



# Impact Report

FY2023-24

Certified



Corporation

Introduction



Linda Brown  
President of Torrens  
University Australia  
Co-CEO of Torrens Global  
Education Services



Dan Cockerell  
Co-CEO of Torrens Global  
Education Services

# 2023-24 has been a massive year for the Torrens Global Education family.

This year Torrens University Australia is celebrating 10 years since we first opened our doors to students. Over the past 10 years, Torrens University has become the fastest growing university in Australia, with more than 19,100 students from 113 countries and nine campuses across Australia and 40,100+ alumni across the globe.

As we reflect on the evolution and growth of Torrens University Australia and Think Education, as well as 25 years of Media Design School, we are proud and steadfast in our mission of providing high-quality, accessible education with a focus on employability and creating real-world impact.

Founded with the vision to create a university that would make a difference and drive positive change, we have swiftly grown into a leading higher education institution, guided by our commitment to innovation, social responsibility, and sustainability.

Over 2023-2024, our journey as a re-Certified B Corporation further solidified our purpose: using education to shape globally minded, socially conscious graduates who are ready to make an impact. Through strong collaborations with industry, government, and not-for-profit organisations, we continue to ensure that the benefits of our work extend far beyond the classroom and into the local and global communities we serve.

This report highlights our key initiatives, achievements, and the positive outcomes that have resulted from our focus on impact. From driving innovation in technology and creative industries to advancing research and fostering inclusivity, we remain committed to empowering individuals and industries alike.

But there is more work to be done. We are custodians of education, and it is our job to ensure that everyone who wants an education – which is a global human right – can access it and use that opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of those around them.

We are proud of our achievements this year and look forward to continuing our journey of transforming lives through education in the years ahead.

## Acknowledgment of Country

Torrens Global Education acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We are committed to a positive future as we move together on our journey of learning.

Torrens Global Education respectfully acknowledges their Ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging and we extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners for the major Australian cities in which we operate, Brisbane (Meanjin): Yuggera / Jagera Country, Sydney (Warrane / Warran): Gadigal Country, Melbourne (Naarm): the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung of the Eastern Kulin, and Adelaide (Tarndanya): Kurna Country.



As part of our 10th anniversary celebration in Brisbane, we commissioned Danielle Leedie Gray, Billy Blue College of Design alumna and First Nations woman from Bidjara and Wakka Wakka Country of Southwest and East Queensland, to create an artwork. Her design features gum leaves, which in Aboriginal culture hold importance for cleansing and ritual practices, symbolising the commencement or acknowledgment of new beginnings, and embody a sense of tradition and renewal.

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## Spotlight

### Certified



Corporation

### We are a proud Certified B Corporation

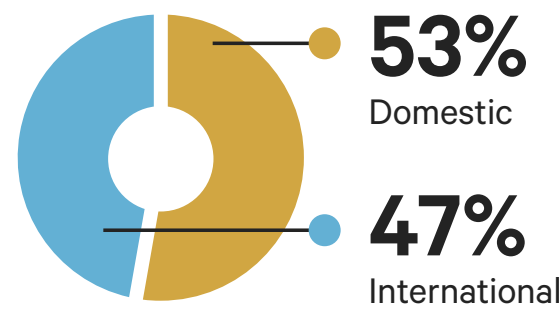
We are unwavering in our mission to be a force for good in business and education. This is why we belong to the global B Corp movement. As an international community of best practice, being a Certified B Corporation means we meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance and public transparency and legal accountability.

Providing open, accessible education is our ultimate goal.

### Our students:

Total current students

**19,113**

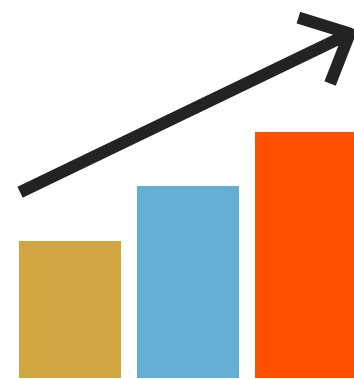


**9,069** international students from **113** nationalities

NSW:	<b>5,100+</b>	ONLINE / TORRENS UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRE:	<b>5,200+</b>
VIC:	<b>3,400+</b>		
SA:	<b>2,200+</b>	CHINA:	<b>50+</b>
QLD:	<b>1,900+</b>	NZ:	<b>960+</b>
		PNG:	<b>50+</b>

**203**

OFFSHORE ONLINE



### Fastest-growing university in Australia

We attracted more new students than any other university and achieved the highest growth rate among returning students from 2018 - 2022.

(Department of Education)

**Top 3** World-leading hospitality education

BMIHMS ranks top 3 in Oceania in the QS World University Rankings for Hospitality and Leisure Management Schools.

(QS World Rankings 2023-2024.)

**#1** MBA of choice in Australia

More students choose to study an MBA at Torrens University than any other Australian university.

(Commonwealth Department of Education, 2021-2023)

**Top 6** Torrens University ranked 6th among 42 universities surveyed for teaching quality for Undergraduate Students.

2023 Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Student Experience Survey (SES)

**Top 3** Teaching quality and skill development ranked top 3 for Business & Management across all universities.

2023 Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Student Experience Survey (SES)



Social Work ranked 2, Architecture and Built Environment ranked 4, Creative Arts ranked 5 in the top 5 study areas for undergraduate students across all universities

2023 Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Student Experience Survey (SES)



Torrens University remained one of the top 6 universities for Peer Engagement among postgraduate students

2023 Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Student Experience Survey (SES)



Our online MBA is ranked 22nd globally by CEO Magazine for 2024.



Since 2019, our MBA program has been ranked Tier-1 by CEO Magazine, and again in 2024, ranking consistently among the world's best.



**\$66.1 million**

scholarships issued in 2023-2024 FY

### Our staff:

**2,000+**

staff members across Australia and New Zealand

### Staff Tuition Reduction Benefits

Staff Tuition Reduction Benefits provided education valued at **\$2.2 million** free of charge – July 2023 – June 2024.

**305** staff members currently studying with 100% Tuition Reduction Benefit - July 2023 – June 2024.

**30** staff members have completed study under 100% Tuition Reduction Benefit – July 2023 – June 2024.

**84%**

Torrens University Australia has achieved its highest satisfaction score for teaching quality at 84%, marking its best score to date for Undergraduate Students.

2023 Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Student Experience Survey (SES)

## Deloitte Access Economic Report: The economic and social value of Torrens University Australia

Early in 2024 we released the Deloitte Access Economic report highlighting our economic and social impact in Australia.

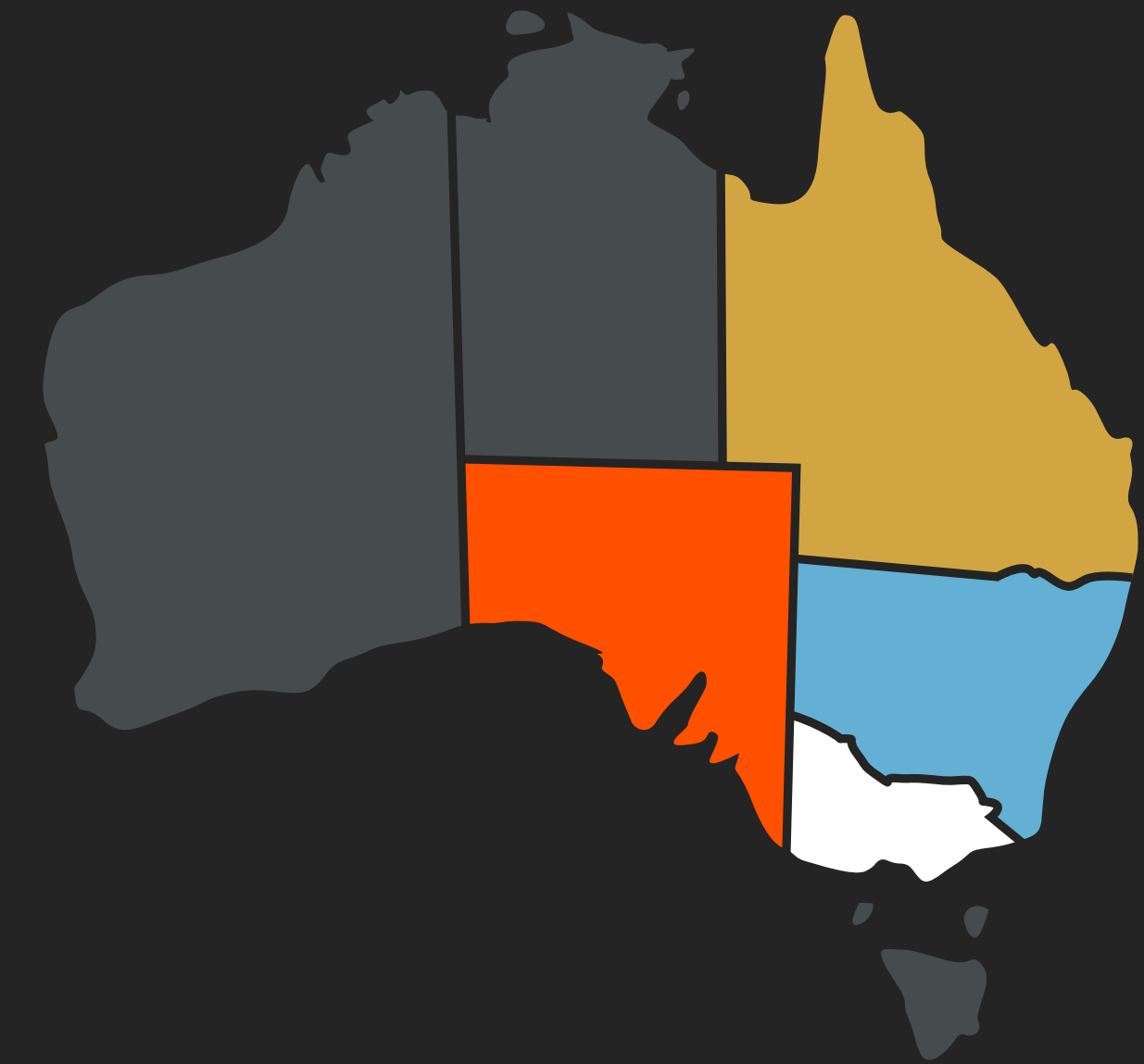
Universities make a critical contribution to Australia's economy, human capital and social fabric. As we entered our 10th year, this report considered our national contribution to economic and labour market outcomes for our graduates and the broader communities in which we operate.

In 2022, we contributed more than \$800 million in economic impact to the Australian economy, comprised of \$468.9 million total value added via operations, onshore international students, and induced tourism from students' visiting friends and relatives, and \$338 million in public benefits from an estimated 14,400 TUA graduates working in Australia. Torrens University's operations and international student spending supported 3,049 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in 2022.

The social contributions of our university included supporting the representation of priority cohorts of young Australians enrolling in tertiary study – including students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, First Nations students and those enrolled from regional and remote locations.

Department of Education data for 2022 shows that one in four of Torrens University's domestic students (25%) were from a lower socio-economic status, relative to 17% nationally and 12% among the Group of Eight institutions. Regional and remote students comprised 19% of Torrens University's domestic enrolments, in line with the national average and more than double the 9% among the Group of Eight. First Nations students accounted for 3% of Torrens University's domestic enrolments, relative to 2% nationally and 1% among the Group of Eight. Women in non-traditional courses (including STEM and architecture) comprised 26% of Torrens University's enrolments, compared to the 16% national average.

[Read the full report](#)



**This economic contribution is shared across South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland where Torrens University's campuses are located.**

	SA	VIC	NSW	QLD
Total value added by direct operations and international student spending	\$97.6m	\$102.1m	\$206.1m	\$52.5m
FTE jobs supported by direct operations and international student spending	671	576	1,321	383

Source: The economic and social value of Torrens University Australia | by Deloitte Access Economics | March 2024

# Education: the power to transform

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We are committed to providing inclusive and accessible learning. Learning that is intrinsically connected with industry, where our graduates are driven by a culture of innovation, change and a dedication to creating a positive impact on society.



## Digital Transformation with human connection at the core – The MyLearn story

In 2023, Torrens University Australia started our journey to create MyLearn, a new digital learning environment to deliver a superior online student experience. Our purpose was to use technology to provide a cutting-edge online learning management platform for our students that would enhance connection and collaboration with academics and peers.

This was a transformation project, focused on standardising and improving the accessibility of our online courses. Over 16 weeks, we gathered input from staff and students, which identified 1,800 requirements for the new learning management system.

