



SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 20 23

DELEGATE FEEDBACK REPORT

AN INITIATIVE OF



FOUNDATION PARTNERS



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Science and Resources**

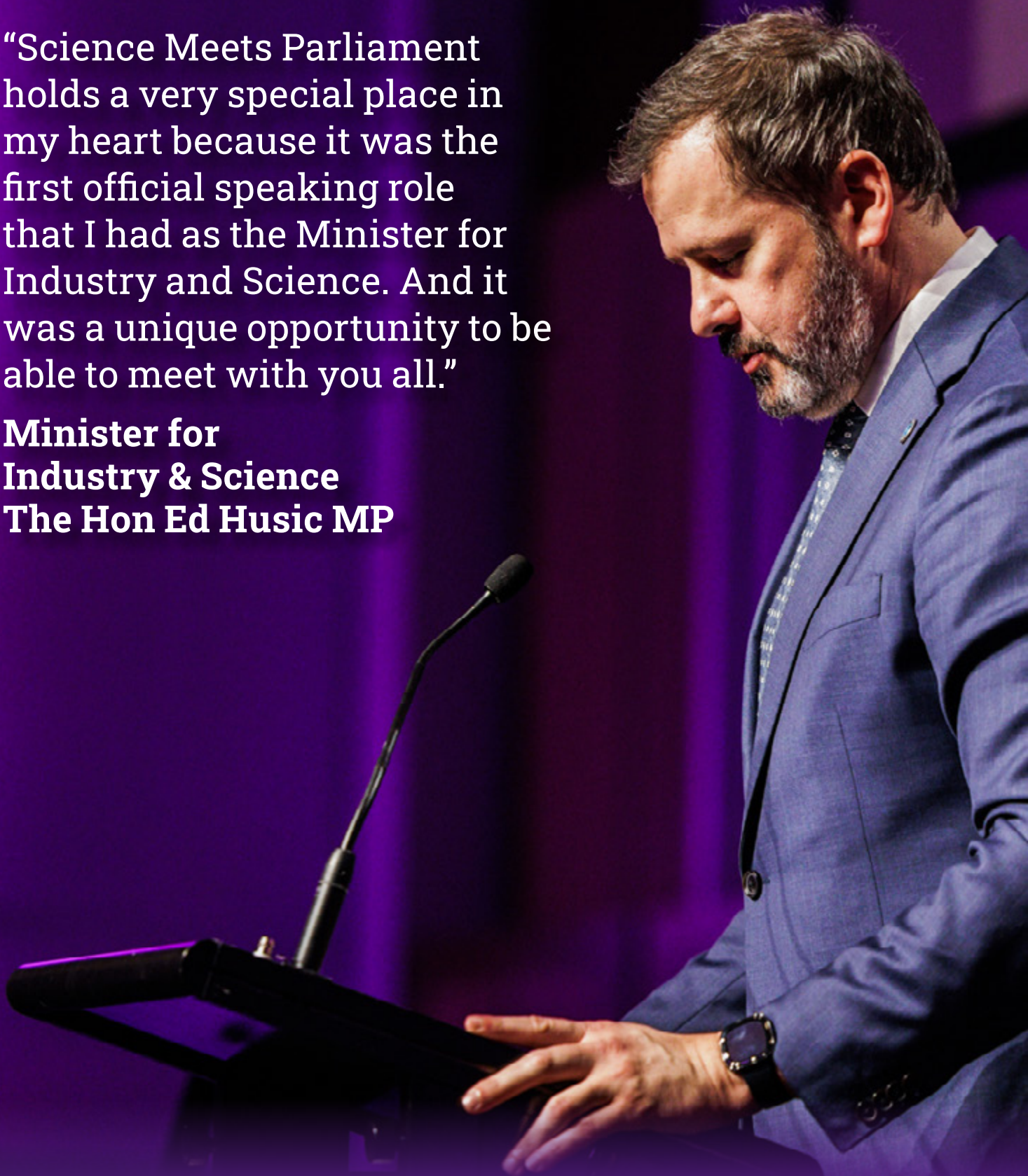


Australian Government
Office of the Chief Scientist

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2023

“Science Meets Parliament holds a very special place in my heart because it was the first official speaking role that I had as the Minister for Industry and Science. And it was a unique opportunity to be able to meet with you all.”

