800	971,464	970,242
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Current ratio (CA/CL)	1.3	1.7	2.1	1.6	1.7
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2024 highlights

Flinders opens City Campus in the heart of Adelaide

In 2024, Flinders University opened our state-of-the-art City Campus at Festival Plaza, delivering more than 100 programs in a dynamic vertical campus designed for student-centred learning. Strategically located beside Adelaide’s Central Railway Station and at the doorstep of the city’s key cultural, legal, business and health precincts, the impressive campus connects students directly to career pathways. Featuring advanced digital infrastructure and vibrant, flexible learning spaces, the City Campus is redefining university access and experience in South Australia’s capital.

A bold new home for discovery and impact

Flinders opened our landmark \$280 million Health and Medical Research Building in 2024, setting a new benchmark for innovation in Australian health research. Home to more than 600 researchers, clinicians and partners, the ten-storey facility is tackling pressing challenges like chronic disease, infection, and health inequality. Opened by Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, the building anchors the Flinders Village biomedical precinct and is projected to generate \$1.5 billion in economic activity. With worldclass PC2 and BC2 laboratories, and a global-first WiredScore platinum rating for digital connectivity, the building continues Flinders’ proud legacy of health innovation.

Australia’s first undergraduate nuclear engineering major

Flinders made national headlines by launching Australia’s first undergraduate nuclear engineering major, a key step in building the AUKUS workforce. Developed in partnership with the University of Rhode Island, the program equips students with skills critical to Australia’s future in nuclear-powered submarine technology and undersea defence.

Global recognition for social impact

Flinders was ranked 8th in the world for Gender Equality, 10th for Reduced Inequalities, and 53rd for Good Health and Wellbeing in the 2024 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. These results reflect our real-world progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals and our mission to change lives and change the world.

Democracy in action

On the day of the US elections, Flinders University’s Jeff Bleich Centre for Democracy and Disruptive Technologies hosted a dynamic program of live panels and expert commentary at our City Campus. Students, school groups and members of the public engaged with discussions on global democratic challenges, hearing keynote insights from Ambassador Jeff Bleich, Deputy Premier the Hon. Susan Close MP, and the Hon. Amanda Vanstone AO. The day of events showcased the power of informed discussion and critical thinking in shaping democracy.

Celebrating Dr Brendan Nelson AO

Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Senior Vice President of The Boeing Company and President of Boeing Global, was awarded the Convocation Medal – Flinders University’s highest honour – at the 2024 Alumni Awards gala. Dr Nelson credited Flinders with shaping his life and career, urging others to value their education as a lifelong asset.



Convocation Medalist Dr Brendan Nelson AO delivers an inspiring key note address at the 2024 Alumni Awards gala.

Flinders gold goes to Paris

Flinders students and alumni shone on the world stage at the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics. Amanda Reid claimed gold in the 500m Time Trial, Caitlin Ward secured silver in the Women’s B 1000m Time Trial, and Ella Sablijak brought home bronze in wheelchair rugby. They were part of a proud cohort of Flinders students and alumni who donned the green and gold to represent Australia – a true triumph for our community.



Paolo Sebastian’s designer and founder Paul Vasileff and Haigh’s Chocolates CEO Alister Haigh awarded honorary doctorates.

It’s an honour

This year, we proudly welcomed five remarkable South Australians into the Flinders University community as honorary doctorate recipients: Alistair Haigh, Haigh’s Chocolates CEO – for visionary business leadership and innovation; Paul Vasileff, fashion designer and founder of Paolo Sebastian – for his global impact on couture; Taryn Brumfitt, filmmaker and body image advocate – for championing self-acceptance worldwide; Robert ‘Alfie’ Hannaford AM, artist – for a lifetime of artistic excellence and environmental advocacy; and Pat Vilimas, scientist – for five decades of dedicated research and discovery in public health at Flinders University.

Lighting up the night

As presenting partner of Illuminate Adelaide, Flinders brought art and technology together to transform the city after dark. With our City Campus at the centre of the City Lights trail, over 23,000 visitors experienced immersive installations such as Kaktos by Amigo & Amigo, and Storm by Tim Gruchy, reflecting our commitment to innovation, creativity and community connection.

Progressing gender equity through Athena Swan

Flinders was the first South Australian university to receive three Athena Swan Cygnet Awards – significant milestones on our path from bronze to silver accreditation. The Awards recognised initiatives supporting Indigenous talent, student participation, and workplace flexibility for parents and carers.

Curtain up on celebrations

Our Drama Centre also turned 50 in 2024 and was celebrated with a star-studded reunion of alumni and creatives from around the world. This milestone honoured the Centre’s vital role in South Australia’s cultural landscape and its contribution to the arts nationally and internationally.

Golden jubilee for medicine

Flinders marked 50 years of teaching medicine, celebrating its legacy as the first Australian medical program to be integrated into a public hospital. From the beginning, Flinders has championed hands-on, community-based learning – a commitment that continues today across our medical programs in metropolitan, rural and remote areas of South Australia and Northern Territory.



Chancellor John Hood, student Kylie Dawson, Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, student Samantha Nillissen, the Hon. Nat Cook MP, Minister for Human Services, Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, Professor Jonathan Craig, Vice-President and Executive Dean of College of Medicine and Public Health at the 50 Years of Medicine gala.

Commemorating Captain Matthew Flinders

In 2024, 250 years after his birth, we joined the commemoration of Captain Matthew Flinders’ remarkable life, as his remains were reinterred in his hometown of Donington, UK. The occasion brought together community leaders, historians, and descendants to honour the fearless explorer. Flinders University marked the event with a special alumni gathering in London, celebrating the enduring legacy of the man whose name and spirit continue to inspire generations.



The reinterment procession of Flinders University namesake, Captain Matthew Flinders, in Donington, UK.

Education



Education

At Flinders University, our education is student-centred, innovative, flexible and uniquely yours, tailored to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed for success. We foster a community of lifelong learners where everyone can thrive. From pathways to postgraduate, online to in-person, our high-quality programs place us at the forefront of student engagement, support, and teaching excellence.



Flinders University reaches new heights in Adelaide

Our new City Campus has officially opened its doors, bringing the renowned Flinders gold to North Terrace.

Spanning eight floors of the landmark Festival Tower, our campus offers over 100 undergraduate, postgraduate and honours programs, all featuring Flinders' unique student-centred approach.

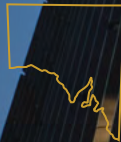
Situated next to Adelaide's Central Railway Station and at the heart of South Australia's arts, business, sport, and government precinct, Flinders City Campus provides students with contemporary, flexible learning spaces and invaluable real-world industry experiences.

Inaugurated by Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas and Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, the campus is already a hit with students, industry, and government alike.

Our Level 14 event space has one of Adelaide's most enviable views.

1 Festival Tower, Adelaide

First vertical university campus in South Australia



Over 100+ programs for students



Located in the heart of Adelaide's CBD



Connected to our Tonsley and Bedford Park campuses by the Flinders rail line



Education innovations

In 2024, we continued to develop a diverse array of new programs aligned with industry needs and student interests. Our strong connections with local schools through co-designed pathways ensure seamless transitions from secondary education to university. For example, our partnership with Findon Technical College allows students to begin their university studies in Year 12, creating a sense of community and continuity.

To address the growing need for health sector partnerships, we established regional study hubs for Allied Health students and recruited Study Hub Support Officers across South Australia and Northern Territory. These collaborations with regional health networks, hospitals, and allied health providers help meet workforce needs in rural and remote areas.



Students from Findon Technical College who are undertaking the first year of their Flinders University degree.

Empowering entrepreneurs

Flinders is proud to be the first university in Australia to launch a Startup Year course, the Graduate Diploma in Entrepreneurial Growth. By partnering with incubators, venture capitalists, and innovation hubs, we provide students with practical experiences and valuable connections in the entrepreneurial sector.

Leading the pack

Flinders was awarded the *Best Future Skills Provider* at the Defence and National Security Workforce Awards 2024 for our Graduate Diploma of Digital Technologies and new suite of nuclear programs.