Student feedback included the need for mobile responsiveness, a familiar user interface across all subject materials, more intuitive navigation and multimedia interaction and some specific features such as resizable video screens, adjustable playback speeds and the ability to continue watching a video while navigating other content.

### Using AI as our partner

- Torrens University embarked on a comprehensive review and standardisation process and with the assistance from Microsoft prompt engineers, the project team developed a generative AI model to analyse more than 1,200 courses and 60,000 web pages. This analysis aimed to understand the structure of the content, including the placement of headings and videos, and areas of wasted space.
- Using Microsoft Azure OpenAI, we were able to improve and standardise all course curriculums on one intuitive platform. By using generative AI to uplift our online learning experience, we saved 20,000 hours and \$2.4 million in time and resources.
- We used AI to transform all the existing content into a 'mobile first' user experience, as most students access their learning on mobile devices.

“I love MyLearn; there are many features that can motivate and help keep you organised with the modules and the work. Everything is easily accessible which is super great!”

Bachelor of Branded Fashion student

“It’s the easiest interface I have used in any college - it’s great!”

Diploma of Graphic Design student

“It has been extremely helpful and easy; I would prefer using MyLearn and Microsoft Teams for all my classes in the foreseeable future.”

Bachelor of Cybersecurity student



“Conclusively the Nepal trip was nothing short of transformational both personally and professionally. My eyes have been opened to new possibilities... I look forward to maintaining the strong personal and professional relationships we have built in the region for years to come thanks to Torrens University and the New Colombo Plan.”

Holly Shepherd, Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy)

## Enriching learning experiences in Nepal

In January 2024, Senior Learning Facilitator Anne Digby and Academic Director – Health and Education, Ashley Hillsley, along with 38 Health Sciences students, embarked on a journey in Nepal through the New Colombo Plan Mobility Program. The cohort immersed themselves in unique Work Integrated Learning (WIL) experiences at Dhulikel Hospital, Kathmandu University, Gandaki University, and HRDC Nepal hospital.

With Torrens University now a returning organisation to Nepal following the inaugural trip in December 2022, these partners were keen to strengthen and forge ongoing relationships for sustainable benefit.

By changing their lens to a newfound global perspective, and finding comfort with the uncomfortable, the students returned to Australia with a new outlook and a tight-knit community of peers, each acutely aware of the power of collaboration. Having seen the sustained success of this intensive incubator real-world teaching model, Torrens University is looking forward to the next iteration in December 2024.

“We crafted an immersive learning experience that satisfies the same criteria in a different classroom, that classroom being the world, which enabled greater introspection for students and a global perspective.”

Ashley Hillsley, Academic Director – Health and Education

## 2024 Education Conference: Transforming education, empowering learners and emboldening graduates

As a learning institution, we must be curious and keep abreast of the latest trends in teaching, technology and pedagogy.

In April 2024, the Torrens University Australia 10th Anniversary Education Conference celebrated our educational achievements over the past decade, envisioned the future of education, as well as shared innovation, practice and insights across Torrens University Australia, Media Design School, and Strategic Education Inc.'s Capella and Strayer universities in the USA.

From 'Torrens University, Then and Now' to 'Wicked WIL: Entangling pedagogy for social impact and employability,' and 'The Australian Hotel Management Education Revolution,' sessions over the two-day event covered a wide scope of topics and showcased the academic expertise across our organisation that propels our institutions forward.



### Torrens University is proud to contribute to shaping Australia's future tech landscape

We play an important role in driving Australia's tech transformation through our innovation in technology education and strong industry partnerships. Participating in a Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry initiative, SummerTech Live, reflects our ongoing commitment to aligning education with the needs of the tech industry, and contributes to bridging the gap between emerging technologies and small to medium-sized enterprises.

Through this collaboration, Torrens University secured eight projects that paired 16 students with companies across sustainability, real estate, and education industries. These projects showcased the university's expertise in artificial intelligence (AI), information technology (IT), and virtual reality. Each student pair received a \$10,000 scholarship, and hands-on experience working on cutting-edge projects addressing real-world challenges.

[Read more](#)

“Each project uniquely highlights the real-world applicability of our teachings in artificial intelligence and information technology and emphasises the alignment of our curriculum with industry demands.”

Associate Professor Tony Jan, AIRO Centre Director

“We aspire to provide future-focused education and training solutions to strategic alliance partners across Australasia that focus on the skills and knowledge needed for success in an ever-changing global environment.”

Ruth Cooper, Country Director, Media Design School

### Our industry partnerships increase study and employability pathways and internships

We pride ourselves on being industry's university: our connection to industry means that we can provide our students with innovative work experiences that help give them a competitive edge in the workplace. It also means that we can provide organisations with pathways to upskill their employees and provide them with new choices for access to tertiary education.

Our partnership with the AFL Players' Association where we offer a range of educational opportunities tailored to meet the unique needs of both past and present AFL and AFLW players began four years ago: it demonstrates our shared commitment to empowering athletes with the education and skills necessary for success in life beyond their sporting careers.

Our other partnerships: Telstra, SAS, genU, Pontiac Land Australia (Capella Hotel Group), Community Language Schools SA, PGA Institute and PGA Australia, Australian Information Security Association (AISA).



## Our new Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School brand is a winner

Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School's (BMIHMS) new look won Best Rebrand or Brand Update – Higher Education at the IntelligenceBank 2024 Brandie Awards.

Our rebranding was designed by one of our Billy Blue College of Design graduates Gabriella Guzzardi, to connect our future hospitality leaders to the pioneering spirit of the Blue Mountains.

This collaboration produced a rebrand that embodied quality through modern aesthetics to safeguard BMIHMS' premium hospitality education positioning.

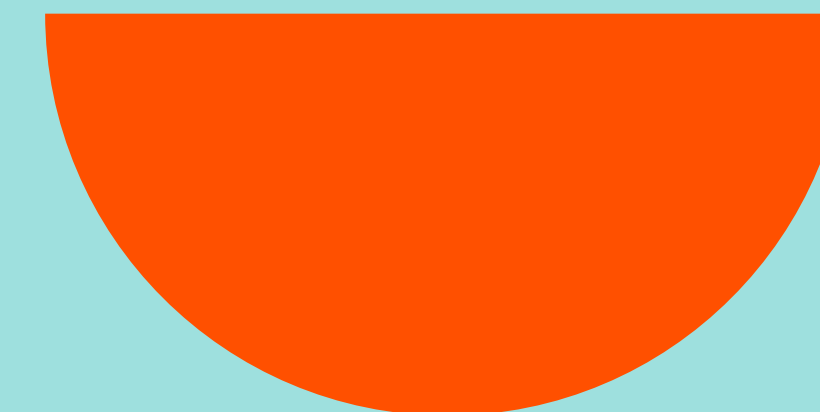
[LEARN MORE](#)



## The Practice Wellbeing Centres provide affordable and accessible healthcare to all

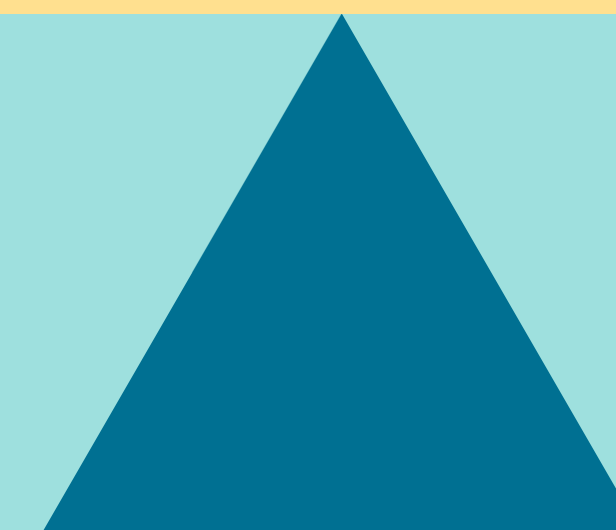
Our student-led clinics in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane make holistic health and wellbeing services accessible to all. Under the supervision of expert practitioners, our students offer beauty therapy, naturopathy, western herbal medicine, Chinese medicine, counselling and nutrition services at affordable prices. Seven health science degrees use The Practice Wellbeing Centres as an essential part of their learning, with each student completing around 400 hours of clinic experience.

Over the financial year, The Practice provided circa \$2M worth of subsidised health and wellness to the community through 12,991 appointments.



“Our student-led clinics, whilst providing authentic and industry-ready learning experiences for students, have provided the public with an invaluable health service.”

Professor Matthew Mundy,  
Executive Dean, Health and Education



## Building impactful global curriculum

As life expectancy rises and healthcare systems face mounting pressures, the integration of natural therapies with biomedicine offers a path toward more sustainable, inclusive, and effective healthcare solutions.

Catherine Smith, Program Director, Naturopathy & Western Herbal Medicine, and Natalie Cook, Director of Innovation, Industry & Employability, Health & Education, attended several events in Europe in 2023, to underscore Australia's leadership in naturopathic education and the critical role complementary medicine plays in addressing chronic disease and global healthcare demands.

The pair emphasised the increasing importance of holistic approaches in preventive and chronic disease care, aligning with WHO's global strategy for traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine.



“Australia is well regarded globally, so it is crucial that we are part of the conversations. By attending we cement our space as global education leaders, give back to the profession, and discover where our courses need to grow,”

Catherine Smith

## Combatting ageism critical to better health care for older people

Sadly, studies from around the world reveal that older people's health concerns are being downplayed or ignored all too frequently in GP clinics, hospitals and aged care facilities with detrimental impacts on their physical and mental health. Our online 'Challenging Ageism' short course was designed in response to provide the knowledge and confidence needed to recognise and challenge ageism wherever it presents. Dr Rachel Ambagtsheer, Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at Torrens University Australia, was the driving force behind the short course addressing pervasive ageism in the health and aged care sectors launched to coincide with Ageism Awareness Day (7 October). To date, 700 students have taken the opportunity to engage in the free course to reduce ageism.

“Ageism occurs at a structural level, which means it's embedded in long-standing practices, policies and organisational culture. Frequently, we see this manifest when health service providers discount a patient's symptoms due to their age.”

Dr Rachel Ambagtsheer



## Public Health student interns at the World Health Summit 2024

In a highly competitive field, Torrens University Master of Public Health (Advanced) student Thida San secured an internship with CAPHIA – the peak body representing Public Health in universities throughout Australasia. Thida was chosen as one of only six interns for the World Health Summit 2024 program, an invaluable opportunity to develop new skills and networks.



“By participating in the World Health Summit (WHS) 2024, I learned from senior professionals and contributed to the WHS organising team. Collaborating closely with senior colleagues during the internship provided me with valuable real-world experience that will be relevant for my career as a Public Health professional.”

Thida San

## Real Madrid provides hands-on experience for Sports Management MBA students

As part of Torrens University's Sport Management MBA, 18 students took part in an immersive residency with the world-renowned Real Madrid football club including a comprehensive study of its sports facilities, focusing on its operations, design, marketing, management, and cultural significance.

This year's itinerary featured major sporting events and exclusive tours. Students attended an exciting Real Madrid vs Atletico Madrid women's football match, took part in a Padel Tennis coaching session at Madrid's largest complex, and experienced elite show jumping at the prestigious Longines Global Champions Tour. They also toured the iconic Alfredo Di Stéfano Stadium, Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, and the Real Madrid Training Centre, exploring where elite athletes train. Additionally, they visited the FIFA Museum, Las Ventas Bullring, and enjoyed a sneak peek of the Real Madrid Experience, providing insights into the club's history and future.

“The residency program in Madrid was a highlight of my university experience. To have access to world leaders in their fields of sports marketing, clubs, facilities and sports business management and philanthropy was unparalleled. In two weeks, I gained exposure and learnt more about opportunities and operations in sport management than ever before.”

Todd Williams, Master of Business Administration - Sport Management.