**Minister for
Industry & Science
The Hon Ed Husic MP**



FROM THE CEO

Science Meets Parliament is Australia's single largest vehicle for deep engagement between the worlds of science and technology and policymaking.

Created in 1999 by Science & Technology Australia, the success of this world-leading initiative is envied around the world.

In 2023, Science Meets Parliament was delivered in two parts. SMP ONLINE featured a three-day online program of quality professional development for more than 400 scientists and technologists.

The program deepened their skills in Parliamentary engagement, public policymaking, science and media communication, and bringing science expertise to the policy process.

Highlights of SMP ONLINE included keynote speakers Dr Kati Kariko - the woman whose research gave the world mRNA vaccine technologies - and UCLA Professor Terence Tao - the world's greatest living mathematician and the 2022 Global Australian of the Year.

The online program was followed by SMP ON THE HILL. Held in Australian Parliament House, the day was filled with high-impact speakers including Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley AO (who has attended every Science Meets Parliament over its 23 year history) and Nobel Laureate Professor Brian Schmidt AC (who attended the first SMP in 1999).

A record-breaking 40 per cent of the Parliament engaged with the event through meetings, briefings or dinner. Delegates met with MPs and Senators from across the Parliament to share scientific breakthroughs with Australia's Parliamentarians – and to forge connections to help policymakers tap into science expertise.

The National Press Club address was delivered by Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP.

In 2023, Science Meets Parliament received glowing reviews from delegates about the quality of the program, its diverse speaker list sharing deep expertise, and the strong skills they acquired from the training.

Science & Technology Australia's key leadership role in Australia's wider STEM sector is to lead the STEM sector's engagements with the Parliament and policymakers in Canberra. We represent the full breadth and diversity of Australia's STEM sector.

STA could not run Science Meets Parliament without the support of our superb event partners, the generous speakers who share expertise, the strong participation of our members, and our brilliant staff and volunteers who design and deliver this excellent event.

We thank each of you for your contributions to making Science Meets Parliament a shining success with enduring value to the nation.

Misha Schubert
Chief Executive Officer
Science & Technology Australia

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2023



“Science Meets Parliament would not be the success it is today without the longstanding strong foundation support of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

We are deeply grateful for the investment the Australian Government makes each year in upskilling Australia’s STEM community to forge ever-more powerful ties between the worlds of science, Parliament and policymaking to advance Australia’s interests.

**Misha Schubert
CEO
Science & Technology
Australia**

**SCIENCE
MEETS
PARLIAMENT**

SKILLS BOOSTED

97% of delegates would recommend SMP to a colleague.

91% of delegates said they would attend SMP again.

82% of delegates would be more likely to reach out to a Parliamentarian in the future.

84% of delegates acquired career-accelerating skills.

70% of delegates said their communication skills have improved.

77% of delegates feel they can now contribute more to Australian science.

75% of delegates say they have a positive outlook for a career in science.

RATING

The average rating for SMP ONLINE was 7.5/10

The average rating for SMP ON THE HILL was 9/10

The overall average rating for SMP was 8/10

PARLIAMENTARIAN ENGAGEMENT

87 Parliamentarians and advisors met with Australia's scientists and technologists.

95 Parliamentarians participated in SMP between meetings, speaking roles and attending the Gala Dinner.

More than **40%** of the Australian Parliament were involved in Science Meets Parliament 2023.

SMP ONLINE

2209 portal views

22 sessions over 3 days

DELEGATE OVERVIEW

SMP ONLINE

55.3% of delegates identified as female.

26.8% of delegates identified as male.

17.9% of delegates did not disclose their gender.

15.1% of delegates had attended SMP in previous years.

SMP ON THE HILL

62.1% of delegates identified as female.

29.3% of delegates identified as male.

8.6% of delegates did not disclose their gender.

19.7% of delegates had attended SMP in previous years.