Dubbed the ‘University AUKUS’, our nuclear program, delivered in partnership with The University of Manchester and the University of Rhode Island, includes both undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. This recognition highlights Flinders’ efforts to prepare a skilled and capable workforce through innovative partnerships and offerings.

Teaching the teachers

In response to South Australia’s 2026 launch of preschools for three-year-olds and amidst teacher workforce shortages, Flinders introduced new teaching degrees aimed at preparing early childhood educators.

Supported by scholarships offering up to \$25,000 in financial support, our new Master of Teaching (Birth to 5) ensures students gain the skills and knowledge to plan, implement and advocate for transformative teaching and learning for children up to five years old.

True investigators

In 2024, over 250 Flinders students embarked on field trips, internships, study tours, or semesters abroad, supported by the Global Experience team with funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and New Colombo Plan Mobility Program. These experiences provide students with invaluable global perspectives.

Education is a premier export

Flinders was honoured to receive the 2024 South Australian Premier’s Export Award in *International Education and Training*. This award recognises the quality of the education and experiences we offer international students and the value we add to the South Australian economy and community.

Planning for the future

To address critical skills shortages, Flinders has partnered with the South Australian Government to offer new planning and surveying degrees. Launching in 2025, these qualifications complement our new surveying double degree, introduced this year, and offered in partnership with industry and government bodies, combining academic excellence with real-world experience.



Bachelor of Surveying students Ryan Wild and Elijah Rieger testing surveying equipment at a Tonsley site.



Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP meeting the first undergraduate nuclear engineering students at Flinders University.

Australia’s first undergraduate nuclear engineering major

Flinders University launched the nation’s first undergraduate nuclear engineering major, a groundbreaking step towards developing the skilled workforce needed for the AUKUS fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. This innovative program, delivered in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island, positions our students at the forefront of nuclear education in Australia.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited the inaugural class at our Tonsley Innovation Campus. The cohort, comprising undergraduates and professionals from defence and industry backgrounds, is studying modules on nuclear reactor engineering, design and safety, and naval power and propulsion. These courses are also available as standalone micro-credentials.

Apprenticeships by degrees

In collaboration with the South Australian Government, Flinders partnered with defence industry leaders ASC and BAE Systems Australia to offer paid apprenticeships in engineering. These programs allow students to earn while they learn, supporting their studies and preparing them for high-demand sectors.

New degree apprenticeship pilot programs, supported by an additional \$2.5 million in joint funding from the state and federal governments, are a key commitment of the *South Australian Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Action Plan*.

Strong STEMs flourish

Nearly 300 Year 9 girls from across South Australia and Northern Territory gained new insights into science, technology, engineering and maths at Flinders University STEM Enrichment Academy workshops in 2024, thanks to a new scholarship program for regional students.

For the first time, students from as far as Alice Springs and Darwin travelled to Adelaide for hands-on STEM experiences, inspiring them in science, maths, and other subjects. Now in its fifth year, the annual Flinders University STEM conference helps Year 9 students understand STEM education and career options before making their senior secondary school subject selections.



Year 9 girls STEM Enrichment Academy workshops.

Research



Research

Driven by a mission to change lives and change the world, Flinders continues our bold pursuit of research that addresses society’s most complex problems with fearless thinking. Our researchers work in close collaboration with industry and communities, bringing together diverse disciplines and lived experience to tackle the issues that matter most. We look at the big picture and the finer detail, using evidence and knowledge to create lasting impact where it’s needed most, and in partnership with those who need it.



Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Louise Miller-Frost MP, Member for Boothby, Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, Chancellor John Hood and Uncle Mickey Kumatpi Marrutya O’Brien at the opening of Flinders University’s Health and Medical Research Building.

The future of health and medical research is here!

In mid-June, our Health and Medical Research Building was officially opened by Prime Minister the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, alongside hundreds of guests.

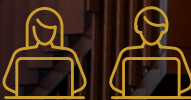
This \$280 million, 10-storey landmark is set to revolutionise health research, housing over 600 researchers, clinicians and partners. Here, Flinders researchers are on a mission to tackle the biggest health challenges of our time, from chronic diseases and Indigenous health disparities to pioneering treatments for diabetes, infections, and cancers.

Equipped with cutting edge cell imaging technology and one of South Australia’s largest banks of PC2-rated physical containment labs with BC2 biosecurity containment zones, the building is also a sustainability champion, and the first medical research facility in the world to earn a platinum rating for top-tier digital connectivity.

Designed in collaboration with Uncle Dr Lewis Yarlupurka O’Brien AO and a cultural consultation committee, the building harmonises with the natural landscape and local significant sites. The interior reflects Uncle Lewis’ stories of Rainbow Country, with each level inspired by ancient earth layers, while the exterior features ochre-coloured designs and Kaurna traditional body paint by artist James Tylor.

\$280 million, 10 storey landmark

Over 600 researchers, clinicians and partners



50 metres from Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders Private Hospital



100% renewable energy



Will generate \$1.5 billion in economic activity



Platinum WiredScore certification



One of SA’s largest banks of PC2-rated physical containment labs



A breakthrough year in research funding

In 2024, Flinders University achieved significant success in medical research funding, securing \$17.7 million from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). This performance placed Flinders first in South Australia, accounting for 38% of the State’s total MRFF income.

This was further strengthened by more than \$17.9 million in grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), including \$11 million through the NHMRC Ideas Grants scheme – Flinders’ best ever result in this scheme, ranking seventh nationally.

- Flinders also performed strongly in Australian Research Council (ARC) funding, receiving nearly \$24 million across a range of programs, including:
- Six ARC Future Fellowships worth over \$6.6 million
 - Five Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards
 - One Industry Laureate Fellowship
 - Four Industry Early Career Fellowships
 - One Mid-Career Industry Fellowship
 - Ten ARC Discovery Project Grants.

Listening to Australia: Wicked Problems Survey

To ensure our research continues to align with real-world needs, Flinders conducted Australia’s first *Wicked Problems Survey* – asking Australians to identify the most pressing and complex challenges that concern them most.

Led by the University’s Centre for Social Impact, these insights will help shape Flinders’ research priorities and guide future engagement ensuring we are tackling the issues that matter most to the communities we exist to serve.

Australia’s sleep revolution

Flinders Sleep Health researchers led a groundbreaking study on common sleep disorders, in partnership with renowned health advocate, the late Dr Michael Mosley, for a deep look at how common sleep problems can affect both individuals and the nation’s overall health.

The program followed 30 participants experiencing different sleep disorders – including Dr Michael Mosley – using a personalised medical approach and cutting-edge technologies to diagnose and treat their sleep issues.

The research was featured in a major documentary and has since received multiple international awards.



Flinders Sleep Health researchers featured in SBS’s *Australia’s Sleep Revolution* with the now sadly departed Dr Michael Mosley.

South Australian Scientist of the Year

Flinders’ Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor and Head of Ophthalmology Professor Jamie Craig was named *South Australian Scientist of the Year* at the 2024 SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards. His internationally recognised work in genetic research is improving the early detection and management of glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness.



Director of the Flinders Centre for Ophthalmology, Eye and Vision Research and Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Jamie Craig is South Australian Scientist of the Year 2024.

Research that reaches the regions

The SA Discovery Farms project, led by Flinders University and delivered in partnership with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), brings together 40 collaborators across four discovery farms and 35 innovator sites in different rainfall zones.

Focused on improving climate resilience in cropping, livestock, and mixed farming systems, the project saw Flinders/PIRSA alliance research awards grow to \$42.2 million – an increase of \$38 million in 12 months.



Senior lecturer Dr Daryl Wesley and veterans at the Project Warhorse dig site.

Top 2% scientists

More than 100 Flinders researchers were named among the world’s top 2% of scientists, according to the Stanford-Elsevier citation rankings. This global recognition reflects the breadth, quality and impact of Flinders’ research efforts across disciplines.

Supporting veterans: Open Door Initiative

Led by Professor Ben Wadham, Flinders’ Open Door Initiative was selected as the sole research partner in the Commonwealth’s newest Veterans’ and Families’ Wellbeing Hub in northern Adelaide.