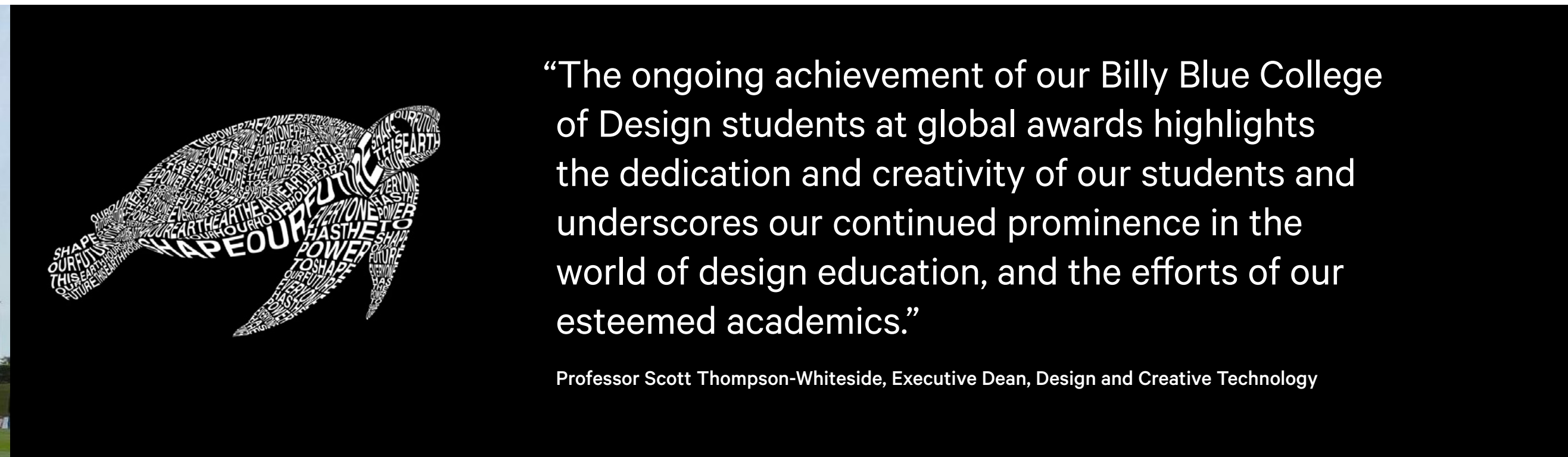


## Billy Blue College of Design students consistently recognised at global awards

The International Design Awards (IDA) recognise, celebrate and promote exceptional design visionaries and works to uncover emerging talent. In 2023, Bachelor of Communication Design graduate Alicia Devereaux garnered international acclaim at the prestigious IDA, securing two silver and three bronze awards for her exceptional work, and at the 2024 IDA all our entries secured awards, totalling three Golds, six Silvers, and four Bronzes.

Our student designers were awarded 4 commendations from 11 finalist spots in the 2023 Design Institute of Australia (DIA) Graduates of the Year Awards (GOTYA). The awards are DIA's flagship program for emerging designers as they embark on their careers.

At the 2023 AGDA Awards our students won one Distinction, five Merits and landed 24 Finalist spots. Also, our Diploma of Graphic Design alumna, First Nations Graphic Artist, Illustrator and Designer, Danielle Leedie Gray, was nominated in the Design for Good category, with Carbon Creative, for her powerful illustration and artwork on 2023's National Reconciliation Week - 'Be A Voice For Generations.' This work was Danielle's first national campaign with an important message that reflects an ongoing and unwavering commitment to work together for a more reconciled country.



“The ongoing achievement of our Billy Blue College of Design students at global awards highlights the dedication and creativity of our students and underscores our continued prominence in the world of design education, and the efforts of our esteemed academics.”

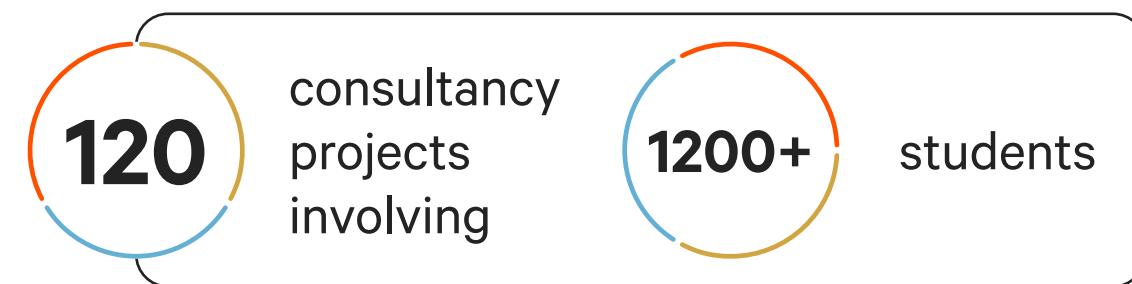
Professor Scott Thompson-Whiteside, Executive Dean, Design and Creative Technology



## Our Social Enterprise Hub student-led agency creates another year of impact

Torrens University's Social Enterprise Hub delivers student-led consultancy services under the direction of industry consultants to purpose-driven and not-for-profit enterprises across Australia. In exchange, students gain practical and meaningful industry experience that helps prepare them for their future careers.

Throughout the report you'll find examples of how the Social Enterprise Hub is providing unique industry experiences for our students and creating impact in our communities where it matters.



### Significant industry engagement at Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School

BMIHMS' Work Integrated Learning continued to enhance our students' employability skills, paving the way for successful careers in the hospitality industry with 1,215 students placed with hotel partners across Australia, Asia, and Europe for industry placement subjects throughout 2023-2024.

Industry engagement reached new heights in 2023-2024, with 87 industry guests and 40 alumni speakers participating in classrooms, hotel tours, recruitment days, Industry Connect careers expo and Leadership Speaker Series further strengthening close ties with hospitality leaders, and Careers Connect placing 333 students in roles with 45 hospitality companies.

In addition, the Graduate Privilege Partner (GPP) program continued to formalise BMIHMS relationships with world-renowned industry partners by facilitating graduate positions for highest achieving final year students planning their careers upon graduation, and our sponsorship of Young Leaders Sessions at both the AHICE Asia Pacific Hotel Industry Conference & Exhibition, and No Vacancy Hotel + Accommodation Industry Expo further cemented our position as a top choice to source hospitality graduates.

## Industry Engagement Snapshot

**4,940**

students completed an internship, placement or industry practicum (from 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024)\*\*

\*\*this does not include students engaging in live briefs, capstone or extra-curricular WIL

**773**

design and creative technology students participated in formal, curriculum-based, industry live brief projects (T2 2023 – T2 2024 inclusive)



Nursing students from Think Education and Torrens University completed 2,719 placements ranging from two-four weeks across a wide cross section of the health sector, including public and private hospitals, aged care, medical clinics and remote and rural facilities (from 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024)

**15,186**

casual / part time, contract, freelance, volunteer, placements / internships and graduate jobs and opportunities posted on Careers Connect (from 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024)

**4,355**

industry employers & host organisations on Careers Connect (as of 30 June 2024)

**10**

partners in the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School's Graduate Privilege Partner program (Accor, Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, Four Seasons, Shangri-La, TFE, Ovolo, IHG and Langham Hotels and Resorts)

**220**

competitions or scholarship opportunities offered by industry or professional associations promoted on Careers Connect

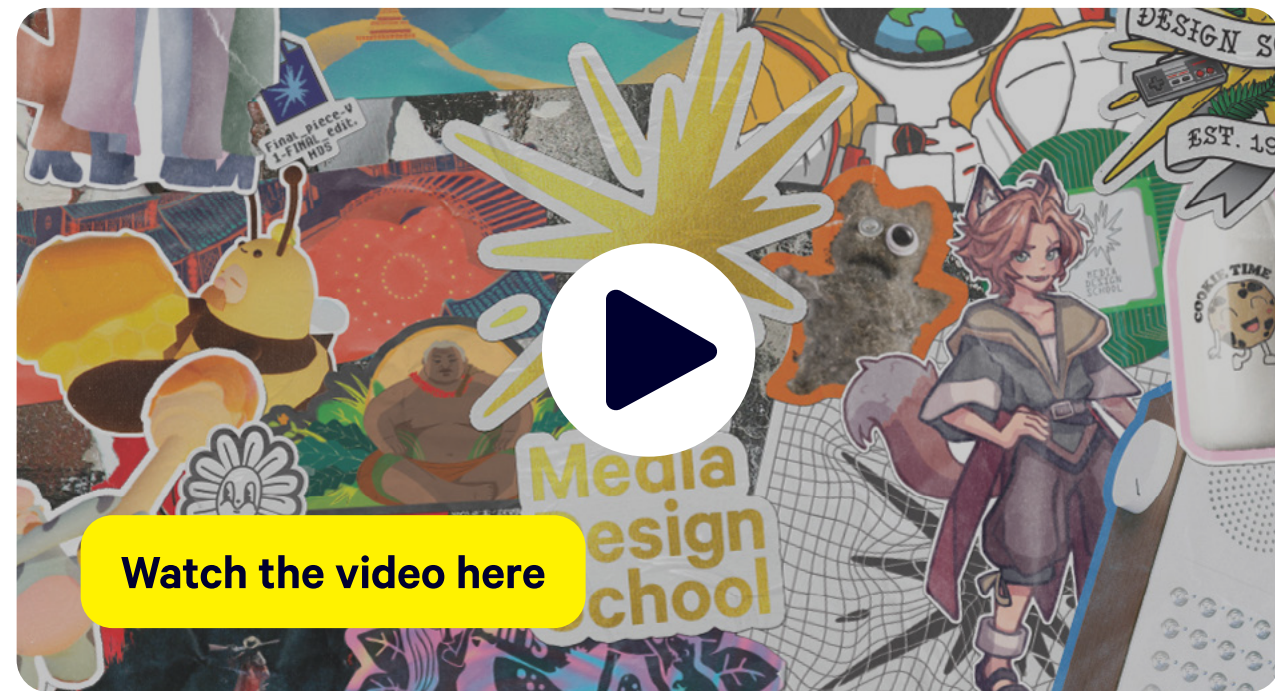


# Celebrating 25 years of Media Design School

Over the past 25 years, Media Design School (MDS) has grown into a leading force in digital design and creative education. Founded by Liz Valintine in 1998, at a time when digital and creative technology industries were rapidly emerging, the school answered the call for digitally fluent, design-savvy graduates.

Today, MDS is the most awarded private tertiary provider for digital and creative technology qualifications across the Asia-Pacific. MDS is always at the forefront of innovation, offering the southern hemisphere's first 3D Animation program, New Zealand's first game development course, and pioneering qualifications in virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing.

We remain dedicated to pushing the boundaries of education and innovation, committed to producing graduates who are ready to make a positive impact in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.



## Bridging inclusivity with Te Reo Māori: MDS launches bilingual prep course

Media Design School (MDS) is taking a significant step towards inclusive education with the launch of its Digital Creativity Foundation prep course in both Te Reo Māori and English. Designed to equip incoming students with essential digital skills, the course aims to ease their transition into the program while fostering familiarity and confidence.

Supported by the Tertiary Education Commission's Strategic Fund, the bilingual course reflects MDS's commitment to integrating Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) into its curriculum, aligning with the principles of Te Tiriti o Wāitangi. Through a collaborative translation process involving Māori language experts, faculty, and the Product Innovation team, the course honours the linguistic and cultural significance of Te Reo Māori, fostering a sense of belonging and representation for Māori students.

[Read more](#)

L-R: Bronwyn Williams, Puāwai Pōhutukawa Māori language expert, with Bonnie Kea, Digital Creativity Foundation Program Coordinator



"It's been amazing to see this transformation over these years and it is so important for us to demonstrate how to correct the balance. I remember when the games classes were 90% male, so this year marked a significant achievement for Media Design School."

**Darryn Melrose, Chief Marketing Officer and Industry Partnerships.**



## Breaking barriers in gaming education

Media Design School's (MDS) initiative Girls in Games aims to diversify the gaming industry by encouraging young women from across New Zealand to pursue careers in game development. Started over a decade ago by Bachelor of Software Engineer program coordinator Dr Aslihan Tece Bayrak, this annual event has gone from strength to strength, providing a comfortable space for young women interested in STEAM subjects to try their hand at programming. Since it started, we've seen a jump in not only women choosing to study programming at MDS, but an increase in graduates finding careers in game development.

**57%**

In 2023, 57% of our new, on-campus students in our game art program were female. Initiatives like Girls in Games created this change and allowed MDS to challenge the status quo.

# Our people

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Everything 'begins and ends with people.' Our students are at the heart of what we do, from their first day until they become accomplished alumni. Our dedicated staff help guide their success by providing support and wisdom for them to realise their full potential.





## Associate Professor Heinz Herrmann awarded Most Inspirational MBA Lecturer accolade

Esteemed Associate Professor Heinz Herrmann was honoured with the 2023 MBA Australasia (MBAus) Most Inspirational MBA Lecturer Award recognising an educator who has demonstrated exceptional passion, dedication, and the ability to inspire and motivate MBA students in their academic journey. The accolade also celebrates educators who go above and beyond their instructional responsibilities, creating a transformative learning experience for their students. Colleague Dr Anna Sekhar was also nominated, speaking volumes about our student experience and a nationwide acknowledgment of our lecturers' motivation to impact and educate future business leaders.