SMP OVERALL

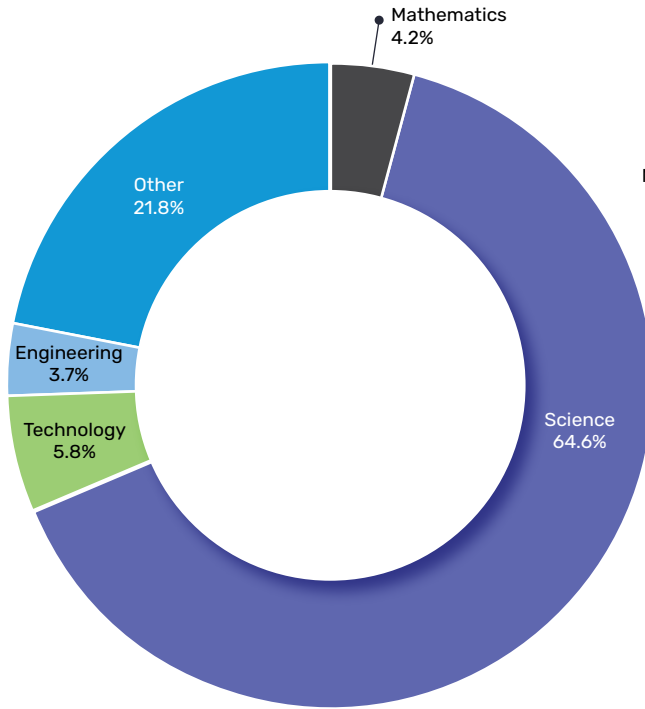
58.7% of delegates identified as female.

28% of delegates identified as male.

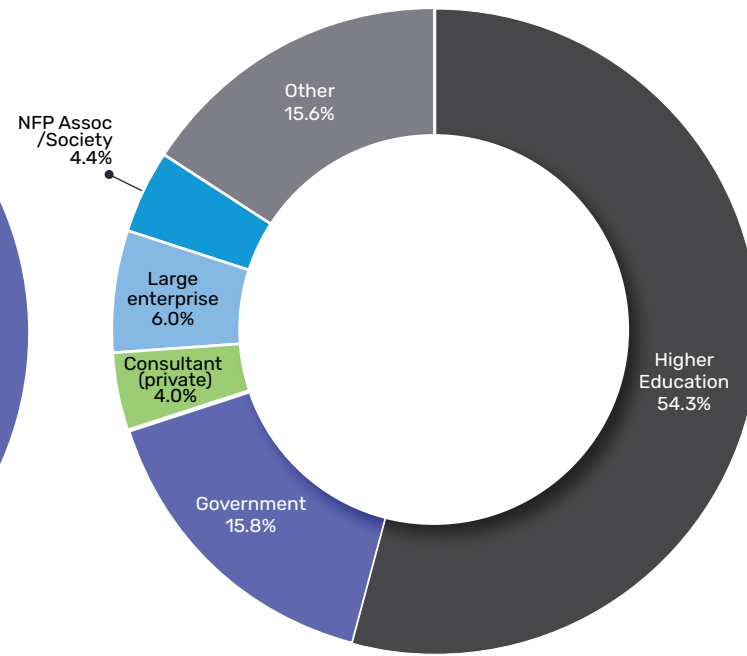
13.3% of delegates did not disclose their gender.

17.4% of delegates had attended SMP in previous years.