The \$5.5 million hub, based in Elizabeth, will provide services to more than 10,950 local veterans and families and will help inform evidence-based support for Australia’s veteran community.

Championing Indigenous research

In November 2023, Flinders endorsed its new Indigenous Research Strategy and appointed Associate Professor Tamara Mackean as Research Lead to oversee its implementation.

The strategy was developed under the leadership of Professor Simone Tur, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), and Professor Robert Saint AM, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and drew on extensive consultation with Indigenous researchers, the First Nations Research Collective, and national and international benchmarking.

Project Warhorse: Digging into history for healing

In a first-of-its-kind Australian initiative, Flinders University partnered with the Defence Force Welfare Association to involve veterans in archaeological fieldwork at Glenithorne National Park in Adelaide’s south. Led by Director of the Open Door Veteran Research and Wellbeing Centre Professor Ben Wadham, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology Dr Daryl Wesley, and mental health expert Professor Sharon Lawn, the Project Warhorse dig not only contributed to historical research but also supported veterans’ transition from service to civilian life through education, wellbeing, and employment.

A tail of giant kangaroos

Palaeontologists at Flinders described three newly identified species of extinct *Protemnodon* – giant kangaroos that once roamed Australia and New Guinea. These species, which lived between 5 million and 40,000 years ago, were more diverse in shape, range and hopping method than previously known – one reaching double the size of today’s red kangaroo.

Better by a whisker

Drawing inspiration from the animal kingdom, Flinders researchers are developing flexible, affordable, and highly responsive ‘whiskers’ for use in robots. While lasers and camera vision are used to instruct robot movement, these tactile sensors enhance movement and safety in confined and cluttered spaces, offering a low-cost complement to camera and laser-based systems for both domestic and workplace robotics.

Research Performance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Research Income (Higher Education Research Data Collection)	\$68,523,036	\$81,353,894	\$114,513,721	\$120,167,056	\$133,965,513
Research Publications (count)	2,977	3,178	3,026	2,651	3,403
Higher Degree by Research Load (EFTSL)	553.2	579.7	651.6	671.8	690.3
Higher Degree by Research Completions	171	171	133	144	166

* Unaudited

Engagement and impact



Adelaide Oval, photo credit Tom Roschi.

Partnerships and collaborations

Flinders University is deeply embedded in the communities we exist to serve. Our partnerships with industry, government, and academic institutions enhance the experience we provide our students, strengthen our research, and drive positive change. Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do, because we know that the best way to shape the future is by working together.

Gather round for health

Flinders University joined forces with the South Australian Government, SiSU Health, and The Shane Warne Legacy to provide free health checks during the AFL Gather Round in April. More than 9,500 people took part, receiving on-the-spot heart and diabetes assessments using cutting-edge health technology.

Empowering ability

A generous \$30,000 scholarship collaboration from the Dylan Alcott Foundation, along with additional support from Flinders University, is helping Bachelor of Speech Pathology student Michala Baldwin pursue her dream of becoming a clinical speech pathologist.

An autistic student with a passion for language and communication, Michala has faced significant mental health and financial challenges. The scholarship is easing her financial burden, enabling her to focus on her studies and future rural placements, and empowering her to help others through her chosen profession.

A rural partnership changing lives

A ground-breaking partnership between Flinders University, The Pinnaroo Project and the Cybec Foundation is delivering measurable health benefits in the remote South Australian town of Pinnaroo. Through more than 120 community arts activities and health screenings, researchers from Flinders’ Caring Futures Institute found improved mental wellbeing, reduced smoking rates, and increased social connection across the town.

The project, co-designed with locals and supported by philanthropic and government funding, is now being explored as a model for improving rural health through arts-based engagement.



Jackson Warne, Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, and Premier the Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP launch free health checks at the 2024 AFL Gather Round.

Big boost for little heroes

A \$500,000 investment from the South Australian Government and Little Heroes Foundation is accelerating groundbreaking research into childhood dementia at Flinders University.

Like adult dementia, this fatal and aggressive condition causes progressive loss of abilities such as walking, talking, reading, and playing - claiming the lives of an estimated 91 Australian children each year, a toll nearly equivalent to that of childhood cancer.

Flinders researchers have already made a promising early breakthrough, identifying a drug that changes some childhood dementia impacted cells to restore their function to be more like normal cells.

Executive education in Singapore

Flinders’ postgraduate suite of Education Counselling programs, delivered through the Executive Counselling and Training Academy (ECTA) in Singapore, continues to go from strength to strength.

In 2024, the programs were officially recognised by the Singapore Counselling Association, and ECTA achieved another four years of EduTrust accreditation. The inaugural ECTA graduation ceremony, held in November 2024, celebrated more than 300 graduates.



Flinders University and Capital Normal University joint program graduates.

Flinders bowls them over

The South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) joined forces with Flinders in 2024, naming us their Official Education Partner. Together, we launched the Diploma in Sports Management (Cricket), complementing our successful program with the Port Adelaide Football Club.

This tailored study pathway offers students exciting career prospects in the booming international cricket and sports industry, featuring exclusive work-integrated learning experiences with SACA’s community initiatives, match-day operations, and commercial and marketing activities with the South Australia and Adelaide Strikers men’s and women’s teams.

Celebrating decades of global collaboration

In 2024, Flinders University celebrated the 20th anniversary of our partnership with Capital Normal University in China. What began as a joint Master of Education has now produced more than 800 graduates, many of whom hold influential roles across education, policy, and government in the region. Our valued partnership has since expanded into science-based disciplines, offering programs in environmental management and sustainability, biology, and public health.



Adelaide Strikers Captain Matt Short, diploma student Samuel Cannadine, Flinders University Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling, diploma student Olivia Turner and Strikers Head Coach Tim Paine celebrate Flinders as SACA’s official education partner.

Precincts and communities

Our commitment to vibrant, integrated campuses and communities is at the core of Flinders University’s purpose. With modern facilities that support world-class education and research, we prioritise safety, accessibility and connection, ensuring our presence is deeply embedded in the South Australian and Northern Territorian communities we exist to serve.

From cutting-edge infrastructure projects to grassroots partnerships, we continue to invest in places that bring people together and create lasting positive impact.

Flinders Factory of the Future

Construction of the Flinders Factory of the Future was in full swing throughout 2024, progressing alongside the development of the South Australian Government’s Tonsley Technical College adjacent to our campus at the Tonsley Innovation District.

Factory of the Future is set to become a world-class advanced manufacturing hub, bringing together industry, education, and research to build sovereign capability in key growth sectors such as defence and digital technologies.

In keeping with our sustainability commitments, the state-of-the-art facility will incorporate timber sourced from the NeXTimber pine mass timber plant at Timberlink in South Australia’s South East, helping reduce the project’s carbon footprint.



Factory of the Future Operations Director Philipp Dautel, Minister for Industry and Science the Hon. Ed Husic MP, Vice-President Corporate Services Mark Gregory, Member for Boothby Louise Miller-Frost MP, and Vice-President and Executive Dean of College of Business, Government and Law Professor Michael Gilding check in on the construction of the Factory of the Future.

Bedford Park Campus Master Plan

Significant progress was made in 2024 on the development of the Bedford Park Campus Master Plan – Flinders’ blueprint for future physical development to support our strategic objectives and deliver a world-class campus experience for our students.

The first phase of consultation engaged students, staff, stakeholders, and community members, collecting feedback on land use, building design, transport, outdoor spaces, and sustainability, and opportunities for campus improvement.

These valuable insights are shaping the draft master plan, which is on track for completion in 2025.

Giving back to our communities

Our commitment to regional communities was reaffirmed through the 2024 round of the *Rural and Remote Health SA Community Partnership grants*, supported by the South Australian Government.

Grant recipients included Nuriootpa Rover Football Club, Sunset Community Kitchen, Riding for the Disabled, Rotary Club of Murray Bridge, iReach Rural Health, Zonta Club of Mount Barker, Mount Barker Community Centre, Victor Harbor Football Club, Renmark St Joseph’s School, and Berri Regional Secondary College.