## On the global stage at EY World Entrepreneur of the Year

Our President and Co-CEO, Linda Brown, had the honour of being Chair of Judges at the 2024 EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ Australia awards, following her win as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ Australia 2021. To top off this honour, she headed to the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year in Monaco early June as a global judge, once again placing Torrens University Australia on the global stage at the forefront of entrepreneurship.

“Having the opportunity, with my fellow judges, to meet and share the entrepreneurial passion of the country winners is both inspiring and humbling.”

Linda Brown

## Dr Hayden McDonald wins prestigious SAS Academic Partner of the Year Award

Associate Professor Dr Hayden McDonald was awarded the SAS Academic Partner Award for demonstrating unparalleled leadership as director of our business analytics programs and pioneering innovative curriculum designs to bridge industry skill gaps. Dr McDonald led ground-breaking programs, working with industry to develop skills based and applied teaching programs with a commitment to developing the academic and industry ecosystem. His extensive expertise as a financial systems analyst, coupled with a passion for education, has propelled him to the forefront of academic excellence.

“The award highlights the incredible work Torrens University Australia is doing in partnership with SAS. Together, we are developing educational solutions that uplift the skills and competencies of the workforce.”

Dr Hayden McDonald



## United by a belief in the power of education

Torrens Global Education is committed to supporting continuous lifelong learning for its staff, encouraging employees to pursue further study that is linked to their professional development.

The Tuition Reduction Benefit scheme offers staff the opportunity to study at any of our institutions for free. In 2023-24, 305 staff took up this opportunity and are now advancing their knowledge and education, and more than 30 have graduated. This education is valued at \$2.2 million.



Nikki Donald, Master of Education - Innovation and Change, graduated 2023

“The qualification has not only broadened my perspective but also provided me with practical tools to drive positive change within my team and contribute to the success of Torrens University Australia. I can confidently say the Tuition Reduction Benefit (TRB) has significantly impacted my professional and career growth, without the stress of a financial burden. I’m sincerely grateful to the university for this opportunity and believe it demonstrates our commitment to employee growth and development.”

“Not only did I get to study such a high-quality master’s degree, I was fully supported by my employer. I found this a great way to further my career and experience Torrens University from both sides - student and employee.”

Sharon Peut - Master of Education - Innovation and Change, graduated July 2023



“We live by our values to ensure education for all, and this is our demonstrable commitment to and investment in our staff.”

Professor Alwyn Louw, Vice-Chancellor

## AFLPA’s Alex Neal-Bullen honoured with education excellence award

In May 2024, at Melbourne’s graduation ceremony, AFL Players’ Association’s education scholarship recipient Alex Neal-Bullen was awarded the Education Excellence Award for his outstanding academic achievements. Graduating with a Bachelor of Business (Sports Management) degree, the professional player successfully balanced his AFL career with his studies. In his acceptance speech, Alex emphasised the importance of preparing for life beyond football as well as overcoming challenges, building relationships, and experiencing personal growth. His story is a testament to the value of seizing every opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference.

[Read more](#)





## Academics awarded the Professor Tracey Bretag Prize for academic integrity

Dr Kris Nicholls, former Director of Academic Integrity, and Jacqui Casey, Academic Integrity Officer and Senior Learning Facilitator, were awarded the prestigious Professor Tracey Bretag Prize for Academic Integrity by Studiosity, an award that celebrated their work in advancing best practices and demonstrating the impact of academic integrity initiatives in higher education.

The student-led project, 'The Face-Less Crowd' was created by design students and exhibited on campuses in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. It highlighted confronting academic integrity breaches through powerful visual installations that focused on real student experiences underscoring personal responsibility and the importance of earning qualifications with integrity. The judges commented that the approach was unique, demonstrated behavioural change and was 'by students, for students.'

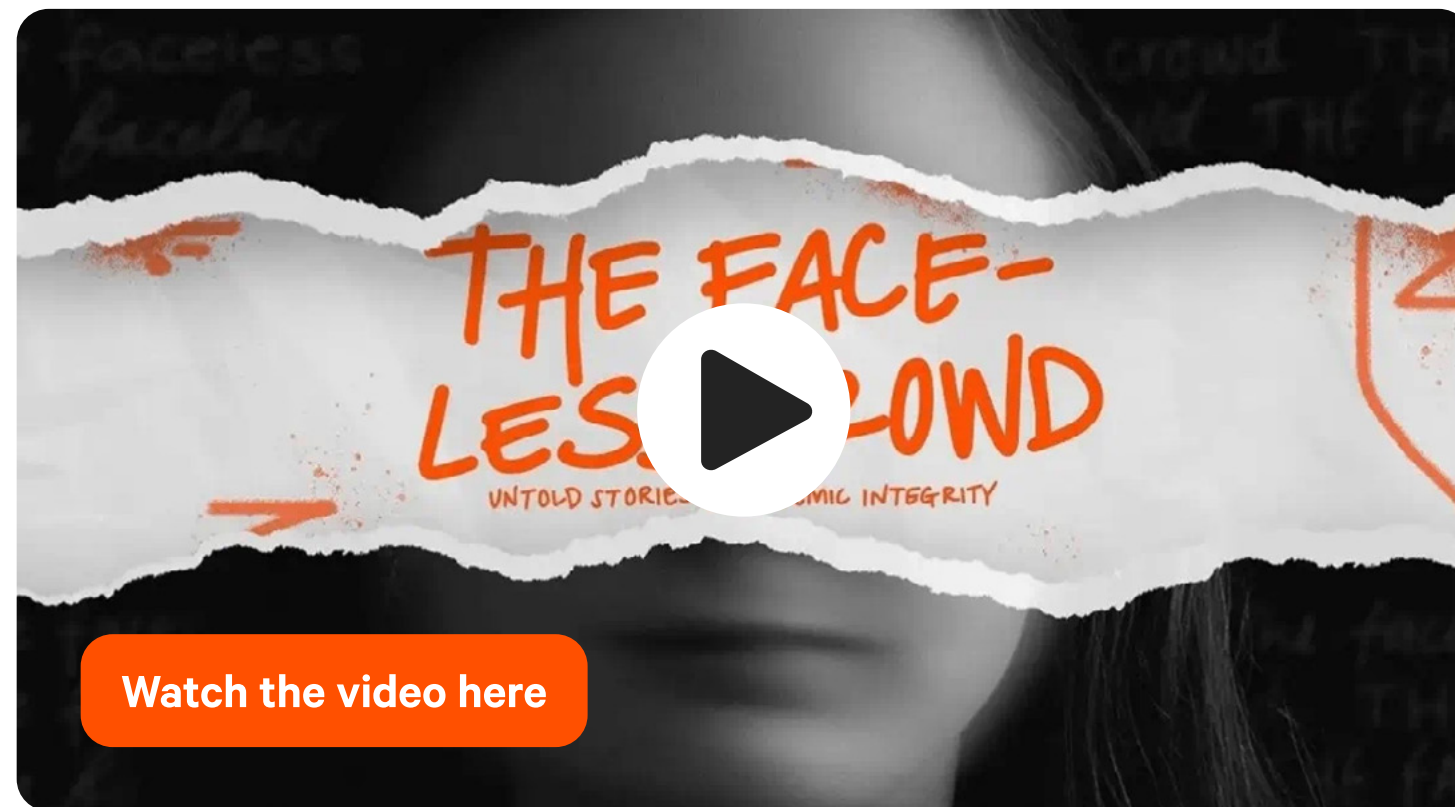


Image Credits: Magner Media

## Billy Blue alumnus wows with AI-fashion Pepsi Pulse collection in Sydney Harbour

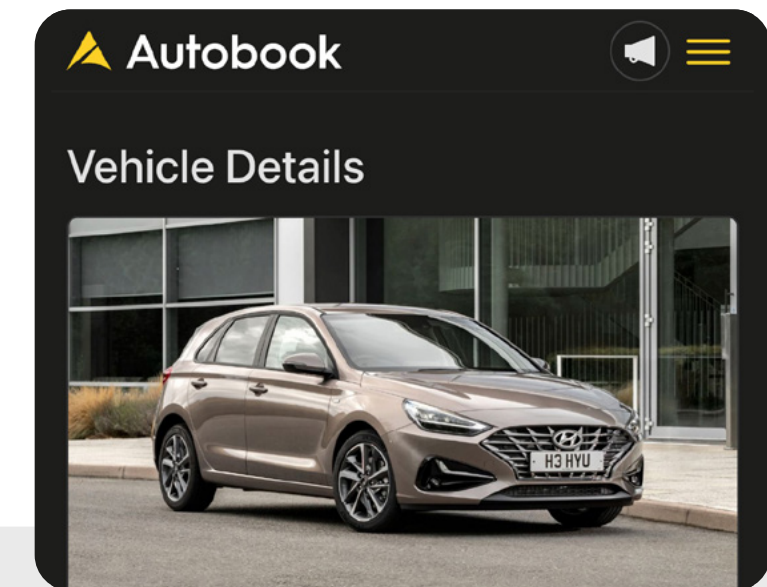
Bachelor of Branded Fashion graduate, Jackson Cowden, launched a new 10-piece collection as part of an exclusive Pepsi rebrand project called the Pepsi Pulse Collection, an Australian first AI-fashion brand collaboration. By leaning into a cutting-edge AI-based approach to digital fashion, Jackson produced the collection in just 40 days, saving time and minimising waste to push the boundaries of fashion traditions.

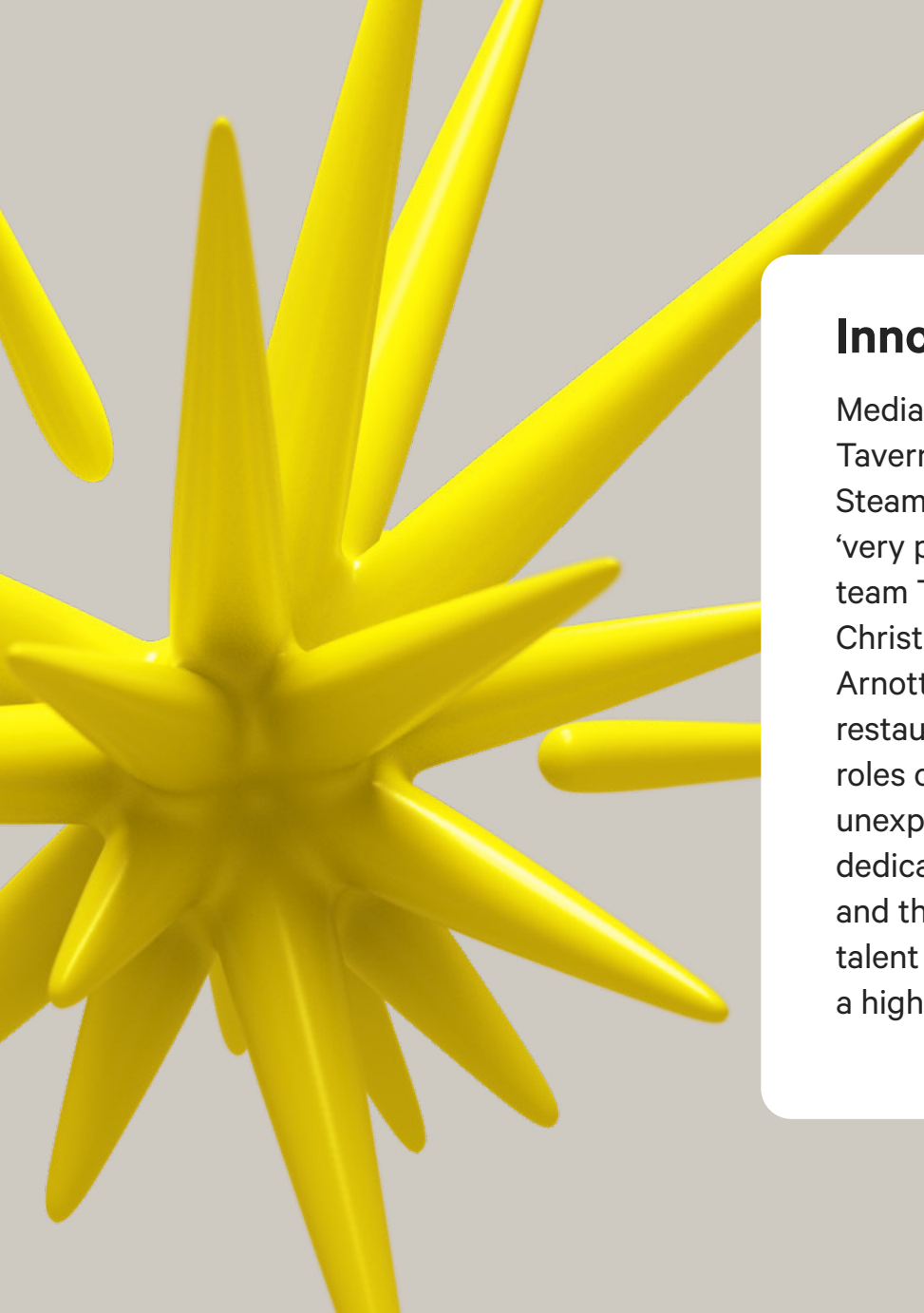
[Watch here](#)

## Driving innovation: Brisbane graduates pioneering the Autobook Car Community app

From passion to innovation, our graduates aim to revolutionise car management with Autobook, the all-in-one app uniting car enthusiasts and professionals in a seamless digital community. Vítor Paranhos, dual Master of Business Administration and Master of Global Project Management, met Renato Frias, Bachelor of Digital Media (Interaction Design), now the Bachelor of UX & Web Design, at Torrens University Australia. The pair shared a passion for entrepreneurship and the automotive industry, and a belief in the potential for technology to address the inefficiencies in the automotive community, which led to the formation of Autobook.