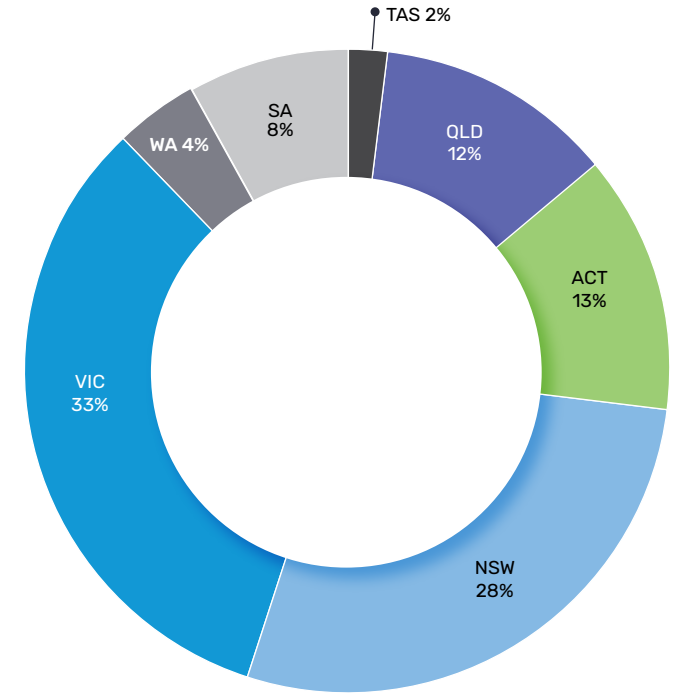
STEM FIELDS OF ATTENDEES



DELEGATE SECTOR/INDUSTRY

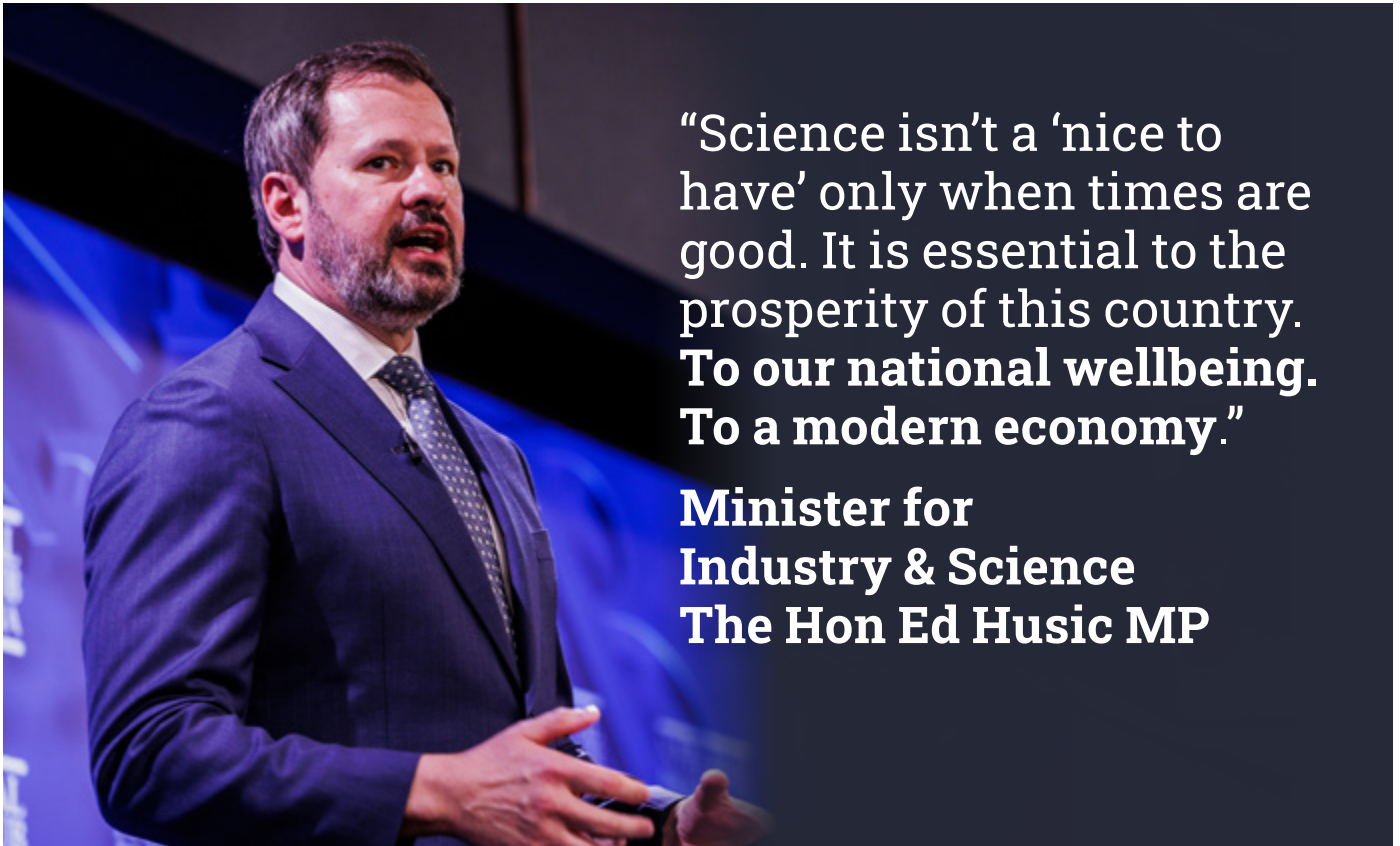


DELEGATES BY STATE



Data represents SMP combined (Online and On the Hill)

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS



The SMP National Press Club address was delivered by Minister for Industry & Science Ed Husic MP

[Read the speech here](#) or visit https://bit.ly/SMP2023_NPC



“Our people who through law and custom hold cultural knowledge and we continue to maintain deep respect for our ancestral lands and waters. The more we look after the land and the waters, the more they look after us.”

**Paul Girriwah House
Ngambri Elder**

“I feel privileged to stand here tonight at a time when not just nuclear, but science and technology as a whole in Australia is stronger than it ever was. We’re all fortunate to be in a position where we are shaping Australia’s future. And I’m excited to see what all of you will bring to the future.”

Sean Jenkinson, ANSTO



“The more that politicians can be informed about the work you do and its importance, the better.”

**Paul Fletcher MP
Shadow Minister for Science**



“We need to value science.
We need to see it much more
front and centre in terms of the
way we see the world.”

Richard Marles MP
Deputy Prime Minister



“I think that there are so many
enormous opportunities for us
to continue to work together, to
make sure that we educate our
parliamentary colleagues, that
science holds its rightful place
in the further development of
the Australian economy.”

Hon Karen Andrews MP



TESTIMONIALS

Delegates

"It is always wonderful to meet so many engaged, enthusiastic and inspiring scientists. I feel like I get to be an MP, asking everyone about all the interesting stuff they are doing." – Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"The deep knowledge and enthusiasm of the panel members! And I loved how everything was kept perfectly to time - a rarity at scientific meetings."
– Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"The panellists were excellent, and the sessions were extremely well organised. Having access to so many influential people was superb and their willingness to share the experience and knowledge was wonderful."
– Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"The inspiration to improve my connectivity with parliament & the executive arm of govt, the practical tips to improve. Thank YOU!" – Tracy Henderson, CSIRO