These grants fund programs that enhance physical and mental health and wellbeing across regional South Australia.



Unbound Collective performing *Sovereign Acts III- REFUSE*, 2018, Vitalstatistix, Climate Century Festival, Port Adelaide. Photo credit Tony Kearney.

A very clever campus

Flinders was honoured at the 2024 *Australia and New Zealand Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association* Clever Campus Awards in Auckland, taking home the GJK Diversity Award.

The award recognises institutions that demonstrate a holistic and sustained commitment to diversity within the education sector. Our submission highlighted initiatives across Flinders that are creating inclusive environments – particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff.

This achievement reflects the collective dedication of teams across the University to champion diversity and create a vibrant, inclusive, and values-based campus culture.

At the art of it

The Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA) presented four major exhibitions in 2024: *ACMI: Between the Details*, *If You Don’t Fight You Lose: Politics, Posters and PAM*, *The Guildhouse Collections Project: The Disquiet*, and *Sovereign Acts | Love Praxis*.

These exhibitions explored the powerful intersection of art and activism, with a focus on Australian artists. Accompanying the exhibitions were artist-led workshops, public talks, and Reconciliation Week programs.

FUMA also supported teaching and learning across 25 unique education topics, delivering more than 150 hours of student contact with the collections and enriching our students’ experience.

Sustainability

Flinders University is committed to shaping a clearer, greener and more resilient future. In 2024, we accelerated our sustainability agenda across every part of our institution – from research and teaching, to partnerships, community action and campus operations. Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we’re turning ambition into action and laying the foundations for long-term impact.

Global recognition for inclusive impact

Flinders University cemented its reputation as a global leader in sustainability, equity and inclusion – earning two top 10 global rankings in the prestigious *Times Higher Education Impact Rankings*.

Recognition for our outstanding progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Flinders ranked 8th globally for Gender Equality (SDG 5) and 10th for Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), competing against more than 2,100 institutions worldwide.

This debut performance reflects our passion for social sustainability – advancing inclusive education, empowering women, and ensuring equitable opportunities for all. It affirms the University’s leadership in driving positive change through education, research, and community impact on a global scale.

2030 Sustainability Strategy

In 2024, Flinders launched its new Sustainability Strategy, outlining our vision and commitments to 2030. The strategy is underpinned by three guiding principles and four strategic pillars that will shape our priorities over the next five years. It identifies tangible opportunities to reduce resource consumption, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and chart a path toward a climate-positive future.

Green energy solutions from the sea

Flinders researchers are leading the way in exploring how oceans can help power a sustainable future. In a series of studies published in 2024, scientists investigated three innovative approaches: capturing ocean wave power efficiently, producing biofuel from marine microalgae, and improving catalytic conversion in engines.

These findings highlight the enormous potential of ocean-based energy and low-emission technologies for the transport and energy sectors.



City of Mitcham Mayor, Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling with the Memorandum of Understanding for meaningful climate action and local sustainability leadership.

Partnering for climate resilience in southern Adelaide

In 2024, Flinders University and the City of Mitcham joined forces to strengthen community resilience against rising bushfire risks and climate challenges in Adelaide’s southern suburbs. Our strategic partnership will deliver expert disaster risk assessments, climate education programs, and clean energy initiatives – supporting more than 4,500 homes and businesses identified as vulnerable under proposed bushfire rezoning.

Reflecting a shared commitment to sustainability and local leadership, the collaboration harnesses Flinders’ research and innovation capability to inform community-wide actions for a safer, greener future.

First in the world for STARS

In 2024, Flinders University became the first organisation in the world to earn a coveted Gold rating under the newly released version 3 of the international Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or STARS.

Tackling food waste at the source

Despite the growing use of composting and green bins, food waste remains a major contributor to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions.

To combat the rising environmental, social and economic costs of this issue, Flinders researchers surveyed more than 1,500 South Australians to assess perceptions of various food waste reduction strategies.

The study explored potential measures, such as financial incentives, penalties for green organic bin misuse, more frequent green waste collections, and targeted food waste education programs – providing valuable insights for shaping effective public policy.

Good sounds for saving soil

Flinders is breaking new ground in ecosystem recovery – using sound.

A recent study by our scientists revealed that acoustic stimulation can enhance the growth and sporulation of a plant growth-promoting fungi in soil. This novel approach to soil restoration could support sustainable agriculture and improve biodiversity outcomes in degraded environments.

A new way to tackle marine litter

As global concern over microplastic pollution continues to rise, Flinders researchers are working on new tools to assess and manage its impact.

In 2024, a team of scientists examined the effects of five different chemical digestive aids on common plastics using low, medium and high levels of zooplankton. The findings will inform more accurate measurement and monitoring practices, strengthening global efforts to combat marine litter and protect ocean health.

Solar step forward for green hydrogen

Flinders researchers made another leap forward in the global pursuit of clean energy, with a major advance in nano-scale chemistry to improve solar-powered hydrogen production.

In an international collaboration with researchers from South Australia, the US, and Germany, our experts discovered a novel solar cell process that could enhance future technologies for affordable, high-efficiency green hydrogen – offering a viable path to carbon-free energy through sunlight and water.



Research Fellow Dr Jake Robinson with colleagues Associate Professor Martin Breed, Nicole Fickling, Amy Annells and Alex Taylor listening to healthy soil.

People and
culture



Reconciliation and recognition

Flinders is committed to reconciliation, embedding respect for First Nations peoples and the enduring value of their ways of knowing, being and doing throughout the University. We recognise that reconciliation is an ongoing journey, one that demands consistent, meaningful action from our entire community.



Robert Taylor captivates the audience with a didgeridoo performance.

Participation and support

In 2024, 445 students identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander were enrolled at Flinders, reflecting strong growth in postgraduate enrolments. Yungkurinthe Student Engagement provided direct supports to 220 students, delivering 1,725 individual student interactions. The Deadly Study Skills program offered academic support through 766 student interactions, maintaining steady engagement across our Bedford Park, Sturt, and City campuses.

Further support was extended through enriched learning environments, including the introduction of new Indigenous student spaces at the City Campus, Flinders Medical Centre, and Tonsley Innovation Campus.

A path for the future

Flinders University expanded its dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outreach and prospective student programs in 2024, engaging nearly 2,000 students through visits to 40 schools, 19 workshops and expos, 10 on-campus school visits, and participation on campus, managing 40 community and 20 open day events. These efforts continue to build pathways to university for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across South Australia and Northern Territory.

Aboriginal Power Cup

Flinders has proudly supported the Aboriginal Power Cup since 2021 – Australia’s longest-running education and AFL community program for Aboriginal students in professional sport. The 2024 event brought together over 700 Indigenous students from metropolitan, regional, and APY Lands schools for a three-day program facilitated by Port Adelaide Football Club.

Focused on boosting school attendance and graduation rates, the program was supported by our Office of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement, and Flinders Outreach and Pathways team, who provided on-the-ground guidance on university opportunities and career pathways, while raising post-school pathway aspirations.

Keep the fire burning

To mark NAIDOC Week, First Nations student leaders – alongside Flinders University Student Association and Yungkurinthe – led a 24-hour vigil around the fire at the Yungkurinthe Inparrila cultural gathering space. The event began with a Welcome to Country by Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O’Brien, and a smoking ceremony by Robert Taylor.

More than 30 people took part in shifts throughout the night to ‘Keep the Fire Burning’ in a powerful symbol of reconciliation, unity and respect. Many more joined throughout the day, creating a shared moment of community and cultural celebration.

Lowitja O’Donoghue Oration

During National Reconciliation Week, Professor Tom Calma AO delivered the 2024 Lowitja O’Donoghue Oration, reflecting on the theme *Looking Back to Look Forward – Lessons from the past to influence actions of the future*.

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 honours the life and legacy of the late Dr Lowitja O’Donoghue AC CBE DSG – a trailblazing Aboriginal leader and tireless advocate for her people.

Professor Calma paid tribute to his mentor, Aunty Lowitja, sharing the wisdom and strength she had passed on to him throughout his life. He also reflected on how Australia can navigate a way forward following the failed referendum, drawing on stories from the past to guide future action in pursuit of reconciliation.

Duguid Memorial Lecture

Marking its 30th anniversary, the Duguid Memorial Lecture featured a powerful address by Professor Janine Mohamed, a distinguished leader in Indigenous health. Professor Mohamed explored the complex dynamics of racial gaslighting and its role in sustaining the systemic inequities faced by First Nations peoples across Australia.

Held at Flinders City Campus, the event honoured the enduring legacy of Dr Charles Duguid OBE and Mrs Phyllis Duguid OAM – passionate advocates for Aboriginal rights whose contributions continue to inspire the pursuit of justice and equity.

Celebrating on Country

Our December 2024 graduations marked a deepened connection to Country, with 3,458 graduates experiencing a smoking ceremony and an academic procession led by Robert Taylor playing the didgeridoo.

These ceremony additions invited graduates, staff and guests to actively participate in acknowledging and honouring First Nations culture. The Welcome to Country that followed further grounded the event in reflection and respect. This important milestone encouraged graduates to consider not only their academic success, but also their place in the world and their responsibilities to the communities and Country they are part of.

Reconciliation Action Plan Conference

Flinders University’s 2024 Reconciliation Action Plan Conference attracted over 600 student and staff attendees, across 15 dedicated sessions. Highlights included a keynote address by Associate Professor Ali Baker, and updates on university-wide Indigenous strategies. Participants also engaged in cultural immersion activities, ranging from art and weaving to cultural tours and language workshops – held at our Bedford Park campus.

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, and celebrate a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence within Flinders.



Master of Disability Practice student Richard Kennedy, from Indonesia, is StudyAdelaide’s International Student of the Year.

Research recognition

Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling awarded the prestigious title of Matthew Flinders Professor/Fellow to 16 distinguished Flinders University leaders, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to research:

- Professor Allan Wigg (College of Medicine and Public Health)
- Professor Neville Crossman (College of Business, Government and Law)
- Professor Sarah Wheeler (College of Business, Government and Law)
- Professor Maria Inacio (College of Nursing and Health Sciences)
- Professor Gillian Caughey (College of Nursing and Health Sciences)
- Professor Stephanie Harrison (College of Nursing and Health Sciences)
- Professor Mark Halsey (College of Business, Government and Law)
- Professor Svetlana Bogomolova (College of Business, Government and Law)
- Professor Tim Windsor (College of Education, Psychology and Social Work)
- Professor Matthew Fitzpatrick (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Professor Stacey George (College of Nursing and Health Sciences)
- Professor Sally Robinson (College of Nursing and Health Sciences)
- Professor Sophie Leterme (College of Science and Engineering)
- Professor David Lynn (College of Medicine and Public Health)
- Professor Billie Bonevski (College of Medicine and Public Health)
- Associate Professor Courtney Ryder (College of Medicine and Public Health)

South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards

Flinders University researchers were recognised across multiple categories at the 2024 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards, with three major wins celebrating the University’s strengths in science, health, and education.

Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor Jamie Craig, Head of Ophthalmology and leading Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI) eye and vision researcher was named *2024 South Australian Scientist of the Year* for his groundbreaking genetic research into glaucoma. His work led to the development of a saliva test and laser treatments now used in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, enabling early, sight-saving interventions.

The Australia’s Sleep Revolution project – led by Professors Danny Eckert and Sutapa Mukherjee with FHMRI Sleep Health and SBS – won the Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration Award. Featured in a national documentary series with Dr Michael Mosley, the project’s world-class

clinical trial delivered personalised treatments, with over 80% of participants reporting better sleep.

Associate Professor Voula Gaganis was awarded *STEMM Educator of the Year* for her leadership in curriculum design and industry-linked programs, including South Australia’s first Associate Degree in Laboratory Medicine, improving graduate outcomes in health sciences.

StudyAdelaide International Student Awards

The StudyAdelaide International Student Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of international students during their time studying in Adelaide. Flinders University students were recognised across multiple categories in 2024. Richard Kennedy from Indonesia (Master of Disability Practice) was named *International Student of the Year* and also received the *Postgraduate Coursework Award* and *Peer Support Award*. Fellow Indonesian Shafa Amani Anargya Pragiwaka (Bachelor of International Relations and Political Science) received the *Academic Undergraduate Award*, while Veanna Ranka (Bachelor of Clinical Sciences/ Doctor of Medicine) from Singapore was honoured with the *Community Engagement Award*.

Australian Awards for University Teaching

Flinders University educators were recognised in the prestigious Australian Awards for University Teaching, receiving honours across two categories:

- Dr David Hobbs and Dr Thomas Vincent received the *Award for Programs that Enhance Learning*.
- Dr Dusan Matusica, Professor Helen Ancomb, and Associate Professor Christine Barry received a *Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning*.

In the Northern Territory, nursing lecturer Heather Keighley was presented with the NT Administrator’s Medal for Lifetime Achievement at the 2024 NT Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards, recognising her decades of service to nursing education and practice.

SA Young Tall Poppy Science Award

Associate Professor Amy Reynolds (College of Medicine and Public Health) was named the *2024 SA Tall Poppy of the Year* for her research into the sleep challenges faced by shift workers. Her work highlights how sleep disorders in this group are often dismissed as an inevitable consequence of their work schedules – leading to delayed diagnosis and treatment.

Three other outstanding Flinders researchers were also recognised with 2024 SA Young Tall Poppy Science Awards:

- Criminologist Dr Simone Deegan (College of Business, Government and Law) – for her research into how trauma and disadvantage can lead young Australians into the criminal justice system.

- Dietician Dr Brittany Johnson (College of Nursing and Health Sciences) – for her work supporting families of young children to develop health-promoting behaviours.
- Exercise physiologist Dr Matthew Wallen (College of Nursing and Health Sciences) – for his research into how lifestyle interventions can improve outcomes for people living with cancer and those awaiting organ transplants.

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 2024 winner was Thomas Beltrame (College of Science and Engineering) with his presentation “*Music is Magical*”.

Tharin Sayed (College of Education, Psychology and Social Work) was Flinders University’s runner-up with her presentation “*Zapping Tinnitus Away*”. Benjamin Boyle (College of Science and Engineering) took home the People’s Choice Award with his presentation “*So, You Regret That Tattoo?*”.

Australia Day and King’s Birthday Honours

Several notable members of the Flinders University community were among the Australians recognised in the 2024 Australia Day and King’s Birthday Honours. A full list is available on our website.

Australia Day Honours

- Professor Lorraine Mazerolle AC
- His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Crosby Heggie AO PSM
- Associate Professor Barbara Baird AM
- Emeritus Professor Leigh Burgoyne AM
- Ms Brigid Coombe AM
- Emeritus Professor Hilton Kobus AM
- Professor Deborah Parker AM
- Ms Bilawara Lee OAM
- Dr David Squirrell OAM
- Mr Nicholas Swingler OAM

King’s Birthday Honours

- Professor John Furness AO
- Mr Craig Bennett AM
- Professor Glen Gole AM
- Mr Ted Huber AM
- Mr Mark Turra AM
- Mr Gregory Aldridge OAM
- Professor Anne Kavanagh OAM
- Dr Pauline Morgan OAM
- Mrs Nanette Sharp OAM
- Sister Janet Woods OAM

Flinders University Awards

The 2024 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 2024 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Research Excellence:

- Early Career Researchers: Dr Lemma Bulto (Cardiovascular Disease Prevention, Intervention and Care Models), Dr Simone Deegan (Criminology), Dr Mariya Goray (Forensic Science), Dr Lauren Lines (Preventing Child Abuse), and Dr Huah Shin Ng (Epidemiology in Chronic Disease).
- Mid-Career Researchers: Associate Professor Mike Morley (Archaeological Science), Associate Professor Amy Reynolds (Sleep Health), Professor Andrew Rowland (Clinical Pharmacology), Dr Pankaj Sharma (Condensed Matter Physics), and Professor Emma Thomas (Social Psychology).
- Research Leadership: Associate Professor Daniel King (Clinical Psychology and Addiction), Professor Udoy Saikia (Population and Development), and Professor James Smith (Men’s Health).

