

Agenda 2035

Impact. With Purpose.





Sowing the Seeds

Artwork by Elizabeth Yanyi Close, an Anangu woman from the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Language Groups, whose family links are to the communities of Pukutja and Amata in the APY Lands.



Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands on which our campuses are located across South Australia and the Northern Territory. These lands are home to the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kaurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumumgu, Wardaman, and Yolngu peoples.

We honour the enduring connection of these Nations to Country, culture, and community, and pay our respects to Elders past and present, whose wisdom continues to guide us.

We extend our deepest thanks to Kaurna Elder Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien, Arrernte Elder Auntie Pat Miller AO, and Larrakia Elder Uncle Richie Fejo for their generosity in sharing cultural knowledge and insight. We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Indigenous Elders, staff, and students whose voices and leadership have shaped our strategy and strengthened our shared journey toward reconciliation.

We walk together with Indigenous peoples, learning from the world's oldest continuing cultures as we create new futures.

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Vice-Chancellor's Introduction



Flinders University's purpose is to change lives and change the world, and this is translated into action by serving both the best interests of our students and the needs of our community.

Our namesake, Captain Matthew Flinders, was a man determined to make an impact through his action. He was a fearless navigator whose courage and curiosity led him to the first circumnavigation of the continent he would name Australia.

Today we are driven by the same ambitious spirit.

Over the past decade, our Making a Difference strategy has provided not just a framework for delivering on that ambition, but a roadmap that has extended our capacity and capabilities to reach more people and deepen our impact.

This new strategic plan builds on those excellent foundations, looking towards 2035 with an increased focus on the nature and scale of the positive change we create through the life-changing power of the education we provide, and the reach and relevance of the research that we do.

This is Impact. With Purpose.

But while our new strategic plan is an evolution of the last, it is important to recognise that the world around us is changing and that we must continue to rise to meet the challenges facing society.

Rising to a challenge is nothing new for Flinders. During our first 60 years, we've navigated revolutionary changes in social and cultural norms, and have responded to transformative economic, environmental and technological developments.

Through it all, we've continued to deliver for our students and community, innovating in learning and research to prepare graduates for the changing world they help create.

Yet, while the way we deliver impact must continually evolve, our purpose remains the same: to change lives for the better and make the world a better place for all.

We do this by opening minds, creating opportunities, solving problems and shaping a better future for society.

The impact we have on individuals and across society should never be underestimated.

Our students experience personal transformation through their learning, by developing knowledge and skills, building confidence and resilience, and forming relationships and networks that last a lifetime.

These life-changing impacts are all the more profound when combined with our commitment to social mobility and equity – opening the doors of opportunity for first-in-family and equity students in ways that transform not just their own lives, but entire families and communities.

Our graduates go on to create waves of positive impacts as health professionals, engineers, scientists, artists, educators, policymakers, lawyers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, or in countless other areas.

Our society is enriched by the civic engagement and cultural leadership of the University, and even more so by the lifelong contributions of our graduates.

At the same time, our research and discovery help solve global challenges and deliver everyday impact through critical breakthroughs in health, creativity, technology and sustainability.

Experience tells us that we are stronger together. Through trusted partnerships and collaboration, we expand what's possible and achieve more than any of us could alone.

This spirit of shared progress is reflected in the words of Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien, who reminds us of the Kaurna phrase Naarlu kumangka, meaning "**we'll do it now, together.**" And that's exactly what we'll do.

In our first 60 years, Flinders University has been a positive force that has changed the lives of millions of individuals.

Our ambition is to change ten million more in the decade ahead.