"The keynote speakers were inspiring and so giving of sharing their experiences"
– Dr Lorraine Gaunt MERGA and CSU

"Congratulations to STA on securing Professor Tao and Dr Kariko and also such an amazing group of panellists. The conversations were engaging, informative, and a joy to watch. The format was fantastic! What a great idea to have panels rather than presentations!" – Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"I enjoyed the vast number of different speakers with different experiences. It was great to see similar themes come across in a number of the sessions as well to further solidify the best way to communicate."

– Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"It was really well designed for the audience. All the thoughts and questions I had seemed to get answered along the way in the different panel sessions."

– Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"I enjoyed meeting so many interesting people truly passionate about the future of science and the work they do!"

– Gave permission to use comments anonymously

"The networking opportunities during the Gala were incredible."

– Paris Papagianis, Monash University

Delegates on their meetings with parliamentarians

"I met with Karen Andrews, who was very engaged and interested in discussing science, particularly space science."

"I met with Senator Cox. We discussed my work on solar panels which fit nicely into the context she laid out for the portfolios she held in Parliament. She was blown away by my prop which was nice. We spent the rest of the time talking about the other scientists' (amazing) work and that suited her interests nicely as well. She was very engaged, especially with their work in First Nations survival and adaptation."

"I met with Allegra Spender. She was fantastic, very engaged. We talked about the importance of biological collections, their untapped knowledge and the need to train a new generation of taxonomists."

"I met with Minister Madeleine King and Mr. David Smith. Both my meetings went extremely well. I communicated the importance of geosciences in Australia and it was very well received by the parliamentarians. I was suggested to put forward my views at an online forum that is currently requesting Australian scientists for what they think the National Science Priorities should be. I really appreciated the opportunity to speak to them directly about issues important in my field of science."