Awards for Research Impact and Engagement

Recognised for their contributions to research impact and engagement were Dr Bryce Brickley, Dr Tets Kimura, Associate Professor Martin Breed, Associate Professor Rachel Milte, and the CareSearch Team.

Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching

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

- Dr Helen Harrison, Dr Rajesh Johnsam, and Associate Professor Sky Marsen.

Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Innovation in Teaching

- Awarded to Dr Afshin Tanouri in recognition of recent responsive and sustainable educational initiatives.

Flinders Reconciliation Awards

- Individual awards went to Kristofer Lacho and Uncle Richard Fejo.
- Team awards were presented to the Corporate Communications Team, Flinders University Student Association, Library RAP Working Group, and Standing Strong, Yarning up Loud Committee.

Professional Staff Awards

Recognised for their contributions and upholding Flinders’ values, winners included Klaus Koefer (Student-Centred Award), Elise Tucker (Innovation Award), Anthony Hails (Integrity Award), Zoe Uili (Courage Award), Eliza Gill (Excellence Award), Chris O’Grady (Wellbeing Award), and Christine Kenny (Wellbeing Award). The Flinders City Campus Hypercare Team was recognised with the Flinders Dream Team Award.

Honorary Doctorates

Seldom awarded, Flinders University Honorary degrees are presented to distinguished members of the community, whose extraordinary leadership has changed lives.

Doctor of the University *honoris causa*

Alistair Haigh

Chief Executive, Haigh’s Chocolates
Awarded for visionary business leadership and innovation.

Taryn Brumfitt

Filmmaker and body image advocate
Awarded for championing self-acceptance worldwide.

Robert ‘Alfie’ Hannaford AM

Artist and philanthropist
Awarded for a lifetime of artistic excellence and environmental advocacy.

Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*

Paul Vasileff

Founder and Creative Director, Paolo Sebastian
Awarded for his global impact on couture.

Doctor of Science *honoris causa*

Patricia ‘Pat’ Vilimas

Technical Officer, Microscopy and Pathology, Flinders University
Awarded for five decades of dedicated research and discovery in public health at Flinders University.

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 2024, the Alumni Awards celebration was held at Adelaide Oval on Saturday 23 November and comprised of three award categories: Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni, and Early Career Alumni.

Thank you to the members of the 2024 Alumni Award Selection Committee: Elizabeth Perry AM (Chair), Kim Cheater, Kerry Heysen AM, Adjunct Associate Professor Jenny Hurley, Professor Ross McKinnon, and Shona Reid.

Convocation Medal

Dr Brendan Nelson AO

(BM, BS ‘83, DUniversity ‘11)
Senior Vice President of The Boeing Company, and President of Boeing Global

Awarded for outstanding leadership and impact in the public and private sectors.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Catherine Fitzgerald

(BA ‘82, BA(Hons) ‘89)
Director, Writer and Actor
Awarded for distinguished contribution to South Australian theatre and performance, including the promotion of diverse communities.

Professor Tom Gordon

(PhD(Med) ‘87, DM ‘96)
Head of Clinical Immunology, SA Pathology at Southern Adelaide Local Health Network and Flinders University
Awarded for distinguished leadership, innovation, and research in the field of human autoimmunity.

Lauren Hillman

(BA ‘00, BA(Hons) ‘02)
General Manager, Channel 44 Adelaide
Awarded for distinguished leadership in the South Australian screen sector and for supporting emerging on-screen artists.

Simon Schrapel AM

(MPolAdmin ‘05)
Chief Executive, Uniting Communities
Awarded for distinguished contribution to social justice locally and nationally through welfare organisations, programs, and initiatives.

Greg Taylor

(BCom ‘05)
CEO and Founder, Step One Underwear
Awarded for distinguished leadership and commitment to creating a sustainable, ethical business and supporting entrepreneurs.

Professor Anthony Williams

(PhD(PhysSc) ‘85)
Professor of Physics, University of Adelaide; Deputy Director, ARC Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics; Associate Director, Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter
Awarded for distinguished research leadership in subatomic physics.

Early Career Alumni Awards

Sara Carrison

(BMedSc(VisSc),MOpt ‘19)
Optometrist, OPSM; Outreach Optometrist, Community Eyecare, Deadly Vision Centre; Associate Lecturer, Flinders University
Awarded for significant contribution to First Nations’ eye health and advocating for a culturally safe and inclusive environment within the profession.

Thao Hoang

(MSW ‘21)
Senior Child Protection Practitioner, Territory Families, Housing and Communities
Awarded for significant service in the field of child protection, focusing on families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Dr Xuan Luo

(DipCommInfTech ‘08, BHumNut ‘12, MBiotechSt ‘14, PhD(Med) ‘19)
Research Associate, College of Science and Engineering, Flinders University
Awarded for significant contributions to the fields of biotechnology and nanotechnology and as an advocate for sustainable manufacturing in the healthcare sector.

Dr Emad Roshandel

(PhD ‘23)
Senior Electronic Engineer, Infusion Innovations
Awarded for significant research expertise in electrical and electronic engineering to support the development and commercialisation of new technologies and innovations.



University Council

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



Council members

The Council farewelled and thanked Elizabeth Perry AM for her many years of service as a Council Member, Deputy Chancellor, Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, and Chair of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee.

John Hood, Chancellor

John Hood is a Flinders University alumnus (BEc 1984 GradDipAcc 1985) and a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He has a long history of engagement with Flinders and in 2007 was presented with a Flinders Alumni Award for his significant contributions to the University and to business in South Australia. John is an experienced company director, and founder of his chartered accounting and advisory firm, Humanee. Over his career, John has worked with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Deloittes, and mhm, and served in governance roles with the Port Adelaide Football Club, Foodbank SA, Guildhouse, and several community and sporting organisations. He has served two terms on Council and was appointed Chancellor in 2023.

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 strategic leadership, innovation and successful change management. Professor Stirling has held a range of board positions across health, academic and community organisations and is currently a Director of Education Australia Limited, the General Sir John Monash Foundation, and IDP Education.

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 International Arbitrator, 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.

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 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. Brenda joined Council in 2015.

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. Amanda joined Council in 2018 as the Academic Staff Member.

Sharon Wilson

Sharon Wilson has more than 34 years’ experience in defence, including leadership roles in strategy, business development, innovation, project management, procurement, estimating, supply chain and industrial strategy. Sharon is the Chair of the Defence SA Defence Innovation Partnership board. Sharon joined Council in 2019.

Kate Walsh

Kate Walsh is an experienced educator and as Senior Coordinator, Student Representation and Partnerships, 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. Kate 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 board roles with Australian Unity, RAA, RAA Insurance, SARAH Group, Alwyndor Aged Care and ReturntoWorkSA. He is also the independent Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee for Minda Inc. Kim 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. Kim 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 Executive Director Cultural Reform Northern Territory Police and a board member of the NT/SA Royal Flying Doctors. She was the 2022 Northern Territory Australian of the Year and is a Distinguished Alumnus of Flinders University. Leanne joined Council in 2023.

Benjamin Grillett

Benjamin Grillett is the Undergraduate Student Elected Member for 2024 to 2025. Ben is committed to advocating for students amidst cost-of-living pressures, and for student welfare. Benjamin joined the Council in 2024.

Abhishek Jain

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. Abhishek joined the Council in 2024.

Lucinda Hewitson (commenced 1 April 2024)

Lucinda Hewitson is a leading expert in Diversity and Inclusion with over 20 years of experience as an Organisational Psychologist. Since founding her business in 2013, she has advised various sectors, including global mining, government agencies, utilities, insurance, and consulting firms. Previously, she was Head of HR Recruitment, Resourcing and Diversity & Inclusion at BAE Systems Australia for 15 years. Lucinda has been a finalist in the AHRI Diversity Awards in 2013 and the Telstra Business Women’s Awards in 2015 and 2020. As an AHPRA Board-Approved Supervisor she also supports Masters students become registered psychologists and has held advisory roles at the University of Adelaide and was the inaugural Chair of Spence Club Inc. Lucinda joined Council in 2024.

Matt Johnson (commenced 1 April 2024)

Matt Johnson completed a Bachelor of Economics at Flinders University before commencing a 20-year career in South Australia’s public sector. He began in analytical and policy roles and held executive positions across economic, social, and environmental portfolios including in Cabinet Office. His roles included Executive Director of the State’s Social Inclusion Unit, Executive Director of Trade, International Education and Immigration, and Group Executive Director in the Department for Environment and Water. Matt also served as Deputy Agent General in London where he was responsible for the South Australian Government’s British and European objectives. Matt is currently Joint Managing Director of the iconic South Australian food business, Ditters. He is also a Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Matt joined Council in 2024.

Clare Mockler (commenced 1 January 2025)

Clare Mockler is an experienced public sector executive leader with a demonstrated track record of providing decisive and insightful leadership to the development and implementation of strategy, policy and major infrastructure projects. Originally from the UK and with a legal background, Clare holds a Masters degree in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University. Clare previously led the City of Adelaide, having driven business transformation and policy reform across the organisation in multiple senior roles. She is currently the Acting Director at the South Australian Museum. Clare joined Council in 2025.

Damien Walker (commenced 1 January 2025)

Damien Walker holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Planning. In late 2024, he was appointed Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in Queensland, after serving as Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in South Australia. Damien is an experienced executive with a broad background in strategic planning, industry development, and public policy. He has led the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning in Queensland, driving economic growth, job creation, and the delivery of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. He also spearheaded Queensland’s flood recovery efforts. In South Australia, his roles included infrastructure planning, investment facilitation, contract management, and reform implementation. Damien joined Council in 2025.

Governance

The Flinders University Council acknowledges and observes the Universities Australia and Universities Chancellors Council *Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities*. The Code was updated in December 2024, and the University is reviewing the amended Code to assess its compliance for 2025.

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; approval of urgent contracts; 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 three sub-committees to support its functions:

- Education Committee
- Courses and Admissions Committee
- 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.

2024 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
John Hood Chancellor	Member 9/03/2017	N/A	5/5			5/5		2/2
	Chancellor 1/10/2023							
Professor Colin Stirling President and Vice-Chancellor	1/01/2015	N/A	5/5	5/5		5/5	4/4	
Professor Christopher Kee Presiding member of Academic Senate	1/07/2021	N/A	5/5	5/5		5/5		2/2
Douglas Gautier AM Deputy Chancellor	19/04/2012	N/A	4/5			5/5		2/2
Elizabeth Perry AM Deputy Chancellor	8/08/2013	31/12/24	5/5			4/5	4/4	2/2
Kim Cheater	1/01/2023	N/A	4/5		5/5			
Lucinda Hewitson*	1/04/2024	N/A	4/4					
Matt Johnson*	1/04/2024	N/A	4/4				4/4	
Leanne Liddle	9/03/2023	N/A	4/5					
Brenda Wilson AM	1/10/2015	N/A	4/5		4/5	5/5		2/2
Sharon Wilson	23/08/2019	N/A	5/5		5/5			
Associate Professor Amanda Muller	13/07/2018	N/A	5/5					
Kate Walsh	1/01/2017	N/A	5/5					
Ben Grillett	1/01/2024	N/A	3/5					
Abhisek Jain	1/01/2024	N/A	5/5					

Data for Council Members only.

* Attendance only tracked for meetings during their tenure.

Statutes

During 2024, Her Excellency the Governor in Executive Council allowed the repeal of Flinders University Statute 1.1 (University Common Seal) and Statute 1.2 (University Colours and Insignia) and amendments to Statute 2.2 (The Deputy Chancellors), which were approved by the Council on 10 August 2023, pursuant to section 20(3) of the *Flinders University Act 1966*.

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 executed by the University’s internal auditors and developed taking into consideration 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 was conducted in 2023.

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.

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 Australasian University Procurement Network as a member of the Anti-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 nonreporting entities.

Most of Flinders’ spend is with suppliers based in Australia (>90%), 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 2024 was with the United States of America, the United Kingdom, India, China, Singapore Canada, and Pakistan. Overall, 4416 suppliers were used in 2024, across 73 countries.

Prior to and during 2024, 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



Senior Executive Team



President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Stirling

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 strategic leadership, innovation and successful change management.



Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Romy Lawson

Professor Romy Lawson commenced at Flinders University in January 2022, bringing 25 years of national and international experience, initially in both Australia and the UK. Her career began in learning and teaching, and strategic curriculum development, but has focused on university leadership over the past decade. Prior positions include Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and Provost at Murdoch University, and roles at 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, a Master of Philosophy, and a 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 Raymond Chan

A leading researcher in the field of Cancer Care, Systems and Policy, Professor Chan joined Flinders in 2021. In 2024, he was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) with responsibility for Flinders researchers and research students. Professor Chan has been a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing Australia since 2009 and is a Past President of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia. He is an advisor to Cancer Australia and in 2024 was appointed to the NHMRC Council by the Minister for Health. He is also a member of the NHMRC Research Committee, a principal committee that provides authoritative advice to the Chief Executive Officer of the NHMRC.



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 holding prior COO and CIO roles, Mark Gregory has over 25 years' experience in higher education, capital projects, regional development, and start-up incubation. Mr Gregory oversees a broad portfolio including finance, people and culture, information technology, buildings, property and sustainability, student accommodation and the University Library. Mr Gregory is responsible for large capital construction and commercial real estate efforts, as well as leading the University's physical and technology planning. He holds an MBA and degrees in computer science, mathematics, and psychology.



Chief Financial Officer, Richard Porter

Richard Porter brings extensive expertise in corporate governance, finance, business strategy, property, and investment management, having held CEO and CFO positions across various sectors. He is a graduate of The University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, holding a Bachelor of Economics and an MBA. Additionally, he is a Certified Practising Accountant and an experienced non-executive board director. In his role at Flinders University, Mr Porter oversees the finance and procurement functions, including financial 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, 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, holding a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Cultural Studies), a Master of Communication Management, and a Master of Marketing. She is also an experienced non-executive director and graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



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 is a member of the national board of the Centre for Social Impact, a former member of the National Education Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a former President of The Australian Sociological Association. 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). As Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching Innovation she led the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching at Flinders University. She applies a sociological and social work lens to her research endeavours, which have spanned the juvenile justice system, domestic and family and learning improvement and technology in both curriculum design and teaching practice. She has most recently been focused on work which supports veterans' successful transition into 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 departed Flinders University in December 2024 and was succeeded by Professor Michelle Miller as Interim Vice-President and Executive Dean.



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, the National Health and Medical Research Council's Health Impact Committee, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, the Health Life Savings Drug Program and is currently Chair of the Medical Services Advisory Committee.



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 fastest computer.

Financials



Financial performance statement

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Consolidated		University	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Income statement				
Total income from continuing operations	699,979	637,979	691,016	634,753
Total expenses from continuing operations	692,090	614,238	684,132	609,091
Operating result	7,889	23,741	6,884	25,662
Operating margin	1.13%	3.72%	1.0%	4.04%
Balance sheet				
Net assets	970,242	971,464	970,212	972,439
Current ratio	1.67	1.64	1.69	1.65

In 2024, Flinders University reported a surplus of \$7.9 million, in line with expectations but reflecting a decrease from the \$23.7 million surplus recorded in 2023. This result is primarily attributable to the completion of key strategic initiatives, including the Health and Medical Research Building (HMRB) and the new Flinders City Campus investments designed to enhance the University’s research capabilities and strengthen its presence in central Adelaide.

Total revenue for the year reached \$700 million, representing an 8.9% increase (\$62 million) compared to 2023. This growth underscores the University’s capacity to advance its core strategic priorities, including the expansion of its academic and research footprint. International student fee revenue continued to rise, complemented by a modest increase in domestic student fee income.