Professor Colin Stirling
President and Vice-Chancellor

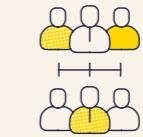
From Insight to Impact



1,500+
students, staff, alumni and partners participated



50,000
words of ideas and aspirations collected



25+
workshops and events



Workshops held at Bedford Park, Adelaide, Darwin and Tonsley



60 Years in the Making

<p>1966 Flinders University opens with 90 staff and 400 students.</p> 	<p>1975 South Australia's first tertiary Nursing programs established.</p>	<p>1990 Yunggorendi First Nations Centre established.</p> 	<p>1995 International Relations program commenced.</p>	<p>1997 Australia's first Bachelor of Midwifery introduced.</p>	<p>2000 Washington internship program established.</p> 	<p>2009 South Australia's first Optometry program launched.</p>	<p>2021 100% renewable energy for electricity achieved.</p>	<p>2024 Health and Medical Research Building opens at Bedford Park.</p>	<p>2025 South Australian Rural Medical program launched.</p>  
<p>1970 University Hall opens – South Australia's first on-campus student accommodation.</p>	<p>1975 South Australia's first Speech Pathology course introduced.</p>	<p>1991 Sturt campus joins Flinders.</p>	<p>1998 South Australia's first and only Paramedicine program launched.</p>	<p>2004 Offshore Education program launched in Beijing with Capital Normal University.</p>	<p>2010 Two Poche Centres for Indigenous Health established in Alice Springs and Adelaide.</p>	<p>2015 Tonsley Innovation Campus opens.</p>	<p>2022 Centre for Social Impact launched.</p>	<p>2024 Flinders City Campus opens at Festival Plaza.</p>	<p>2025 Flinders awarded fifth Athena Swan Cygnet Award for promoting gender equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace.</p>
									
<p>1971 Flinders' first Indigenous graduate – John Moriarty AM.</p>	<p>1976 Flinders Medical Centre opens – Australia's first integrated university hospital.</p>	<p>1992 Flinders Law School opens with 60 students.</p>	<p>1999 Flinders Drama Centre opens.</p>	<p>2006 Mathematics alumnus Professor Terence Tao awarded the Fields Medal.</p>	<p>2012 Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer opens.</p>	<p>2018 Jeff Bleich Centre for Democracy and Disruptive Technologies established.</p>	<p>2024 World-first GOLD rating in STARS 3.0 for comprehensive sustainability efforts.</p>	<p>2025 Flinders ranks #2 globally for Reduced Inequalities, #5 for Gender Equality, and #10 for Climate Action.</p>	<p>2025 Flinders HealthCARE Centre announced to deliver 10,000 additional health appointments to the community and 1,300 extra health graduates per year.</p>
<p>1973 Women's Studies introduced – among Australia's first.</p>	<p>1976 Flinders University Museum of Art established.</p>	<p>1995 Northern Territory Clinical School established.</p>	<p>1999 Centre for Remote Health opens in Alice Springs.</p>	<p>2007 Flinders Business School established.</p>	<p>2013 New Venture Institute founded – supporting 150+ startups.</p>	<p>2020 Flinders train line opens, connecting Bedford Park campus to the city.</p>	<p>2024 Australia's only university named in world's top 50 creative media and entertainment arts schools.</p>	<p>2025 Australia's first menopause-friendly university.</p>	<p>2025 Flinders HealthCARE Centre announced to deliver 10,000 additional health appointments to the community and 1,300 extra health graduates per year.</p>
<p>1990 Engineering discipline launched.</p>	<p>2000 Nankai University partnership begins – Australia's largest in China.</p>	<p>2008 Medical Device Partnering Program launched.</p>	<p>2015 Flinders ranks among the top 2% of universities globally.</p>	<p>2020 First Indigenous Advisory Council and Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan delivered.</p>	<p>2024 Rural Allied Health degrees launched.</p>	<p>2025 Named global top performer for Energy and Climate.</p>	<p>2026 Australia's first Factory of the Future expands into a purpose built facility.</p>	<p>2026 Australia's first Factory of the Future expands into a purpose built facility.</p>	

Purpose and Vision

Purpose

**Changing lives
and changing
the world**

Vision

**To change
10 million lives
for the better
by 2035**



Values

Our **Values** anchor who we are and how we act. Integrity, Courage, Innovation and Excellence shape the standards we set for ourselves, and form the enduring foundation for our collective purpose and ambition for the decade ahead.



Integrity

We do what's right, even when it's hard. We act with respect, fairness and accountability, creating a community built on trust and care.



Courage

We back ourselves and each other. We take smart risks, learn from experience and face challenges with honesty and resolve.



Innovation

We imagine better ways and make them happen. Collaboration and curiosity drive us to create solutions that have real impact.



Excellence

We aim high and keep improving. We take pride in our achievements, nurture leadership in others and deliver quality in everything we do.

Strategic Drivers

Our 2035 strategic plan describes how Flinders University will turn ambition into action as we work towards changing 10 million lives for the better by 2035.

At its heart are three **Strategic Drivers** that will shape everything we do and enable meaningful, measurable impact.



Students first

We put students at the heart of everything we do. Our flexible, future-focused education is purposefully designed to empower students and accelerate careers.

Our courses are co-designed with industry partners to ensure that our graduates are future-ready, with the skills and attributes that society needs.

Anchored in a deep student-centred ethos, we achieve this within a diverse and supportive environment that sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and enables every student to succeed.



The university for industry and enterprise

We build close partnerships with business, industry, and the professions to deliver shared value and meaningful impact.

Our approach drives innovation and enterprise by providing students with hands-on professional experience, delivering capability and workforce benefits for our partners, and by translating research expertise into practical solutions.

Through partnerships, we prepare our graduates for career success and position the University as a hub that delivers mutual benefit, where knowledge and industry combine to fuel progress and economic growth.



Research that matters

We value innovative research, focused in key areas of strength, tackling questions that matter and delivering solutions that work.

By pushing the boundaries of creativity, discovery, and invention, we advance knowledge for the benefit of society and the natural environment.

Through bold, collaborative research, we work across disciplinary boundaries to tackle complex problems and pioneer new frontiers.

By partnering with industry, government, and community, we translate research excellence into outcomes that deliver community value and drive sustainable economic growth.

Core Enablers

Supporting our **Strategic Drivers** are five **Core Enablers** that strengthen our capability and give our drivers momentum to create lasting benefit for the people and communities we exist to serve.



Vibrant culture

We cultivate a thriving community where ideas ignite and individuals flourish. A friendly, supportive, and inclusive culture – combined with an inspiring sense of place and shared connection to Country – brings out the very best in people. Our superpower is having the confident humility to listen, learn, and grow.



Here for good

We are committed to building a fairer, healthier world for generations to come. We champion equity, sustainability, and wellbeing in all that we do, and make responsible decisions that will serve the long-term needs of students, our community, and society at large.



Fast and flexible

Agile by design, we move quickly and with purpose, always ready to embrace change, rise to challenges, and seize opportunities. We aim to be first, but will settle for best.



Stronger together

We get more done by working together – with industry, community, and each other. We're proud to learn from Indigenous knowledge holders, who make our university stronger and our impact greater.



Ethical tech

We embrace advanced technologies and apply ethical data insights to enhance student learning, drive impactful research, and deliver operational excellence.

Delivering our Strategy

Through delivery of this strategy, we will realise outcomes that reflect our purpose and ambition, including:



Expanded access to high-quality education and learning experiences

that enable students from diverse backgrounds to succeed, contribute and lead in a changing world.



Research that delivers timely and ethical solutions to complex social, environmental and economic challenges,

generating tangible benefit for communities, industry and the nation.



Deep, trusted partnerships with industry, government, community and Indigenous partners

that translate knowledge into impact, shared prosperity and collective progress.



Inclusive and culturally safe environments that strengthen learning, collaboration and connection to Country,

enabling people to learn, work, contribute and thrive together.



Responsible, ethical and sustainable practices that protect the environment,

build public trust and support long-term wellbeing for current and future generations.



Our strategic plan sets a bold direction for Flinders University – to change 10 million lives for the better by 2035.

This ambition reflects our deep commitment to creating knowledge, opportunity, and innovation that improves lives, strengthens communities, and contributes to a fairer, more sustainable world.

As a public institution entrusted with public and stakeholder funding, we are accountable for delivering on our purpose.

We measure our success not by size or status, but by the real difference we make – through education that transforms lives, research that delivers solutions and solves problems, and partnerships that deliver enduring social and economic benefit.

Our three strategic drivers will guide our strategic decision-making and development of organisational strategy and business planning at Flinders University for the next decade.

Academic colleges and operational portfolios will develop their own aligned plans, ensuring that contributions from across the University collectively drive the outcomes set out in this strategy.

We will track progress through a focused set of measures that monitors our impact in line with the University's purpose, vision, strategic drivers and core enablers.

Senior leadership will undertake an annual performance and review cycle to assess progress and adjust priorities as required. Council will receive an annual overview of performance to ensure accountability for the impact we aim to achieve.

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