"I met with Bridget Archer. She was engaged with science and climate change in particular. We discussed aspects such as the importance of taxonomy and climate change research at the Australian Museum and the work we are doing digitising the collections."

"I met MP Rob Mitchell in the morning and Senator Gerard Rennick in the afternoon - both Parliamentarians were very engaged and generous with their time."

"I met with Bridget McKenzie. She was very engaged and asked thoughtful questions. We discussed changes in teaching maths (the Senator was a former maths teacher), the creation of soil from garbage for island nations with little usable soil and the impact of long term stress on the brain."

"I met with Senator Pauline Hanson. She was great, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We discussed Antarctic marine spatial planning, academic salaries and the downsides to academia within Australia, funding for pure research, submarines and of course, ChatGPT! It was a very rewarding experience ."

"I met with Josh Wilson, MP for Fremantle, it was fantastic. He was really open to discussion, although it was a hectic meeting with bells going off. As we left, Mr Wilson asked for us to shoot him an email in a couple of weeks and stay in touch. It was really wonderful."

"I met with Tony Zappia. He was a nice guy and very switched on. He cared deeply about this electorate, and all the great things happening there."

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships were awarded to nine brilliant and diverse STEM leaders to attend Science Meets Parliament 2023.

These highly contested scholarships were awarded in six categories in 2023 - First Nations, LGBTQIA+, Rural and Remote, Disability, Neurodivergent and Technology.

The scholarships were generously sponsored by the Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering (First Nations), the Australian Technology Network of Universities (Technology and LGBTQIA+), ARC Centre of Excellence in Exciton Science (First Nations), the Australian Academy of Science (First Nations), UNSW Sydney (Disability), New Edge Microbials (Rural and Remote), and Pawsey Supercomputing Centre (Neurodivergent).



SMP ONLINE PROGRAM

On Demand

Pre-recorded media panel: How to get Science into the Media

Session chair: Misha Schubert
Chief Executive Officer,
Science & Technology Australia

Patricia Karvelas RN Breakfast Host, ABC
Katharine Murphy
Political Editor, Guardian Australia

Dr Jackson Ryan
Science Editor, CNET

TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023 DAY ONE ONLINE

11.00 – 11.10am Welcome to Science Meets Parliament 2023	Professor Mark Hutchinson President, Science & Technology Australia Misha Schubert Chief Executive Officer, Science & Technology Australia	
11.10 – 11.20am Acknowledgement of Country	<i>STA acknowledges the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the Kamberri/Canberra region</i>	
11.30 – 11.40am Address	Address by Minister for Science & Shadow Minister for Science	
11.40 – 12.30pm Opening Keynote How Maths Can Save the World	Dr Terence Tao , Global Australian of the Year 2022	
12.30 – 12.45pm	Short break	
12.45 – 1.45pm New to Canberra: Civics 101 Session chair: Dr Anita Goh National Ageing Institute Fellow; and Vice President, Science & Technology Australia	Dr Madelaine Chiam Associate Dean, La Trobe Law School Matthew Cossey Chief Executive Officer, CropLife Australia Margaret Fitzherbert Chief Executive Officer, McKinnon Institute	
1.45 – 2.00pm Diamond Partner Address	Carina Kemp Principal BDM - Research	Diamond Partner 
2.00 – 3.00pm Engaging effectively with policymakers Session chair: Mark Stickells Director, Pawsey Supercomputing Centre; and Board Director, Science & Technology Australia	Meghan Quinn Secretary, Department of Industry, Science & Resources Dr Subho Banerjee Deputy Commissioner, Head of APS Academy and Capability Professor Paul Young Research & Innovation, University of Queensland	
3.00 – 3.15pm	Short break	
3.15 – 3.20pm Platinum Partner Address	Professor John Fletcher , UNSW	Platinum Partner 
3.20 – 4.20pm First Nations Knowledges solving complex challenges Session chair: Prof Chris Matthews Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance; and Board Director, Science & Technology Australia	Joe Morrison Group Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation Rachael Cavanagh Balun Budjabin Consulting Sean Appoo Program Manager, Aboriginal Carbon Foundation	EDI Partner 

WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2023 DAY TWO ONLINE

11.00 – 11.30am

Keynote

Dr Katalin Karikó

Adjunct Professor, Penn Medicine
in conversation with

Misha Schubert

Chief Executive Officer, Science & Technology Australia

11.30 – 11.40am

Foundation Partner Address

Duncan McIntyre

Deputy Secretary,
Department of Industry,
Science & Resources

Foundation Partner



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources

11.40 – 11.50am

Short break

11.50 – 12.50pm

Advocacy with impact

Session chair: Misha Schubert

Chief Executive Officer,
Science & Technology Australia

Feyi Akindoyeni Foundation Partner, SEC Newgate Australia

Annie O'Rourke Chief Creative Officer, 89 Degrees East

April Long Chief Executive Officer, SMART Recovery Australia

12.50 – 1.20pm

Break

1.20 – 2.20pm

**Key skills for advocates:
submissions & soundbites**

Session chair: Prof Sharath Sriram

RMIT University & President-Elect,
Science & Technology Australia

Anna-Maria Arabia Chief Executive Officer, Australian Academy of Science

Jane O'Dwyer Chief Executive Officer, Cooperative Research Australia

Luke Sheehy Executive Director, Australian Technology Network

12.20 – 12.25pm

Platinum Partner Address

Professor Andrew Campbell

Chief Executive Officer,
Australian Centre
for International
Agricultural Research

Platinum Partner



Australian Government
Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

2.25 – 3.30pm

**Knowing our past:
truth telling in science**

Session chair:

Associate Professor Kalinda Griffiths

Yawuru epidemiologist and
Scientia Lecturer at the
Centre for Big Data Research, UNSW

Mary Koolhof immediate
past President,
Royal Society of Tasmania

Professor Chris Matthews
Chair, Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Mathematics Alliance

Mike Flattley

Chief Executive Officer,
Royal Society of Victoria

EDI Partner

abbvie

3.30 – 3.45pm

Short break

3.45 – 4.45pm

**Science & shifting sands:
navigating geopolitics**

Session chair: Professor Mark Hutchinson,
Director, Centre for Nanoscale Biophotonics

Professor Tanya Monro AC FAA FTSE FOSA FAIP GAICD
Australia's Defence Chief Scientist

Air Vice-Marshal John Blackburn AO (Retd)

Chair of the Institute for Integrated Economic Research

THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2023 DAY THREE: ONLINE

11.00 – 11.20am	Online speed networking - visit the meeting hub	
11.20 – 11.30am Titanium Partner Address	Jane Hatton Program Manager	Titanium Partner Australian Government Department of Defence (Defence Science Technology branch)
		 Australian Government Department of Defence
11.30 – 12.30pm Parliamentary Forum: Your chance to hear from MPs and Senators Session chair: Jas Chambers Chair & Co-founder, Ocean Decade Australia; and Secretary, Science & Technology Australia Address from Forum Partner: National Computational Infrastructure	Senator Dorinda Cox Yamatji-Noongar woman, Greens spokesperson for First Nations and Science Zoe McKenzie MP Liberal Member for Flinders Senator Perin Davey Deputy Nationals Leader Kylea Tink MP Independent Member for North Sydney Zaneta Mascarenhas Labor Member for Swan	Forum Partner 
12.30 – 12.45pm	Short break	
12.45 – 1.45pm Practise your Pitch Session chair: Heather Catchpole Co-founder, Refraction Media	Dr Lila Landowski Neuroscientist, University of Tasmania Tanya Ha Director of Engagement, Science In Public Dr Mike Todorovic Senior Lecturer, Griffith University	
1.45 – 1.50pm Platinum Partner Address	Marie Efstathiou AuNZ Lead for Education & University Research	Platinum Partner 
1.50 – 2.00pm	Short break	
2.00 – 3.00pm Preparing to meet a Parliamentarian Session chair: Dr Kathy Nicholson Operations Manager, Australian Institute for Machine Learning; and Board Director, Science & Technology Australia	Kylie Walker Chief Executive Officer, Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering Harry Godber Head of Strategy at Flare, former senior advisor to Australian Government Ministers Jane Hume and Arthur Sinodinos Sunita Bose Managing Director, Digital Industry Group Inc	
3.00 – 3.20pm	Short break	
3.20 – 4.30pm Masterclass in Research Commercialisation Session chair: Dr Cathy Foley Australia's Chief Scientist	Malcolm Nutt Partner, Cultiv8 Funds Management Group Sue MacLeman Advisor and Non Executive Director MTP sector Dr Sanjay Mazumdar Executive Director, Defence Trailblazer for Concept to Sovereign Capability Dr Deborah Rathjen, Executive Chair and CEO of biOasis Technologies	Generously supported by  