Research income grew by 9.5% year-on-year to \$149 million, supported by increased funding from Commonwealth and State government sources. This upward trajectory reflects the University’s commitment to research excellence and the ongoing development of its research capacity. Investment income also improved, driven by higher interest rates and strong performance across domestic and international equity markets.

Total expenditure increased by 11.3%, reflecting heightened activity in both research and teaching. Salary costs rose by 9.5%, in line with scheduled enterprise agreement increments, while non-salary strategic and operational expenses grew by 13.8%.

The University’s total assets expanded by \$147 million from 2023, reaching \$1.669 billion, with the construction of the HMRB serving as a significant contributing factor. As of the financial year’s end, cash holdings and term deposits stood at \$295 million. Borrowings also increased following the completion of the HMRB.

The University continues to maintain a stable financial position despite broader economic pressures in the higher education sector. This reflects the University’s ongoing commitment to sound financial management, effective governance, and strategic investments that support long-term sustainability.

Income statement

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Consolidated		University	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Revenue and income from continuing operations				
Australian Government financial assistance				
Australian Government grants	308,559	282,664	308,559	282,664
HELP - Australian Government payments	110,138	103,494	110,138	103,494
State and local Government financial assistance	17,404	14,944	17,404	14,944
HECS-HELP - Student Payments	7,728	7,597	7,728	7,597
Fees and charges	177,340	162,450	177,245	162,370
Investment revenue	18,639	17,576	18,399	17,507
Royalties, trademarks and licences	150	122	140	118
Consultancy and contracts fees	16,840	18,516	16,286	18,482
Other revenue	33,508	25,337	25,444	22,287
Gains on disposal of assets	287	25	287	36
Other investment gains	9,386	5,254	9,386	5,254
Total revenue and income from continuing operations	699,979	637,979	691,016	634,753
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee related expenses	414,072	374,550	404,780	368,921
Depreciation and amortisation	57,351	44,574	57,185	44,488
Repairs and maintenance	24,304	20,034	24,172	19,928
Borrowing costs	12,514	1,554	12,514	1,554
Impairment of assets	309	1,885	309	1,473
Other expenses	183,540	171,641	185,172	172,727
Total expenses from continuing operations	692,090	614,238	684,132	609,091
Net result from continuing operations	7,889	23,741	6,884	25,662
Net result attributable to				
University	7,159	23,950	6,884	25,662
Non-controlling interest	730	(209)	-	-
Total	7,889	23,741	6,884	25,662

Statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Consolidated		University	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Net result for the period	7,889	23,741	6,884	25,662
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:				
Gain / (loss) on revaluation of land, buildings, library and artworks	-	757	-	757
Gain / (loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(9,111)	(8,834)	(9,111)	(8,834)
Total comprehensive income	(1,222)	15,664	(2,227)	17,585
Total comprehensive income attributable to:				
University	(1,952)	15,873	(2,227)	17,585
Non-controlling interest	730	(209)	-	-
Total	(1,222)	15,664	(2,227)	17,585

Statement of financial position

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Consolidated		University	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	234,669	180,497	228,246	175,507
Receivables	22,487	29,702	25,859	33,463
Contract Assets	2,306	3,497	2,306	3,497
Inventories	298	279	298	278
Other financial assets	60,000	70,000	60,000	70,000
Other non-financial assets	15,690	15,084	15,627	15,051
Total current assets	335,450	299,059	332,336	297,796
Non-current assets				
Receivables	55,997	58,955	55,997	58,955
Other financial assets	143,050	141,764	144,275	142,990
Property, plant and equipment	1,090,822	973,347	1,089,365	972,380
Investment properties	11,925	11,525	11,925	11,525
Intangible assets	30,736	36,552	30,640	36,456
Other non-financial assets	1,079	1,211	1,079	1,211
Total non-current assets	1,333,609	1,223,354	1,333,281	1,223,517
Total assets	1,669,059	1,522,413	1,665,617	1,521,313
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	49,592	52,615	46,972	51,107
Borrowings	4,934	1,321	4,934	1,321
Provisions	30,506	30,298	29,909	29,629
Other liabilities	822	1,236	1,029	1,456
Contract liabilities	114,448	96,501	114,200	96,477
Total current liabilities	200,302	181,971	197,044	179,990
Non-current liabilities				
Trade and other payables	7,298	7,732	7,298	7,732
Borrowings	347,779	261,519	347,779	261,519
Provisions	60,895	61,744	60,741	61,650
Contract liabilities	51,152	37,983	51,152	37,983
Other liabilities	31,391	-	31,391	-
Total non-current liabilities	498,515	368,978	498,361	368,884
Total liabilities	698,817	550,949	695,405	548,874
Net assets	970,242	971,464	970,212	972,439
Equity				
University interest				
Reserves	229,011	238,122	232,764	241,875
Retained earnings	739,824	732,665	737,448	730,564
University interest	968,835	970,787	970,212	972,439
Non-controlling interest	1,407	677	-	-
Total equity	970,242	971,464	970,212	972,439

Statement of changes in equity
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Consolidated	Reserves	Retained	University	Non-	Total
	\$'000	Earnings	Interest	controlling	\$'000
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	Interest	\$'000
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as 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
Balance at 1 January 2024	238,122	732,665	970,787	677	971,464
Net Result	-	7,159	7,159	730	7,889
Gain/(loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(9,111)	-	(9,111)	-	(9,111)
Total comprehensive income	(9,111)	7,159	(1,952)	730	(1,222)
Balance at 31 December 2024	229,011	739,824	968,835	1,407	970,242

University	Reserves	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as 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
Balance at 1 January 2024	241,875	730,564	972,439
Net Result	-	6,884	6,884
Gain/(loss) on equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	(9,111)	-	(9,111)
Total comprehensive income	(9,111)	6,884	(2,227)
Balance at 31 December 2024	232,764	737,448	970,212

Statement of cash flows
for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Consolidated		University	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Australian Government Grants	418,157	386,153	418,157	386,153
OS HELP (net)	1,225	902	1,225	902
Superannuation Supplementation	3,117	2,861	3,117	2,861
State Government Grants	17,349	15,280	17,349	15,280
Local Government Grants received	56	74	56	74
HECS HELP Student payments	7,728	7,597	7,728	7,597
Receipts from student fees and other customers	309,540	240,834	300,778	234,187
Dividends received	1,777	1,777	1,777	1,777
Interest received	14,085	13,031	14,085	13,031
Other investment income	2,470	2,699	2,470	2,699
GST recovered/paid	15,602	12,613	15,602	12,613
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(653,547)	(603,251)	(647,043)	(598,373)
Interest and other costs of finance	(3,670)	(244)	(3,670)	(244)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	133,889	80,326	131,631	78,557

Cash flows from investing activities				
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long term assets	1,096	46	1,096	36
Proceeds from sale of investment	12,337	17,744	12,337	17,744
Other investing outflows	(405)	171	(407)	(188)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long term assets	(97,842)	(211,902)	(97,187)	(211,607)
Payments for financial assets	(3,757)	(55,529)	(3,757)	(55,529)
Loans to related parties	-	(3,271)	-	(3,271)
Repayments of loans by related parties	-	45	172	45
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(88,571)	(252,696)	(87,746)	(252,770)

Cash flows from financing activities				
Proceeds from borrowings	10,422	128,773	10,422	128,773
Repayment of lease liabilities	(1,568)	(2,686)	(1,568)	(2,686)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	8,854	126,087	8,854	126,087
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	54,172	(46,283)	52,739	(48,126)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	180,497	226,780	175,507	223,633
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	234,669	180,497	228,246	175,507
Financing arrangements				
Non cash financing and investing activities				

Independant Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



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Audit Office of South Australia

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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 2024.

In my opinion the accompanying consolidated financial report has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and Australian Accounting Standards, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the financial position of Flinders University and its controlled entities as at 31 December 2024, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- 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 2024
- a Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2024
- a Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024
- a Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 December 2024
- a Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2024
- 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 consolidated 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 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 consolidated 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 2024.

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.

Independant 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
- plan and perform the group audit to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business units within the group as a basis for forming an opinion on the group financial report. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and review of the audit work performed for the purposes of the group audit. 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 and Council 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 2025

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