

# Agenda 2035

## Impact. With Purpose.



Flinders  
University

**FEARLESS**



**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, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, 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 Kurna 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 Kurna phrase Naarlukumangka, 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

**Impact. With Purpose. is the product of collective imagination and collaboration.**

Beginning in January 2024, we invited more than 1,500 students, staff, alumni and partners to help shape the future of our university. Together, we imagined the world we want to help build by 2035, and the unique contributions Flinders can make to get us there.

We listened with intent. We sought cultural guidance from our Elders on Campus: Kurna Elder Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O’Brien, Arrernte Elder Auntie Pat Miller AO, and Larrakia Elder Uncle Richie Fejo. We held workshops across our campuses in Bedford Park, Adelaide, Tonsley and Casuarina, and gathered more than 50,000 words of ideas and aspirations.

This collaborative approach reflects how we’ll deliver the strategy itself – openly, with purpose, and in partnership. It’s about working together to create impact where it matters most.

Even the structure of our strategy reflects the spirit in which it was created. The decision to centre our strategy around strategic drivers and core enablers came directly from the themes and insights shared through consultation.

Our **Strategic Drivers** set out *what* we will focus on. They will drive our decision-making and serve as the stars by which we navigate. The **Core Enablers** describe *how* we will deliver our vision, shaping a strong, resilient and agile organisation that responds to the needs of our students and community. Our **Values** are the immutable foundation that defines who we are and upon which our future success will be built.

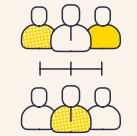
Together these will lead us towards our purpose and vision, to change 10 million lives for the better by 2035.



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



**50,000**  
words of ideas and aspirations collected







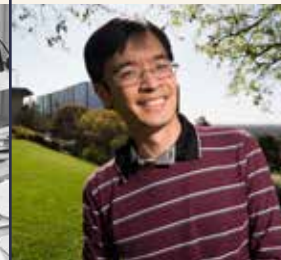






**25+**  
workshops and events



**Workshops held at Bedford Park, Adelaide, Darwin and Tonsley**



# 60 Years in the Making

<p><b>1966</b> Flinders University opens with 90 staff and 400 students.</p> <p><b>1970</b> University Hall opens – South Australia’s first on-campus student accommodation.</p>	<p><b>1975</b> South Australia’s first tertiary Nursing programs established.</p> <p><b>1975</b> South Australia’s first Speech Pathology course introduced.</p>	<p><b>1990</b> Yunggorendi First Nations Centre established.</p> <p><b>1991</b> Sturt campus joins Flinders.</p>	<p><b>1995</b> International Relations program commenced.</p> <p><b>1997</b> Australia’s first Bachelor of Midwifery introduced.</p> <p><b>1998</b> South Australia’s first and only Paramedicine program launched.</p>	<p><b>2000</b> Washington internship program established.</p> <p><b>2004</b> Offshore Education program launched in Beijing with Capital Normal University.</p>	<p><b>2009</b> South Australia’s first Optometry program launched.</p> <p><b>2010</b> Two Poche Centres for Indigenous Health established in Alice Springs and Adelaide.</p> <p><b>2011</b> Northern Territory Medical program introduced - with a strong Indigenous health focus.</p>	<p><b>2015</b> Tonsley Innovation Campus opens.</p> <p><b>2016</b> Student Hub and Plaza opens at Bedford Park.</p>	<p><b>2021</b> 100% renewable energy for electricity achieved.</p> <p><b>2022</b> Centre for Social Impact launched.</p> <p><b>2024</b> Flinders City Campus opens at Festival Plaza.</p>	<p><b>2024</b> Health and Medical Research Building opens at Bedford Park.</p> <p><b>2024</b> Australia’s first undergraduate Nuclear Engineering program commences.</p>	<p><b>2025</b> South Australian Rural Medical program launched.</p> <p><b>2025</b> Flinders awarded fifth Athena Swan Cygnet Award for promoting gender equity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace.</p>	
										
<p><b>1971</b> Flinders’ first Indigenous graduate – John Moriarty AM.</p> <p><b>1973</b> Women’s Studies introduced – among Australia’s first.</p>	<p><b>1976</b> Flinders Medical Centre opens – Australia’s first integrated university hospital.</p> <p><b>1976</b> Flinders University Museum of Art established.</p> <p><b>1990</b> Engineering discipline launched.</p>	<p><b>1992</b> Flinders Law School opens with 60 students.</p> <p><b>1995</b> Northern Territory Clinical School established.</p>	<p><b>1999</b> Flinders Drama Centre opens.</p> <p><b>1999</b> Centre for Remote Health opens in Alice Springs.</p> <p><b>2000</b> Nankai University partnership begins – Australia’s largest in China.</p>	<p><b>2006</b> Mathematics alumnus Professor Terence Tao awarded the Fields Medal.</p> <p><b>2007</b> Flinders Business School established.</p> <p><b>2008</b> Medical Device Partnering Program launched.</p>	<p><b>2012</b> Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer opens.</p> <p><b>2013</b> New Venture Institute founded – supporting 150+ startups.</p> <p><b>2015</b> Flinders ranks among the top 2% of universities globally.</p>	<p><b>2018</b> Jeff Bleich Centre for Democracy and Disruptive Technologies established.</p> <p><b>2020</b> Flinders train line opens, connecting Bedford Park campus to the city.</p> <p><b>2020</b> First Indigenous Advisory Council and Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan delivered.</p>	<p><b>2024</b> World-first GOLD rating in STARS 3.0 for comprehensive sustainability efforts.</p> <p><b>2024</b> Australia’s only university named in world’s top 50 creative media and entertainment arts schools.</p> <p><b>2024</b> Rural Allied Health degrees launched.</p>	<p><b>2025</b> Flinders ranks #2 globally for Reduced Inequalities, #5 for Gender Equality, and #10 for Climate Action.</p> <p><b>2025</b> Australia’s first menopause-friendly university.</p> <p><b>2025</b> Named global top performer for Energy and Climate.</p>	<p><b>2025</b> Flinders HealthCARE Centre announced to deliver 10,000 additional health appointments to the community and 1,300 extra health graduates per year.</p> <p><b>2026</b> 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.

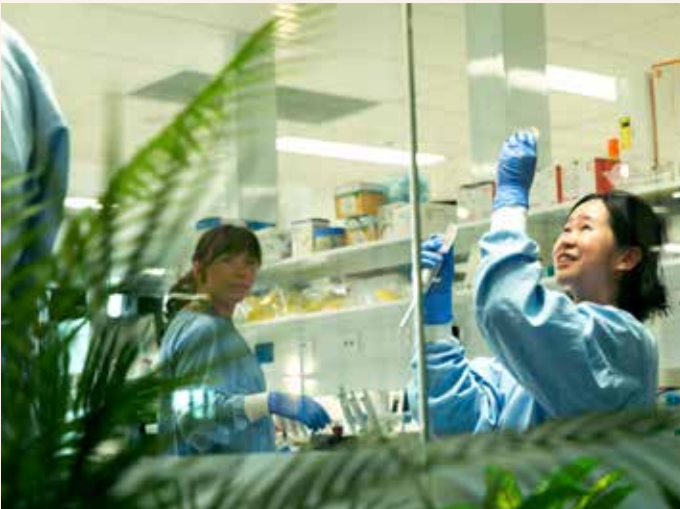


## The university for industry and enterprise

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

## 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.

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.





# Agenda 2035

## Impact. With Purpose.