SMP ON THE HILL

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023 DAY FOUR: ON THE HILL

Day-long

Meetings between SMP23 delegates and Members of Parliament will take place throughout the day.

Program – general

8.00 – 8.45am	<p>Registration: SMP23 delegates arrive and check-in through security at Australian Parliament House.</p> <p>Coffee & tea will be provided: Coffee cart proudly supported by CropLife</p>
8.45 – 9.00am Welcome to Country SMP ON THE HILL	Serena Williams, Ngunnawal Custodian
9.00 – 9.45am Seizing the future: a science leadership dialogue	<p>Nobel Laureate Professor Brian Schmidt Vice-Chancellor & President, the Australian National University.</p> <p>Professor Chris Matthews Quandamooka mathematician, ATSIMA Chair and National Indigenous STEM Professionals Network leadership committee member.</p> <p><i>in conversation with</i></p> <p>Misha Schubert Chief Executive Officer, Science & Technology Australia</p>
9.45 – 10.10am	Morning tea & networking
10.10 – 10.15am	Diamond Partner Spotlight - Amazon Web Services
	Dr Carina Kemp
10.15 – 11.00am Forging a New Golden Era of Australian Science	<p>Professor Sharath Sriram Science & Technology Australia President-Elect</p> <p>Sally-Ann Williams Chief Executive Officer, Cicada Innovations and Chair of the Diversity in STEM Review</p> <p>Dr Anita Goh Medical researcher and Science & Technology Australia Vice President</p> <p>Dr Jane Fitzpatrick Chief Executive Officer, Australian National Fabrication Facility</p> <p><i>in conversation with</i></p> <p>Professor Mark Hutchinson Science & Technology Australia President</p>
11.00 – 11.05am	Welcome Reception Partner Spotlight - AbbVie
11.30 – 2.00pm National Press Club address (see page 18 for travel details)	<p>The Hon Ed Husic MP Generously supported by MTP Connect Minister for Science</p> <p>The address can also be viewed live online via iview.abc.net.au</p>
Partner introductory address: Hon. Jaala Pulford Chair, MTP Connect	
2.00 – 4.00pm Optional activities Tour or Parliamentary Question Time	<p>SMP23 delegates will have the opportunity to attend the Australian Parliament House Geology Tour <i>or</i> Beekeeping Tour <i>or</i> sit-in on Question Time.</p> <p>(You will have the opportunity to register your interest the week before SMP On The Hill).</p>
4.00 – 6.00pm	Break
6.00 – 7.00pm	Welcome Reception in Marble Foyer supported by AbbVie
7.00 – 10.00pm	National Gala Dinner in the Great Hall supported by ANSTO

OUR PARTNERS

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT 2023



FOUNDATION PARTNERS

DIAMOND PARTNER



TITANIUM PARTNER



PLATINUM PARTNERS

GOLD PARTNERS

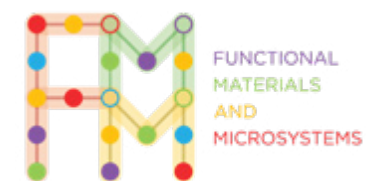


GALA DINNER PARTNER



EDI & WELCOME RECEPTION PARTNER

SILVER PARTNERS



CHILDCARE PARTNER

LANYARD PARTNER

EDI & COFFEE CART PARTNER

PARLIAMENTARY FORUM PARTNER

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS