

IMPACT *of giving*

Thank you for supporting
education and research
at Flinders University



Vanshika Sinh received the Lesley Shorne Memorial Scholarship in 2020 – ten years after the passing of highly regarded women's advocate Dr Lesley Shorne, see page 15.



Flinders
UNIVERSITY



Poche
SA+NT

Celebrating 10 years of support from Kay and Greg Poche AO

The Poche SA+NT centre was established at Flinders University through a generous philanthropic initiative to build a healthy country, healthy communities and health leaders throughout Australia's central corridor, from Darwin and Alice Springs to Adelaide.

Thank you to Greg Poche AO, with support from his wife Kay and great friend Reg Richardson AM, for sharing the University's vision of equity in our community.

flinders.edu.au/poche

Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University was established on the lands of the Kaurna Nation, with the first University campus at Bedford Park, South Australia. Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians, both past and present, of the various locations the University operates on, and recognises their continued relationship and responsibility to these lands and waters.

Impact through education & research



In a year where we all felt the immense pressure of a global pandemic, many of you recognised the impact of the work we do at Flinders University and felt the need to give generously.

Your contributions allowed the University to undertake a wide range of activities that have supported our students and our research. We could not have done this without your generous support.

It was extraordinary to witness the scale of support we were able to provide through the Matthew Flinders Scholarship for students who suddenly found themselves in terrible need during COVID-19 restrictions. The generosity, warmth and encouragement from the Flinders University community enabled scholarship recipients to focus on their studies by alleviating their financial stress, and I know we will continue to see the positive effects of this for years to come.

We also saw incredible community support in response to the bushfires across South Australia. These contributions have allowed specialised researchers at Flinders University to be at the forefront of major regeneration projects.

Through major gifts and bequests, our world-class medical researchers are now exploring the link between stress and cancer, along with critical research into asbestos-related disease, with the goal of developing new treatments and support to improve patient outcomes.

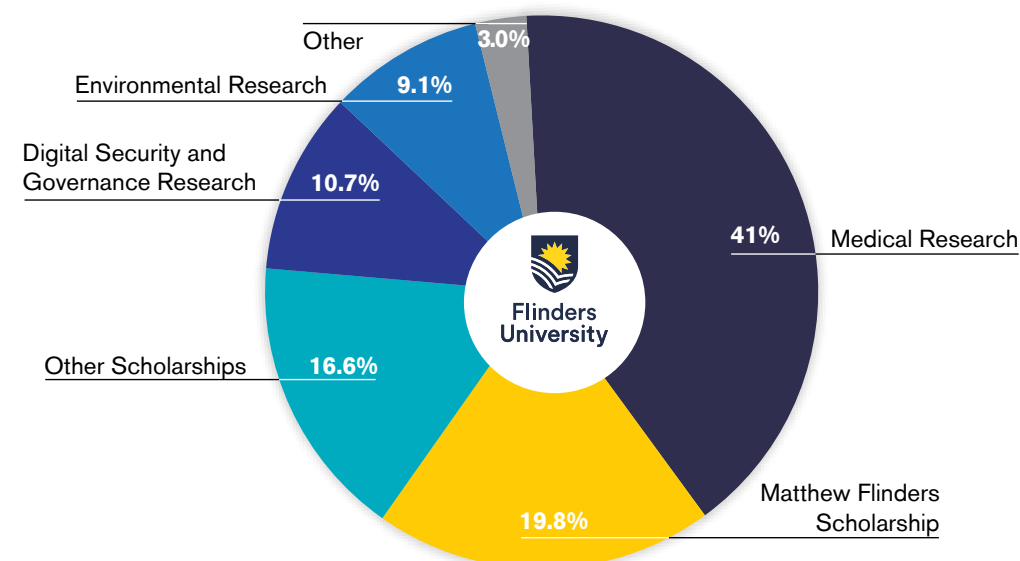
Our Andrew Thyne Reid Scholarships are helping to attract exceptional teachers and healthcare workers to rural and regional locations across Australia. In 2020 these teaching scholarships were extended to also support social work, midwifery and nursing students to take up rural and regional practical placements.

In addition to financial support, we also have a strong community of volunteers who contribute a huge amount to research at the University. Their time is invaluable as are the programs they support, which provide significant benefits to the environment and the wider community, such as the Granite Island Little Penguin regeneration program.

Thank you for being a part of our continuing journey – your generous support has enabled Flinders University to make an even greater impact through education and research.

Professor Colin J Stirling
President and Vice-Chancellor

WHAT YOU SUPPORTED IN 2020





'The support offered from the University community is incredible. Just knowing that everyone has created a strong support network for those that are struggling is comforting.'

Courtney McCallum-Boswell
Bachelor of Speech Pathology



'Thank you so much! To receive a scholarship was amazing and I honestly do not know what I would do financially without it.'

Sam Lancaster
Master of Physiotherapy



'The Matthew Flinders Scholarship allowed me to calm down and take a deep breath. I felt that I was not alone and that there was support.'

Bulat Ishmukhametov
Master of Social Work



'I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the donors who are very kind-hearted when willing to support those who are suffering from financial hardship because of the pandemic. I wish you all the best things in life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.'

Le Tran Chau
Master of Social Work

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Matthew Flinders SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDES HOPE FOR STUDENTS

After a troubling year disrupted by COVID-19, Olivia Jansen is now ready for a new year of study at Flinders University, thanks to support from the Matthew Flinders Scholarship.

In 2020 the Matthew Flinders Scholarship, which provided students in need with \$2,000 to help alleviate financial troubles, proved crucial for Olivia as she tried to stay on top of her ongoing health issues and focus on her studies.

Living with type 1 diabetes and celiac disease has made Olivia highly conscious of health issues and good diet – fundamental reasons for her studying a Bachelor of Human Nutrition at Flinders. But losing her casual hospitality job due to COVID-19 restrictions and not being eligible for Centrelink payments left her struggling to pay for her required weekly medical supplies.

'I started to get anxious about maintaining my health, and that got me sucked into a growing spiral of worry, which began to affect my studies,' she says.

'Getting the Matthew Flinders Scholarship changed everything.'

Alleviating her financial stress helped put Olivia's mind back on her studies, enabling her to complete her first year Human Nutrition subjects.

The Matthew Flinders Scholarship was established with contributions from President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Colin Stirling and from each member of the senior executive team – underpinning the University's core ethos of being student centred.

The new scholarship was designed to enable students to navigate difficult times, to ensure they could complete their university studies.

'Flinders University has always been a champion of social justice. If this means anything, it is that those with the ability to succeed through education should be given the opportunity to do so,' says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stirling.

Awareness of the number of students facing hardship gained momentum and a ground-swell of support for the Matthew Flinders Scholarship came from across the University community, including many alumni, staff and friends.

So far, the scholarship has supported more than 1,900 domestic and international students at Flinders who were struggling to pay for food, rent and bills.



The generosity of support has also shown the students that the Flinders community cares about them and their wellbeing – a comfort that has created a renewed motivation for students to focus on their studies and achieve their best.

'I have been amazed that Flinders has provided such fantastic support to students,' says Olivia. 'It has made a world of difference to me and it's been great to feel the support of the whole community at Flinders.'

Impact seed funding

RETHINKING HOW WE TREAT INFLAMMATION

Rethinking how we treat inflammation of the respiratory system has given early career researcher and Flinders University graduate Dr James McEvoy-May an idea that may help reduce the severity of lung injury – an innovation likely to become increasingly important in the era of COVID-19.

Dr McEvoy-May (BMedSc '13, BSc(Hons) '15, PhD(Med) '20), from the Flinders Medical and Health Research Institute (FMHRI), has been considering how to reduce excess inflammation present during lung disease. While necessary as part of the healing process, inflammation in excess or appearing too quickly can turn a sophisticated defence mechanism into a powerful damage-causing threat.

Understanding how to manage and reduce inflammation at the right time is critical in reducing, and not worsening, disease severity.

With support from Flinders University's Impact Seed Funding for Early Career Researchers, Dr McEvoy-May is assessing whether a low-to-moderate dose of ionising radiation, typically used during diagnostic X-rays or CT scans, could be a potential therapeutic tool for clinicians to use in their arsenal against inflammation – particularly for respiratory inflammation such as pneumonia or coronavirus disease.

'The immunomodulatory properties of ionising radiation have been well demonstrated in chronic inflammatory diseases. Now comes the time to assess its possibility in acute situations,' says Dr McEvoy-May.

'Something society believes is scary and dangerous might actually, in low doses, provide a universal benefit without the risk of detrimental drug interaction or potential therapeutic allergic reaction.'

The \$10,000 seed funding grant will allow Dr McEvoy-May to establish a working model and pilot study that could lead to a fresh solution for addressing respiratory disease.

Now in its third year, the Impact Seed Funding program provides an opportunity for early career researchers at Flinders to facilitate their own research, develop their leadership capabilities, and build their reputation both as a supervisor and a researcher.

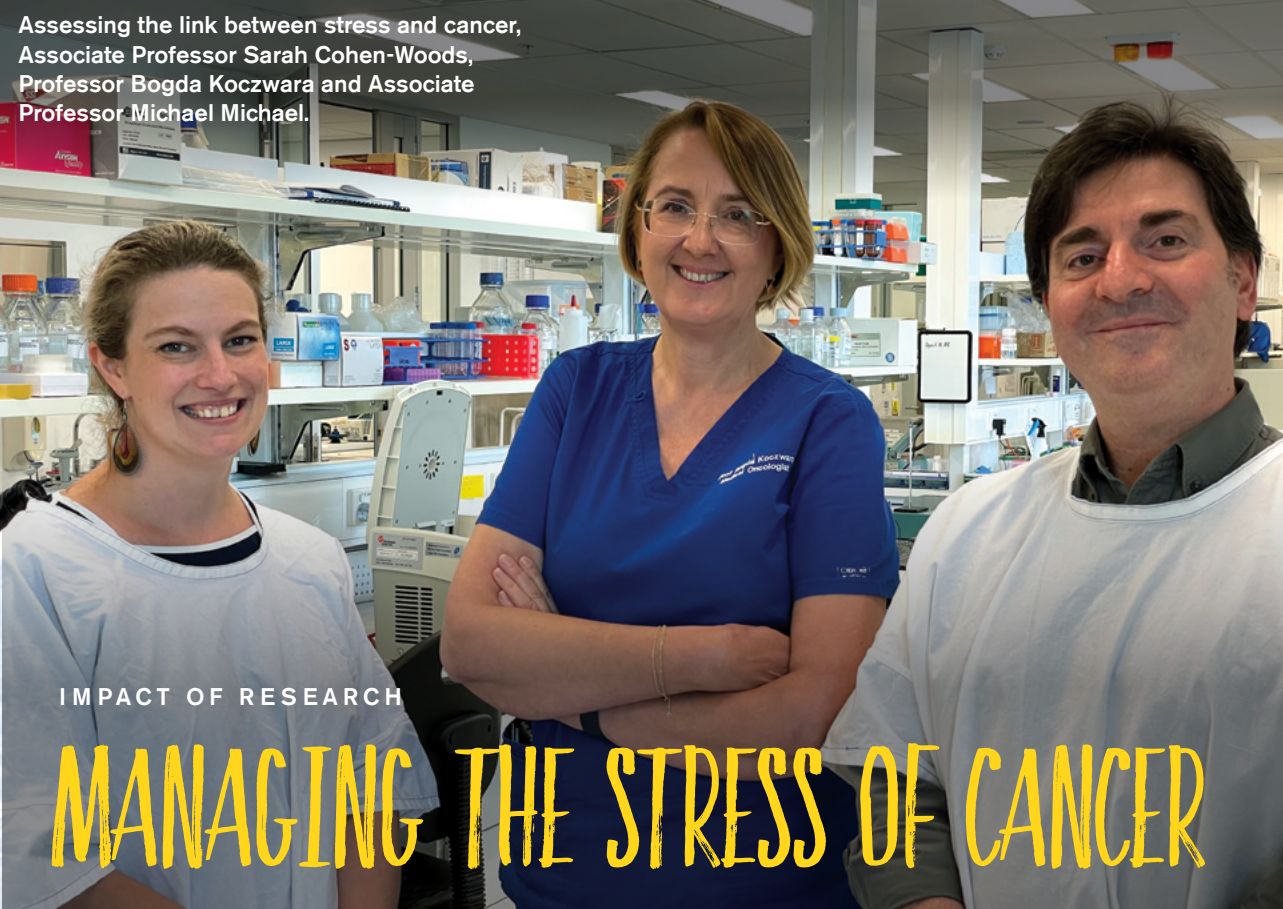


Early career researcher Dr James McEvoy-May aims to ight excess inflammation with ionising radiation.

'Receiving the Impact Seed Funding is a wonderful beginning to my research career,' says Dr McEvoy-May.

'Having recently completed my PhD, it's an extremely valuable stepping stone, especially in such a competitive industry. It will enable the work necessary to capture larger funding sources and launch my work into the scientific community.'

Nurtured through Flinders University's Impact Seed Funding program, the research of nearly 30 innovative early career researchers is tackling global challenges and making an important contribution to our community.



Assessing the link between stress and cancer, Associate Professor Sarah Cohen-Woods, Professor Bogda Koczwara and Associate Professor Michael Michael.

IMPACT OF RESEARCH

MANAGING THE STRESS OF CANCER

Could stress cause cancer? A generous donation from a cancer sufferer is enabling Flinders University researchers to explore this important query.

84-year-old Beryl from the northern suburbs of Adelaide experienced an incredibly stressful time early in 2020 when her partner James fell ill with pneumonia.

Beryl felt worn down by the role of carer and became sick herself. She then discovered she had developed a rare type of breast cancer, encapsulated papillary carcinoma, which had spread outside the duct.

'I wondered if the impact of the incredible stress I was under had in fact caused the cancer – but no one could provide me with an answer,' says Beryl.

She then approached Flinders University with funding to establish a research study to investigate the possible link between stress and cancer.

The new study is looking at different ways of measuring stress and the stress response in women receiving treatment for breast cancer, including analysing levels of the stress hormone cortisol in patients during chemotherapy.

The project brings together a multidisciplinary team at the University including oncologist and cancer survivorship researcher Professor Bogda Koczwara (BMBS '90), psychology researcher Associate Professor Sarah Cohen-Woods, molecular biologist Associate Professor Michael Michael, and endocrinologist Associate Professor Morton Burt.

Focusing on women receiving treatment for breast cancer, they hope to facilitate earlier detection and intervention.

'Our study will provide information on the feasibility of measuring cortisol in patients with cancer, using their hair samples to assess variation in results and change following chemo administration,' says Professor Koczwara.

To undertake the specialised measurements, the pilot study will collaborate with a research laboratory in Dresden, Germany.

Supported by a donation from Beryl, the new research aligns with the Flinders University Cancer Survivorship Group priorities for research into breast cancer survivorship, and the commitment to support research into wellness as part of the Flinders Wellness Centre at the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer.

It is pleasing to report that Beryl has had her cancer removed, followed by radiation treatment, and is now in recovery. Her partner James has recovered from pneumonia and is also doing well.



'I am truly overwhelmed by the support the Mavis Brown Scholarship has provided to me,' says Engineering student Angello De Ionno.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION

Mavis Brown Scholarship

Mavis Haydon was an inspiring 1930s maverick whose love for education now provides a pathway for outstanding Flinders University students to excel, thanks to a scholarship named in her honour.

Having run away from home at 17, hitchhiking across Australia and travelling the world, Mavis Haydon (nee Brown) boldly shunned the conventional path for young women of the 1930s. However, she always regretted not having an opportunity to study at university and was acutely aware of the limited educational opportunities available to many of her generation.

'She always valued education, but she was never given the opportunity,' says Mavis' niece, Trudyanne Brown. 'It never even crossed her parents' minds that she would have wanted to go to university.'

Now, with a tightening economy, the opportunity to attend university is beyond the financial means of many talented young people.

Mavis, who lived in Adelaide until her death in July 2015, aged 92, was determined to address this inequity and instructed her estate to set up the \$4 million Mavis Brown Charitable Trust to support students facing financial difficulties.

Launched in 2020, the Mavis Brown Scholarship currently supports three students at Flinders University with an annual scholarship of \$5,000 for up to six years. With as much as \$30,000 of support across their degree, this marks the largest scholarship available at the University.

The three inaugural scholarship recipients had each achieved notable academic performance, but were struggling to make ends meet.

Angello De Ionno, who was dux of Murray Bridge High School, is pursuing the challenging double task of studying Honours for a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) and a Master of Engineering (Biomedical).

'Inspired by my father's practicality and ability to solve problems one at a time without falter, I discovered engineering,' says Angello.

'Through two specialisations I decided to combine a broad knowledge of this fascinating subject with the niche field of biomedical engineering.'

Beyond the challenges of intensive study, Angello commuted daily from his parents' home in Mannum for his study commitments – a taxing regime that left him fatigued and worried about his study plans.

'I spent nearly three hours each day driving to the campus. It was very draining, and it even left me questioning whether it was worth doing the extra work to continue my high standard of achievement and success.'

Financial support provided by the Mavis Brown Scholarship has enabled Angello to rent accommodation closer to Flinders, so that he can spend more time on his studies instead of travel.

'The scholarship has bolstered my confidence and self-belief. I had been questioning my choices and whether I had the ability to finish my double degree, however receiving this scholarship extinguished those negative thoughts. I am truly overwhelmed by the support the Mavis Brown Scholarship has provided to me and other students who are struggling.'

A Mavis Brown Scholarship has also been awarded to law student Allison Mason, who has a passion for social justice issues. Having grown up in Waikerie, Allison is now studying a Bachelor of Law and Legal Studies, and a Bachelor of International Relations and Political Science at Flinders University. She hopes to be able to make a real change on the global stage.

Allison had difficulty focusing on study due to struggles with physical health issues, which have also impacted her part-time work possibilities. She says the scholarship has relieved a large amount of her financial pressures and anxiety.

'The Mavis Brown Scholarship has given me the gift of choice. I no longer have to choose work over university, nor work over my health,' says Allison. 'It is an incredible gift that will impact my life – not just for the next four years, but for my entire life.'



The adventures of Mavis Haydon.

Volunteers rescue Little Penguin research program

Scientific research by community members, or citizen scientists, and Flinders University student volunteers is providing a solution to a threatened species research program on Granite Island in South Australia.

The population of wild Little Penguins on Granite Island has been the subject of intensive study by Flinders University researchers since 2012, but the research was under threat after recent disruptions to the nightly monitoring of the penguins.

Compiling data about the penguins had been conducted by guides hosting nightly tours of Granite Island for the public – but the combination of COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, and attacks by foxes that almost halved the Little Penguin population to only 16 animals, put a stop to the tours.

In October 2020, several Flinders University students living in the Victor Harbor area answered the call to join a nightly volunteer roster – including Lucinda Gray, Maddie Turley and Nicole Fickling. The students were joined by an enthusiastic collection of local citizen scientists to monitor the penguins each night – putting the research program back on track.

Dr Diane Colombelli-Négrel (PhD(Biol) '09), Flinders University Lecturer in Animal Behaviour and South Australia's only Penguin Ecologist, is thrilled by the volunteers' enthusiasm.

She has trained them to record specific information about the behaviour of the Little Penguins – including their feeding, moulting and mating cycles – and most importantly to not disturb the birds, especially by not exposing them to white torch light.

'It's an important two-way information process. Not only do we assess the behaviour of individual Little Penguins, but the program also has an influence on human behaviour,' says Dr Colombelli-Négrel. 'Through studying the effects of human disturbance on Little Penguins, we can help prevent any further shrinkage of their population.'

The annual public census of the Little Penguins on Granite Island attracted the largest group of volunteers, with 65 helpers – including Flinders students – spending a day to count and locate active burrows all around the island.

What they found is encouraging, noting that the remaining adult Little Penguins on the island are breeding.

'Our work is making a difference,' says Dr Colombelli-Négrel, 'and it shows the input of citizen scientists working at its best.'

Little Penguin census group on Granite Island in 2020.



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Access to Flinders University ART MUSEUM'S TREASURE TROVE

A love of art has inspired Flinders University graduate Tony Preston to leave a bequest in his Will to the Flinders University Museum of Art.

Tony Preston (BA '71, DipEd '75) has spent his professional and personal life intrinsically involved in art. At Flinders University he studied a Bachelor of Arts followed by a Diploma of Education, before becoming education officer at the Art Gallery of South Australia, then chief education officer at the National Gallery of Victoria.

In 1995 he was appointed director of the Robert McDougall Art Gallery in Christchurch, New Zealand, with the added responsibility and opportunity of establishing the Christchurch Art Gallery.

In 2003 Tony became founding director of the award-winning public art museum, before returning to Melbourne five years later to join one of Australia's leading fine art auction houses, Deutscher and Hackett, in the roles of corporate collections development and senior art specialist.

Now retired, Tony wants to ensure that his lifelong involvement of celebrating and supporting art can endure through his bequest to the Flinders University Museum of Art (FUMA).

'I remember my Flinders University years with great pleasure. There was a sense that anything was possible – we had both the freedom to pursue our dreams and the opportunity to attain our goals,' says Tony.

'The result of this unique educational experience was my good fortune to have a remarkably rewarding life involved with art and, in appreciation, I now want to provide help in a practical way.'

The FUMA collection is unique in Australia for bringing together four major collection areas: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art; European prints; Post-object and documentation art; and Australian political prints and posters.

It's a treasure trove of more than 8,000 works that Tony wants to see developed and utilised to its maximum potential.

'I greatly admire what director Fiona Salmon and the FUMA team do. I'm very impressed by their programs, but to continue this work they need support – and it gives me real pleasure to be providing that through my bequest.'

With his decision to plan for the future through a bequest, Tony joins a league of supporters who believe in the power of education to transform lives, and that the best educational resources should be accessible to students from all backgrounds and means.

The Art Museum provides an essential resource for Indigenous studies across a range of subjects at the University. The collections also support topics in Media Studies, Visual Art, Drama and Social Work, as well as a powerful Object-based Learning program in Medicine.

In the past year the digitisation of cultural collections, virtual exhibitions and web-based public programs has enabled greater access to one of the largest university art collections in Australia.

Tony's bequest will help to ensure FUMA's success as an essential resource – both digital and in-person - for students, researchers and the community well into the future.



Tony Preston represented by Archibald Prize winner Yvette Coppersmith.

Yvette Coppersmith, *Anthony Preston*, oil on linen, 40.5cm x 30cm, 2014

A legacy of support for women's health DR LESLEY SHORNE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

2020 marked ten years since the passing of highly regarded women's advocate Dr Lesley Shorne, but her legacy continues through the Dr Lesley Shorne Memorial Scholarship.

For more than 25 years, health professional and proponent of social justice, Dr Lesley Shorne (BA '81, BMBS '84) worked tirelessly to support advancements in women's health. A leading forensic examiner and pioneer of cervical screening, Dr Shorne achieved significant improvements for women in medical and legal processes relating to sexual assault.

In 2010, when Dr Shorne passed away at just 53 years of age, her family chose to create a scholarship at Flinders University to continue her important work in women's health and advocacy.

The Dr Lesley Shorne Memorial Scholarship assists female, mature-entry Doctor of Medicine students with costs associated with their degree and supports their study / life balance. Since 2012 the scholarship has assisted nine female mature age entry students – five are now graduate doctors.

The 2020 Dr Lesley Shorne Memorial Scholarship was awarded to second-year Doctor of Medicine student, Vanshika Sinh.

'Advocating for the rights of people within minority communities, particularly women, is something I am very passionate about and is the reason I applied for medical school,' says Vanshika.

'Receiving the scholarship has taken some of the pressure off having to work while studying and has allowed me to instead to dedicate time to learning about the inequality of the health care system for certain groups in society.'

Proud to support her sister's legacy, Dorothy Shorne says, 'It is heartening to see the dedication to women's health, social justice and equity that the scholarship recipients demonstrate, initially in their placements and later as qualified medical practitioners.

'The scholarship benefits not only the recipients, but ultimately the patients with whom they work.'



Dr Lesley Shorne 1957 to 2010

Community partnerships such as the Dr Lesley Shorne Memorial Scholarship foster the University's commitment to social justice and are fundamental in preparing future doctors to value equity and integrity in their practice.

We are deep-diving, discovering, innovating and inventing.

Research is a fundamental cornerstone of our mission as a university. Through research and research-led teaching, we build and develop the knowledge and capabilities that improve lives and enhance our society.

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90% of our research is rated
world-standard or above

Flinders rating 89.7%, rounded up to 90%.
Excellence in research for Australia 2018.

Flinders.edu.au/research

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