[Read more](#)



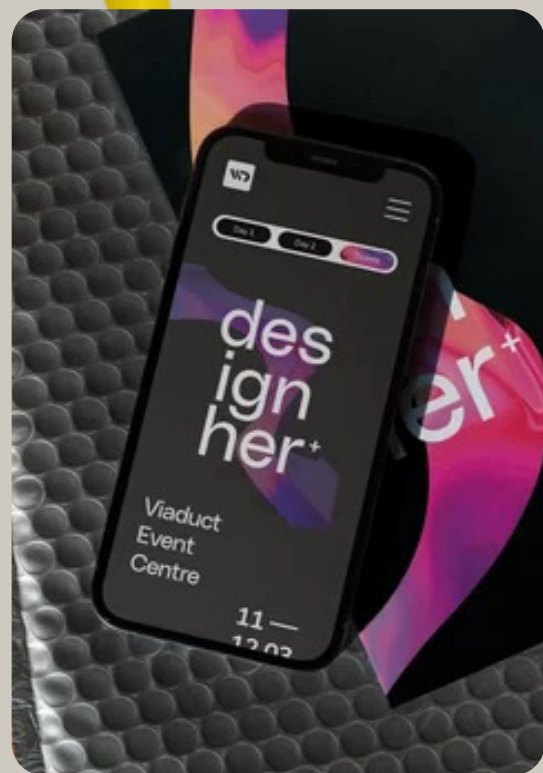


### Innovators in action

Media Design School (MDS) game, Bronzebeard's Tavern has achieved remarkable success on Steam, with over 500,000 downloads and 3,000 'very positive' ratings. Created by the student team The Mermaid MenZ - Darren Contreras, Christian Logoia, Ethan Buot, Ethan Uy, and Wilbur Arnott - the game features a whimsical multiplayer restaurant simulation where players take on the roles of dwarven chefs and servers. The game's unexpected popularity highlights the team's dedication, and the creative skills honed at MDS, and their success exemplifies how we nurture talent and support innovative projects, setting a high standard for future students.

### Empowering female designers: a vision for a more inclusive design community

Kirsty Leggett, a recent Media Design School graduate, created 'DesignHer+', a transformative two-day event for aspiring female designers in Aotearoa. This immersive experience features interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and networking opportunities, aiming to bridge the gap between academia and industry while fostering a supportive community for women in design. By addressing gender disparities and promoting unity, 'DesignHer+' advances a more equitable design industry and empowers female creatives to embrace their identities and connect with industry leaders.



### Global recognition for creative advertising excellence

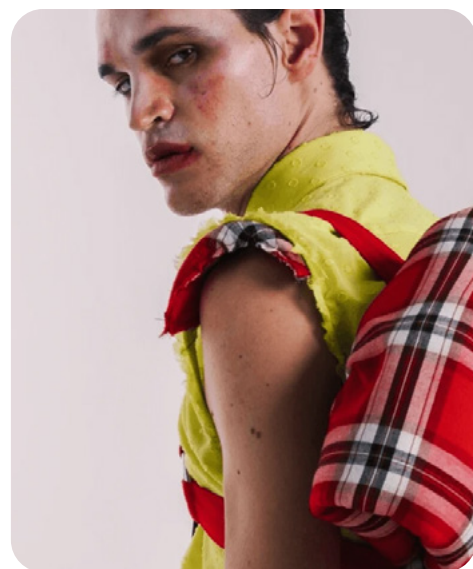
Media Design School's (MDS) Creative Advertising program continues to shine on the global stage, achieving outstanding accolades from July 2023 to June 2024. Highlights include winning four D&AD pencils, and a Top Portfolio Pick at the prestigious D&AD Awards in London; earning 18 awards, including the only Gold in the student category, at the global Mad Stars Awards; Winning two merit awards at the One Show in America and the People's Choice Award in the Advertising & PR Category at the Webby Awards in New York; Five alumni were also ranked in the Cannes Lions Top 10 Global Creative Talent Rankings, a remarkable achievement that showcases the program's impact on nurturing top-tier talent.

These achievements reflect the dedication and innovation of Kate Humphries, the Program Director for Creative Advertising at MDS, who became the first-ever recipient of the Comms Council's Outstanding Achievement Award at the Axis Awards in recognition of her 15+ years of inspiring future generations to become creative superpowers. Humphries has had an immeasurable impact on countless creative careers in Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.



**"Our students make us look good."**

Kate Humphries – Creative Advertising Program Director



### Powerhouse Museum's Future Fashion exhibition featuring Billy Blue's Will Maddock

Future Fashion opens doors for aspiring designers to the Australian fashion industry by exposing them to potential employers, positioning them to influence the local fashion scene through the chance to show off signature designs, technical skills and out-of-the-box thinking. Featuring works from the final-year ranges of graduates from four Sydney institutions, including Billy Blue College of Design's Will Maddock with D.SSENT, the exhibition took place at the Powerhouse Museum in Castle Hill. Will followed in the footsteps of our Bachelor of Branded Fashion Design alumni Holly Villagra, Julie Song and Thomas Saint-Cyr who have all exhibited at the annual exhibition.

### TDK Awards celebrates five academics with top global recognition

The TDK (The Design Kids) Awards celebrate exceptional emerging talent in the international design industry, as well as the introduction of a new category - 2023 Top 30 Lecturers, where Billy Blue academics remarkably landed five of those spots. Academics included Caro Hunt, Kuen Kam, Mel Maher, Robbie Carter, and Luis Lobos, who were described as the unsung heroes of the design industry voted on by all student entrants among their international counterparts.



**"Our teachers are the most passionate academics I have had the pleasure of working with, and I'm proud that this recognition puts Torrens firmly on the global map for design school student experience."**

Associate Professor Michelle Douglas,  
Program Director of Creative Technology



## Vogue Codes Technotopia: Designing the World of Tomorrow

At this year's Vogue Codes Summit, Melanie Tran, Manager of Digital, Design and Data at Nous Group, and Bachelor of Digital Media alumna who is currently undertaking a PhD at Torrens University Australia, asked - "What if you are forced to live in a world that was not designed for you?"



Speaking on accessibility in UX design for the wider disabled community, Melanie spoke on the need for a paradigm shift in perspective when crafting crucial online platforms, explaining that the dialogue must evolve from simply addressing accessibility as an afterthought, to proactively considering the consequences of maintaining inaccessible systems. She explained that accessibility must start from the beginning and be a priority in design from the inception to become the design standard.

## Students' fashion on show at Brisbane Fashion Month

In an era where the fashion industry is undergoing significant evolution, consumers are increasingly investing in quality over fast fashion, showing a preference for local designers who champion sustainability and ethical practices. These principles form the core of our curriculum at Billy Blue College of Design. We partnered with Fashion Queensland as a key sponsor for Brisbane Fashion Month 2023, showcasing the state's emerging fashion talent where our Branded Fashion Design students had the privilege of showcasing their collections, providing a platform to present work to both the community and the industry's leaders. Alexandra Linnane, Fiona Waller, Sofie Hackett, and Mushana by Tanaka Magoche collections graced the runway, gaining invaluable experience and exposure.



## Bachelor of Communication Design Student announced as a 2024 New Colombo Plan Scholar

Bachelor of Communication Design student, Tahleah Murphy, was named a 2024 New Colombo Plan Scholar through the prestigious Australian Government initiative that supports Australian undergraduates to study, intern, and immerse themselves in the Indo-Pacific region. Tahleah, one of 150 students across Australia awarded this scholarship, will study illustration, information design, and print media at Musashino University in Tokyo, and explore Japan's rich cultural heritage, environmental diversity, and innovation in design, as well as undertake an internship in the design industry.



## Inaugural SEED mentoring program a success

At Torrens University Australia, Think Education and Media Design School, we begin and end with people and building upon this core value, the inaugural SEED Mentorship Program - (Support - Engage - Energise - Develop) - aimed to cultivate and retain our talent, further strengthen our cohesive workplace culture, and promote knowledge transfer across different parts of the organisation. From substantial mentor and mentee applicants, 48 matches commenced the program from March to May 2024. Strong feedback indicated 96% of participants agree the program supported their engagement and development.

## BMIHMS alumni community surpassed the 8000-member mark

BMIHMS' global alumni network continued to shine and go from strength to strength fostering connections and support. In 2023 the prestigious network grew to 8000 active members from over 100 nationalities from at least 90 countries.

2023 saw a resurgence in BMIHMS Alumni engagement, with 12 Key Ceremonies held across three campuses; and Chapter events held in Brisbane, Melbourne, Dubai and London. We hosted 40+ alumni guest speakers across our campuses, and alumni provided countless career opportunities to students and new graduates.

Our alumni were featured on the cover of HM Magazine with a focus on their achievements in treading diverse new career paths. Alumni included Ben Salter, Director of Distribution and Systems, Trilogy Hotels, Amelia Perez, Development Manager, Australasia at Hilton Hotels Worldwide, Dimitri Karam, Chief Executive Officer - Signature Hotel Management Group, and Elise Dao, Associate Asset Manager at Salter Brothers.

Amelia Perez, Development Manager, Australasia at Hilton Hotels Worldwide, and BMIHMS alumnus, won the Rising Star of the Year 2023 for her support of sustainable hotel development and inspiring resilience amidst challenges and embracing the post-pandemic era.

BMIHMS graduates were recognised for their outstanding performance and dedication to the industry at the Celebrate YOU - 2024 Tourism Employee Awards 2024, hosted by the Australian Revenue Management Association (ARMA) including:

- Scott Bear (2017)** Rising Star – Senior Leader, Young Gun Amazing Talent
- Estee Neoh (2022)** Outstanding Employee – Manager Commercial
- Ollyvia Bewert (2022)** Outstanding Employee – Manager Front Office
- Emma Tran (2023)** Outstanding Employee – Guest Services
- Rubi Pudasaini (2024)** Outstanding Employee – Tourism Student

“Hospitality is essentially a people-based industry. Connecting with people and providing exemplary customer service underpins all our teaching and is practised across all our campuses. Supporting graduates and staying in touch with them is a natural extension of this.”

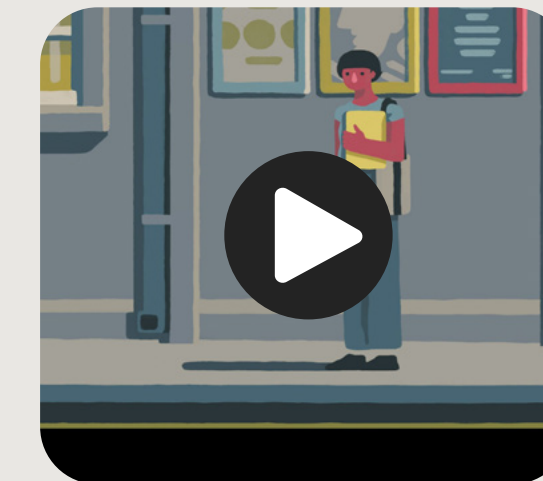
Petra Braat, BMIHMS Alumni Coordinator



## Media Design School shines at Best Design Awards 2024

At the Best Design Awards 2024, Media Design School students picked up one Gold, six Silver, five Bronze and five Finalist awards across Moving Image, Digital, Social Good, Toitanga and Graphic categories.

Mario Golfari received Gold for the Student Moving Image category for Puma, a short, animated video that drew from personal accounts and took inspiration from editorial illustrations to build a fictionalised narrative about coping with acute anxiety disorder.



# Our research

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Research is the cornerstone of any university. For 10 years, our researchers have collaborated with community, industry, and government stakeholders to creatively address society's most pressing challenges. By aligning our efforts with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we aim to foster real-world solutions that contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future.

Our research strengths span our four key university research themes: Building Healthy Futures, Security and Sustainability, Societies in Drastic Change, and People and Industry for Impact. Through these themes, we drive research that generates meaningful social impact and helps shape a better world for all.

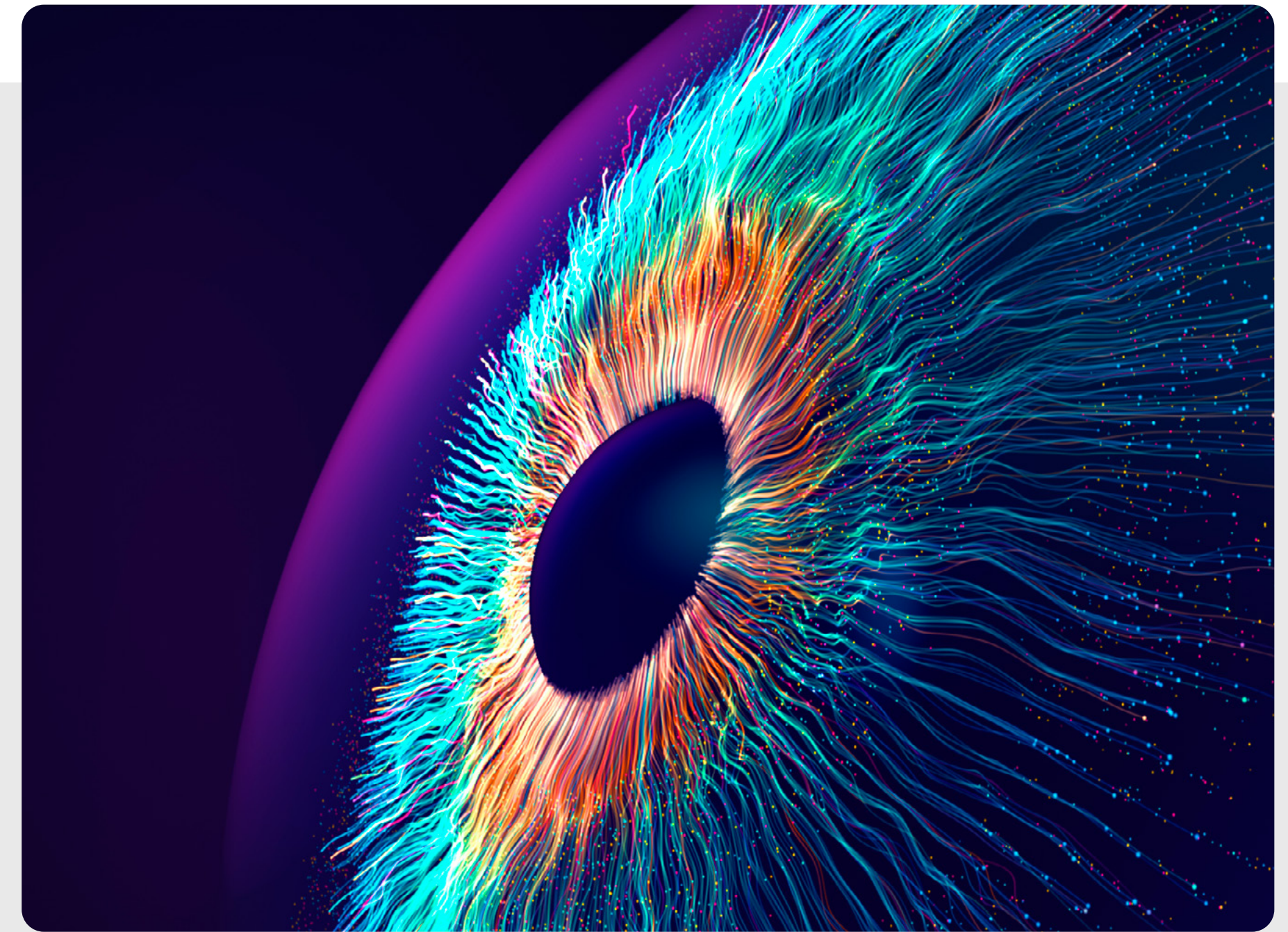
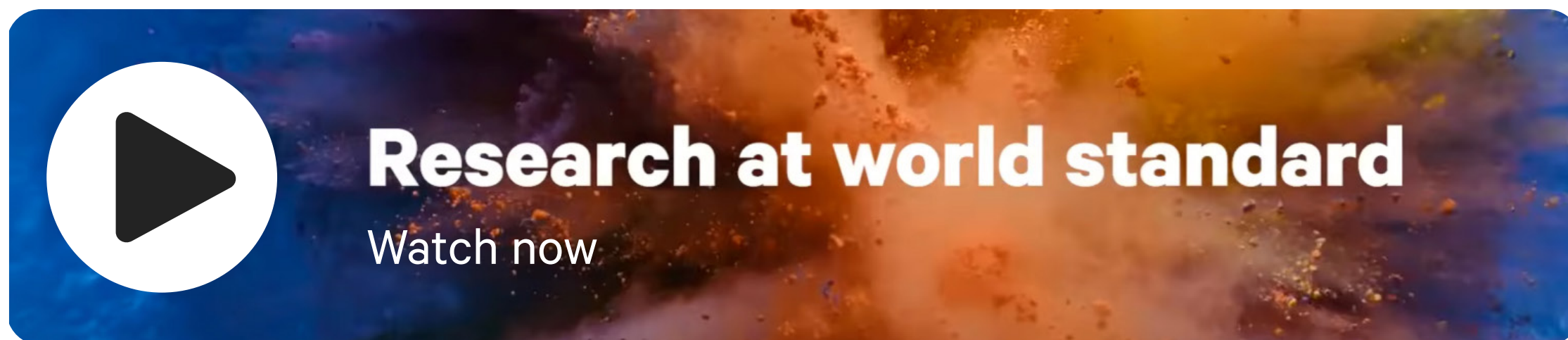


# Celebrating 10 years of research



“Torrens University is committed to addressing the most pressing challenges of our time, through fostering a unique culture of collaboration, where students, staff, and partners work together to design and execute research that creates meaningful and lasting change. Our interdisciplinary teams, along with our local, national and international partners, combine academic rigour with practical insights to ensure our work has a real-world impact. Whether partnering with industry, government, or communities, our researchers take pride in being accessible, adaptable, and dedicated to producing high-quality research that shapes a better future for all.”

Professor Kerry London, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research



## Research and Innovation Week 2024

Research & Innovation Week 2024 at Torrens University Australia showcased a dynamic lineup of events under the theme ‘Delivering Quality Research & Impact through Local and Global Industry Partnerships’. The week kicked off with a conversation between Professor Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, and Professor Kerry London, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, followed by a lively debate, ‘The Higher Education sector is innovative and relevant to local and global industry,’ questioning the relevance of higher education to industry needs.

# Awards and recognition

## Researchers shine at 2023 Australian Public Health Conference

Our Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing (PHEHF) had 10 researchers present at the 2023 Australian Public Health Conference, highlighting our university's growing impact in public health research.

Our researchers presented diverse topics from communicable diseases to social inequalities in health aligned with the conference theme - 'Investing in a strong, smart, and sustainable public health system for the future.'

A standout was Kristen Foley, who won the prestigious Public Health Research Award for her study on the mental health impacts of workplace environments on doctors, conducted with a multidisciplinary team including PHEHF Centre Director, Professor Paul Ward, and Torrens University Australia researchers Dr Belinda Lunnay, Dr Mandi Baker, and Flinders University researchers Sharon Lawn and Michael Baigent.

**“We’re trying to understand how we can make the world a fairer place for everyone, and how we can create systems that allow all humans to flourish.”**

Professor Paul Ward, PHEHF Centre Director



## Professor Catheryn Khoo receives sustainability award

Professor Catheryn Khoo was awarded the 2023 Sustainable Practices Champion Award at Women in Travel Awards for the significant strides she has made in advocating for gender equality in the travel and tourism industry, addressing occupational sexism and empowering women. Her ongoing work highlights social, cultural and structural barriers to accessing education and training and to excel in tourism entrepreneurship and leadership.



Metric	2022	2023	To Nov 2024
External Research Partnerships	49	52	56
External Research Income	\$5.296m	\$4.936m	\$7.5m
Q1 / Q2 Index Publications	186	296 (Target 200)	233 (Target 200)
Q1 Index Publications		219	186 (Target 150)
Grants Submitted	37	40	41 (Target 40)
HDR Student Enrollments (Rolling Totals)	215 (Target 220)	221 (Target 250)	296 (Target 225)
HDR Completions	10	12	55 (Target 50)

## Excellence and impact at the 2023 Torrens University Research Awards

The 2023 Torrens University Australia Research Awards celebrated exceptional achievements within our research community and marked our 10th anniversary.

Honorees included Dr Elsa Dent, awarded the Research Excellence Award for her work in gerontology, and Dr Moana Nepia, who received the Research Impact Award for integrating Māori knowledge into project design and collaboration. Catherine Smith received the Research-Teaching Practice Nexus Award for her innovative contributions to complementary health clinical education, while Robert Tuckwell earned a commendation for his work in architectural composition development.

Early Career Research Excellence was awarded to Dr Ranpreet Kaur for her groundbreaking AI models for early skin cancer detection, with Dr Cindy Lee commended for her research on tourist experiences. Associate Professor Justin Pierce received the Research Supervision Excellence Award for exemplary mentorship. Samantha Batchelor was recognised for her work on breast cancer candidacy with the Higher Degree by Research Excellence Award, and Dr Iveta Kohutova received a commendation for making significant contributions to knowledge and outcomes in restorative justice research.

“These collective significant contributions have propelled our growth and momentum and shaped our maturity in research, inspiring us all.”

Professor Kerry London,  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research



## Researchers recognised among world’s top 2% on 2023 Stanford Elsevier List

We achieved global recognition with our researchers named among the top 2% most cited worldwide in the 2023 Stanford Elsevier List, spanning fields like artificial intelligence, public health, geriatrics, oncology, and tourism and highlighting our growing impact.

From the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research and Optimisation (AIRO), Professor Seyedali Mirjalili ranked fifth most cited across all fields for 2022 and first for artificial intelligence. Lecturer and emerging researcher from AIRO, Dr Kamran Shaukat, and Lecturer Dr Shahrzad Saremi were also recognised among top 2% in artificial intelligence, and Senior Lecturer Dr Ganesh Naik recognised among top 2% in artificial intelligence and biomedical engineering.

Professor Paul Ward was included in the Top 2% for public health and Dr Elsa Dent in the Top 1% for public health / geriatrics, both from the Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing, and Associate Professor Bhawna Gupta from the Centre for Health Futures in the Top 2% for public health / oncology & carcinogenesis for her contributions to global burdens of disease studies. Professor Catheryn Khoo from Centre for Organisational Agility and Change was recognised in the Top 1% for sport, leisure and tourism.





# Sustainability and security

## Intergenerational housing research projects

This year an innovative research project with industry partners which explored intergenerational housing was led by our Deputy Director of the Centre for Healthy Sustainable Development (CHSD) Associate Professor Clare Littleton, and research team including Associate Professor Zelinna Pablo, Dr Denise deSouza, Dr Louise Townsin, and Adjunct Professor Anneke Fitzgerald, along with co-researcher from Echoes Montessori Jessica Langford.

The study focused on a purpose built intergenerational housing environment in Modbury, South Australia, with two linked research projects: a single qualitative case study design and a photovoice study where researchers told the story of this purpose-built intergenerational housing environment from the perspectives of the partners who collaborated to develop this project, and the children and older adults who experience this site.

Partners include ECH Inc., Echoes Montessori, Australian Institute for Intergenerational Practice (AIIP), Walter Brooke Architects, and Torrens University Australia.

“This research demonstrates how best practice collaboration can bring about innovative solutions to help address complex policy issues such as housing and social isolation across generations. It has been a pleasure to work with our partners on this important research topic.”

Associate Professor Clare Littleton, Deputy CHSD Centre Director (Acting).



## Partnership with CIMIC targets a sustainable future

Torrens University partnered with CIMIC Group's software company, IDD Tech, to drive innovation, sustainability, and productivity in infrastructure delivery. Launched in July 2023, the collaboration brought together Torrens University's research leaders and IDD Tech's expertise in digital software solutions for the infrastructure and services sectors. The partnership aims to advance applied research, foster knowledge sharing, and co-design workforce training to address the challenges of digital technology in the industry.

“Our priorities around diversity and inclusion, knowledge sharing, mentoring and collaboration will surface new ideas, drive innovation and deliver initiatives that accurately target the infrastructure sector's current and future challenges”

Professor Kerry London, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research



# People and industry for impact

## Partnering with SA local government to tackle regional workforce challenges

Torrens University Australia, in collaboration with the Legatus Group and several Regional Local Government Associations, developed a [Career Pathways and Workforce Toolkit](#) aimed at addressing talent shortages in regional South Australia. The toolkit, built on 18 months of research by our Centre for Organisational Change & Agility (COCA), provided practical strategies for workforce attraction, retention, and career development in regional councils.

This initiative responded to findings from the collaborations' 2022 report, which revealed that 69% of local governments nationwide face skills shortages and gaps. The toolkit supported regional councils in building sustainable workforces, promoting career pathways, and positioning local government as an employer of choice.

**“This South Australian based research and its outputs have gained attention at a national level with invitations to submit and present to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability. The inquiry discussions acknowledged the national applicability of the Career Pathways and Workforce Toolkit for the local government sector Australia wide.”**

Professor Roslyn Cameron, COCA Centre Director

## Emergence of responsible AI in research and business practices

At the 10th RMER Conference in Portugal, AI researcher Dr Heinz Herrmann, from the Centre for Organisational Change and Agility, highlighted the potential of responsible AI to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Dr Herrmann emphasised the need for business leaders to prioritise sustainable outcomes over profit-driven motives and stressed the importance of integrating ethics and sustainability into management education. His keynote addressed the risks and opportunities of AI, calling for global regulation to promote systemic change and the rethinking of capitalism to better support social and environmental goals.

## Good leadership training needs these five ingredients

The workplaces that will survive and thrive in this era of rapid change are those that take skills development seriously.

Professor Ros Cameron, Director, Centre for Organisational Change and Agility (COCA), and Professor Greg Harper, Executive Dean - Business and Hospitality and researcher (COCA), spent months researching leadership and management courses to develop a new way to navigate leadership training. Their paper, published in the journal Humanities & Social Sciences Communications, identified the key ingredients for effective leadership development programs to make leadership training worthwhile.

### Professors Cameron and Harper identified five key ingredients to leadership.

- The employee must want to be there
- Managers need to let staff use their new leadership skills at work
- Managers need to cultivate a continuous learning mindset
- Managers need to ensure training is delivered by good facilitators
- Organisations need both individual leaders and collective leadership

[Read more](#)



Dr Anita Manfredo,  
Luxury Accommodation Researcher

## Thought-provoking research shaping the future of tourism and hospitality

Bridging the gap between academic research and practical industry insights, our researchers continued to make remarkable strides in advancing theory and practice within the tourism and hospitality sectors. Research focused on vital areas, including covering luxury hospitality experiences; diversity, equity and inclusion in tourism; hospitality employees' thriving at work and wellbeing; and hospitality competencies of the future.

Senior Learning Facilitator and Luxury Accommodation Researcher, Dr Anita Manfredo's ground-breaking research redefining luxury accommodation in Australia asks the question - [Can luxury and sustainability coexist in travel?](#) The research encourages embracing a new definition of luxury, one that includes cultural immersion and respectful engagement.

The Council for Australasian Tourism and Hospitality Education (CAUTHE) serves as a unifying force for professionals dedicated to advancing tourism, hospitality, and events research and higher education throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Anita Manfredo received the 2023 CAUTHE Fellows Early Career Research commendation, while Dr Rajka Presbury and Dr Anita Manfredo were honoured with the 2023 Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Management Best Paper Award, highlighting the cluster's impactful contributions to the academic community.

# Healthy futures and solutions



## Researchers asked same-gender couples how they share the ‘mental load’ at home

Housework is rarely split evenly, for lots of different reasons. Sometimes it’s tied to who has more time at home or more physical capacity, but most of the time it is linked to gender and gender roles.

Centre Director, Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing, Professor Paul Ward, and PhD Candidate, Caitlan McLean’s research involved interviews with 16 same-gender couples with no children. Specifically, they wanted to know how these couples handled division of ‘cognitive labour,’ also known as the ‘mental load.’

A significant body of research has looked at how heterosexual couples divide housework, so our researchers decided to look more closely at the housework experiences of people in same-gender couples where they discovered the cognitive labour workload wasn’t shared 50/50 all the time (and sometimes not at all). Instead, this labour was divided according to needs that arose within the household and what was considered to be fair and just.

[Read more](#)

## Many migrants wait hours after a heart attack to seek help. What needs to change?

Torrens University research revealed significant delays in seeking medical help for heart attack symptoms among migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Migrants often delay due to language barriers, visa status, and lack of health insurance, with some waiting over six hours before seeking help, compared to 1.5 hours for Australian-born patients. The research conducted by Hannah Wechkunanukul, Associate Professor in Public Health, and Philip Ayizem Dalinjon, Lecturer and Researcher in Public Health, highlighted the need for targeted public health campaigns, cultural competence in healthcare, and improved access to social security services to address these health inequities. Addressing these delays could save lives and reduce health disparities in Australia.

[Read more](#)



## Neuroscientist alumnus expands epilepsy treatment options with genomic solutions

Epilepsy affects 65 million people worldwide, often limiting their professional and personal lives. Our alumnus research student, Nathan James Barnett used his personal experience of this condition and his studies to set up a non-for-profit foundation, N.E.T.A which is focused on rare disease sub-types of epilepsy and a bioinformatics approach that uses computer technology to collect, store, analyse and disseminate biological data such as DNA and amino acids. Nathan graduated this year with a Doctor of Philosophy with his PhD ‘A Comprehensive transcriptomic analysis of temporal lobe and neocortical epilepsy lesions in human and rodent models.’

# Societies in drastic change

## Who gets to be healthy? The 'social determinants of health' can reduce inequities, but many policies neglect them

The 'social determinants of health' highlight how a person's health is shaped not only by diet and lifestyle but also by social factors like access to education, income, housing, and discrimination and it's during childhood these factors start greatly influencing a person's life trajectory. A study by Deputy Director of the Centre for Healthy Sustainable Development, Associate Professor Clare Littleton, and Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing Research Assistant, Caitlin Reader, analysed 26 national and state policies, finding that only 10% addressed these crucial social determinants. While there is growing awareness of their importance, policies remain skewed towards acute care rather than prevention. The research calls for a balanced approach to improve children's health outcomes and tackle inequities in Australia.

[Read more](#)

# Media Design School



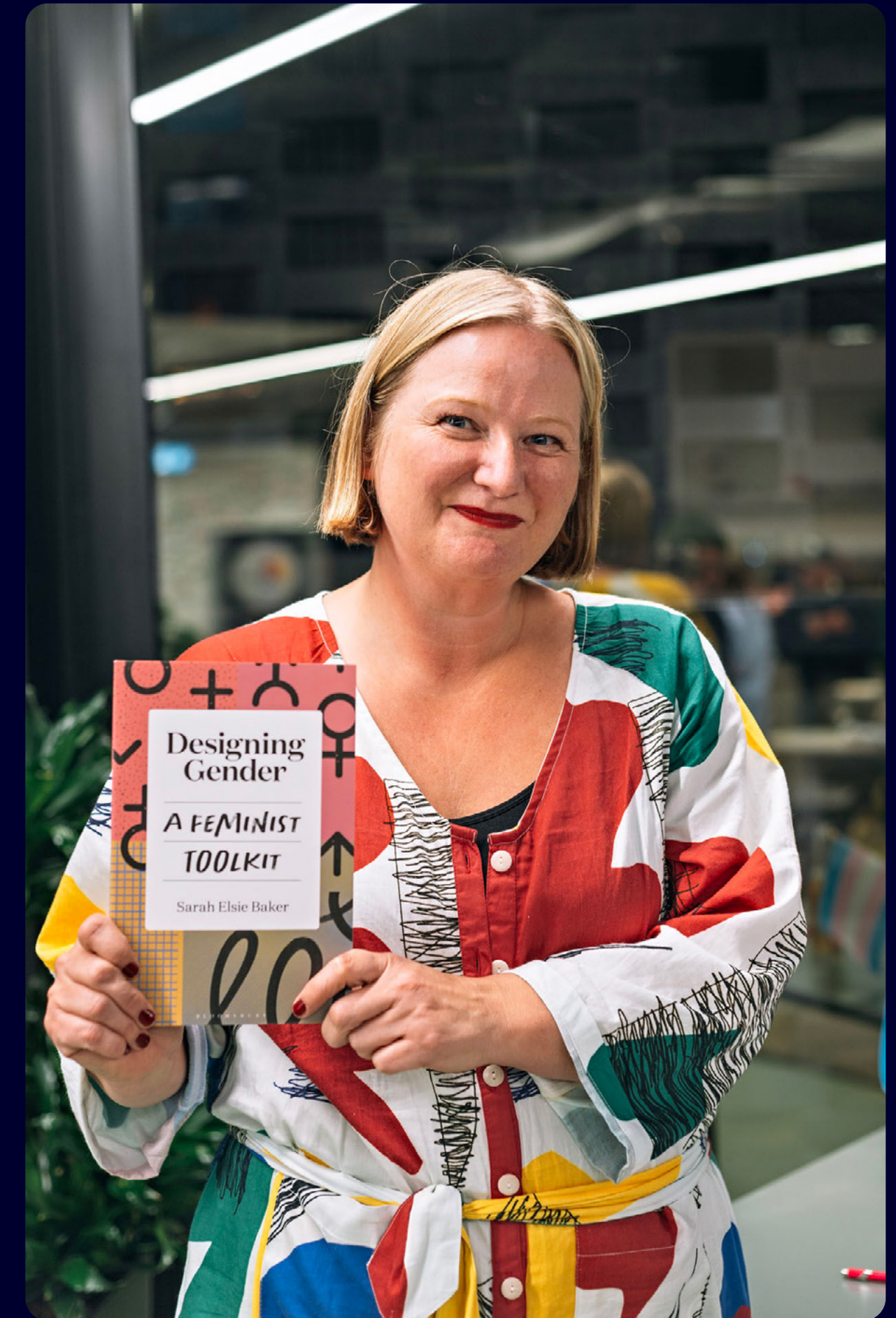
## Empowerment through game-based rehabilitation

Dr Aslihan Tece Bayrak, Program Coordinator for the Bachelor of Software Engineering at Media Design School, has developed an innovative game-based rehabilitation system to support long-term aerobic exercise for people with Parkinson's disease. Addressing a critical need for motivation in regular exercise, her game leverages motivational theories to encourage sustained engagement. This pioneering work not only enhances the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's but also showcases the transformative impact of game design in therapeutic settings. Dr Bayrak presented her research at a conference in Hawaii and is seeking further funding for development.

## Dr Sarah Elsie Baker's 'Designing Gender: A Feminist Toolkit'

Launched early in 2024, Media Design School Head of Research and Senior Lecturer, Dr Sarah Elsie Baker's acclaimed book [Designing Gender: A Feminist Toolkit](#) is an essential resource for designers who are passionate about disrupting gender inequality.

At a launch at MDS Dr Baker shared insights from her ground-breaking work through an enriching conversation with Design Assembly's Louise Kellerman, and as part of Torrens University Australia's 2024 Research and Innovation Week, Dr Baker and Dr Elise Stephenson, Deputy Director of The Global Institute for Women's Leadership at The Australian National University, offered profound insights into feminist design principles and their impact on gender representation and justice.



# Our community



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At Torrens University, our community embodies the spirit of collaboration, inclusivity, and impact. Together we champion causes that matter and celebrate diversity, coming together to make a tangible difference.

Our efforts reflect our commitment to building a better future, one act at a time. Whether through sustainability, social justice, or simply lending a helping hand to those in need, our community continues to create meaningful change both locally and globally.



together  
FOR  
GOOD



### Campaign creates awareness for BirdCare Aotearoa

Last year, as part of Together for Good, Media Design School supported BirdCare Aotearoa (BCA), New Zealand's largest wild bird rehab centre, which has cared for over 31,000 birds since 2018. Servicing the greater Auckland region from the Waikato to Northland, BCA, Auckland's Wild Bird Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre, and New Zealand's largest bird rehab centre by intake, is funded entirely through donations.

BCA was facing financial challenges, launching an urgent appeal to raise \$100,000 to prevent closure, which prompted action from MDS academics. First-year Bachelor of Media Design students contributed through graphic, motion and interactive design to create engaging awareness campaigns, and staff engaged in the Be Good Day of Service volunteering to support BCA's mission.



## Together for Good 2023: raising \$20,193 across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

In 2023, our collective efforts for the 'Together for Good' campaign raised an impressive \$20,193, contributing to various causes across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. From participating in charity walks, runs, and bake sales to organising community events, our colleagues came together to make a positive impact.

Highlights include top ANZ teams taking out the top three spots in our US parent company Strategic Education Inc's Global Movement Challenge where 35 teams walked or ran 32,081,275 steps or 21,185km to attempt to virtually cover the distance from Australia to Aotearoa New Zealand and across to USA. Our teams won donations for their chosen charities, with contributions of \$3000 shared by Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Life Charity Focus, and SisterWorks.

Our teams also supported Cancer Council Australia, Beyond Blue, PAWS Pet Therapy, Australian Red Cross, Can Too Foundation and many more. Media Design School incorporated charitable initiatives into their curriculum, supporting BirdCare Aotearoa and Médecins Sans Frontières - Doctors Without Borders.

### Māori and Pasifika industry engagement

Media Design School partnered with Spark New Zealand on a live brief for rangatahi (younger people), focusing on the power of technology and storytelling to connect youth with digital opportunities. Through the project "Hanga tō Ara" (Make Your Way), students developed interactive experiences that help urban rangatahi reconnect with their heritage and ancestral lands using data-driven design. The project was recognised as a Student & Academic Toitanga, Student Social Good, and Student Digital DINZ Best Awards Finalist 2024.

### Expanding access to creative education

Media Design School's connection to community is exemplified through its strong partnerships with industry and local schools. Our Satellite Learning Centres in South Auckland, Whangārei, and Rotorua are designed to bring high-quality creative education to underserved regions. These initiatives provide pathways to tertiary education for Māori, Pasifika, and other underrepresented groups, strengthening community ties and enhancing access to education.



### Fashion design with purpose: collaborating with The Social Outfit

Billy Blue College of Design at Torrens University partnered with The Social Outfit for a design challenge aimed at solving fashion wastage by using deadstock and donated excess fabric from Australian fashion brands including Cue, Romance was Born, Bianca Spender, Bec + Bridge, Camilla & Marc, Manning Cartell and Zimmermann.

The students were tasked with designing a bomber jacket from surplus fabric, combining creativity with ethical fashion practices with a competitive clause. The winning design, by Zoe Stibbard-Ribeiro, was produced and showcased in The Social Outfit's Newtown store in Sydney. This collaboration reflects both The Social Outfit's commitment to sustainability and empowering refugee and migrant women through ethical employment opportunities.

“In addition to equipping graduates with the knowledge and skills they need for career success, we seek out curriculum opportunities to ensure our design course students see how their individual and collective contributions can make a difference to the lives of those around them and beyond. Our collaboration with The Social Outfit highlights how impactful learning with purpose can be.”

Nathan Scoular, Industry Director



Zoe Stibbard-Ribeiro

### Leading in animation and visual effects education

Media Design School continues to solidify its position as a global leader in animation and visual effects education. As a Houdini certified school, MDS is at the forefront of training the next generation of visual effects professionals. MDS's commitment to industry excellence is further demonstrated by its foundational sponsorship of the Visual Effects Professionals Guild of New Zealand and active participation in the Visual Effects Society's Board of Managers and Education Outreach Committee. Recognised globally, MDS is ranked as the #1 animation school in New Zealand by The Rookies and Animation Career Review, and #18 internationally by Animation Career Review. These accolades underscore MDS's dedication to providing world-class education and fostering strong industry connections.



### VIVA Mutual teams with students to boost NDIS program for startups

VIVA Mutual, an Adelaide-based National Disability Insurance Service (NDIS) Provider, offers a range of support services to help individuals with disabilities or aging achieve personal goals, independence, and wellbeing. VIVA's highly successful Rapid Enterprise Development (RED) program helps NDIS participants start their own businesses through workshops and coaching.

With federal government funding for the RED program ending in 2024, Torrens University Master of Business Administration and Master of Professional Accounting students developed a sustainability plan, offering business model options for ongoing operation, and explored adapting the program for startups in the circular economy space through the university's Social Enterprise Hub.

The consultancy team also worked on a business and workforce model research project led by Professor Ros Cameron, exploring the European Buurtzorg Social and Health Services Model's application in Australia. VIVA Mutual also engaged the students to research shared-ownership models for a new healthcare service. The team provided a report evaluating different models' ability to attract and retain staff, aiding VIVA's future decision-making for this new venture.



## BMIHMS shines at 2023 HM Awards, raising \$24,885 for Sala Bai Hotel School

In 2023, Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School proudly continued its 10+ year co-hosting role at the prestigious HM Awards for Hotel and Accommodation Excellence. This year was particularly notable, with BMIHMS alumni receiving 35 nominations across 16 award categories, and Associate Professor Simon Pawson serving as a first-time judge.

The 21st HM Awards ceremony also spotlighted Sala Bai Hotel School as its principal charity. BMIHMS shared a video, co-produced by James Wilkinson, Editor-In-Chief of HM Magazine and Founder of the HM Awards, to over 1,100 hoteliers. The video highlighted BMIHMS's commitment as a Certified B Corp organisation to supporting Sala Bai's vital work in Cambodia and raised an impressive \$24,885 for the school.

[Read more](#)



**Left to Right:** Senior Marketing Manager Allison Harris, Tamara Petric, Petra Eckerova, Assoc. Prof Pawson, Senior Lecturer and BMIHMS researcher Amanda Ting, BMIHMS Learning Facilitator Natalie Reid, Kimberley Roberts, Given Angel Marcial

### BMIHMS' outstanding efforts are a remarkable achievement that is a testament to the generosity and community spirit that defines BMIHMS

Blackheath Theatre Trust (07.03.24)	<b>\$8,617</b>
Cancer Wellness Support Gala (30.05.24)	<b>\$19,016</b>
Annual Sala Bai charity dinner 2023	<b>\$37,500</b>
Leura Gardens Festival 2023	<b>\$100,000</b>
Blue Mountains Health Trust charity gala 2023	<b>\$15,000</b>
HM Awards for Hotel and Accommodation Excellence 2023	<b>\$24,885</b>
End-of-year Sala Bai fundraising dinner 2023	<b>\$25,000</b>

**A collective accomplishment: \$214,500 directly contributed to charity**



QS World University Rankings rank BMIHMS as the number one hotel school in Australia for the past three years and the third in Oceania specialising in Hospitality and Leisure Management.



## 20 Years of fighting poverty in Cambodia through hospitality education

For 20 years, Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School (BMIHMS) at Torrens University has partnered with Sala Bai Hotel School in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to fight poverty through hospitality education. Since 2005, BMIHMS has pledged an annual donation of \$60,000 to support Sala Bai, which provides underprivileged young Cambodians with professional training in hospitality and tourism, ensuring economic security and improved living conditions. The partnership has produced over 2,000 graduates, lifting an estimated 10,000 people out of poverty.

Sala Bai trains 150 students annually, with 70% being young women who face greater barriers to education and employment. The school covers tuition, housing, and medical care, allowing students to focus on their studies. As a result, 98% of graduates secure jobs within 4-6 weeks of completing the program.

BMIHMS staff and students actively contribute by raising funds, donating equipment, and supporting leadership programs. Events like the annual charity dinners and the recent addition of luxury accommodation on BMIHMS' Leura Campus further support Sala Bai's mission,

**“The relationship with Sala Bai is now 20 years old, so the longevity is quite astounding. We’ve certainly established credibility and recognition that we do make such a considerable difference.”**

Associate Professor Simon Pawson, Associate Dean – Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School

BMIHMS's commitment to its 'Be Good' activities also significantly contribute to the local Blue Mountains community. Hosting events, like the Cancer Wellness Support dinner, Leura Gardens Festival, and Blue Mountains Health Trust charity gala, showcased our commitment to making a positive impact.

These efforts exemplify our dedication to supporting charities in both the Blue Mountains and Cambodia. Collective events accomplished a phenomenal \$214,500 directly contributed to charity.







### Photography students make a difference through OzHarvest collaboration

At Torrens University Australia, we emphasise the importance of meaningful and positive impact through creativity and innovation. Last year, our photography students collaborated with OzHarvest’s FEAST program, a powerful initiative focused on reducing food waste and promoting healthy eating. OzHarvest, Australia’s leading food rescue organisation, works to prevent surplus food from reaching landfills and redistributes it to those in need.

Through this partnership, students designed recipe cards for use in primary and high school STEM programs, helping to teach children how to make healthy meals. This project not only enhanced students’ skills but also contributed to OzHarvest’s mission of fostering food security and sustainability.

### A career break in Uganda that changed everything for BMIHMS alumna

Aleisha Hamilton (2020) shared her life-changing experience during a career break volunteering in Uganda with the not-for-profit organisation, Watoto. Transitioning from her role as a Front Office Manager in hospitality, Aleisha spent six months witnessing both joy and hardship in Uganda, engaging with communities where extreme poverty is a daily reality. She experienced firsthand the resilience of people, learning local customs and languages, while also facing the heartbreaking conditions, lack of education, and scarcity of basic needs.

Watoto focuses on alleviating poverty through education and empowerment, supporting over 3,000 children in its self-sufficient villages and providing critical programs like “Keep a Girl in School.” Now serving as Relationship Manager for Watoto Australia & New Zealand, Aleisha is dedicated to raising awareness, managing donor relationships, and organising fundraising efforts to support vulnerable women and children. Aleisha encourages others to expand their horizons by engaging in volunteer work, corporate partnerships, or fundraising efforts to make a tangible difference.



### Pink Shirt Day at MDS

Media Design School celebrates Pink Shirt Day annually to raise awareness on bullying and more specifically, how to effectively help someone if you witness bullying. Our activations are campus-wide, ranging from a shared student morning tea, the “pink-ification” of campus and its people, a library display of relevant titles and conversation starter cards, to get people thinking about the core theme of the day.

### International student lunches

During the semester, Media Design School (MDS) hosts an international student lunch on the first Wednesday of each month. MDS tries to alternate cuisines to give everyone a small taste of home, but more importantly has been aiming to foster connections between international students across different programs. What started as a small gathering of just a few students has grown, and now sees around a quarter of total international students joining each month.

### BMIHMS alumna fundraising to ensure medical care in remote areas

Sabrina Thomas (Wells), a 2017 graduate, is currently the Individual Giving Specialist at the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) in Western Australia and was recently named the 2024 Young Fundraiser of the Year at the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) Conference. Her role involves encouraging community support for RFDS’s emergency aeromedical services, which assist over 10,000 patients annually in remote areas. Sabrina leads major fundraising efforts like Flying Doctor Day, which raised over \$1.1M in 2023 for vital medical equipment. Passionate about giving back, she emphasises how individuals and organisations can make a significant impact through donations, partnerships, and fundraising.



Sabrina Thomas (Wells), 2024 Young Fundraiser of the Year

“The most rewarding aspects of this sector are the people and the opportunity to make this world we share more equitable. There is something magical about getting to hear the stories of individuals and their families who received life-saving services because of the work your organisation does.”



### Pride highlights

This was a year of significant progress for inclusivity at Torrens University Australia. We proudly became members of Pride In Diversity and joined the Welcome Here Project, reinforcing our commitment to creating safe and welcoming spaces for our LGBTQIA+ student and staff communities.

Our Pride Alliance employee resource group grew to 25+ active members, connecting and supporting our community in many ways including hosting numerous on-campus and online events that fostered a culture of acceptance and belonging.

Vibrant rainbow stairs now adorn our Surry Hills and Brisbane campuses, symbolising our celebration of diversity. Safe spaces and Pride pods were introduced across all campuses, providing havens of support. Additionally, we distributed pronoun and Torrens Pride badges to promote inclusivity.

### Feast for Freedom to support asylum seekers

In March 2024, our Melbourne staff and students supported the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) through a Feast for Freedom lunch and raised \$400+ to directly contribute to essential food, housing and health services for refugees and people seeking asylum. It was more than just a meal - it was a celebration of cultural diversity and unity and an opportunity to showcase the rich flavours and traditions from around the world.



### Developing cultural competence through community service placement

Dilma Jayawardena, a Bachelor of Community Services graduate from Torrens University Australia, enhanced her cultural competence through a fieldwork placement with Community Language Schools SA (CLSSA). Her work involved hands-on projects such as conducting a community needs analysis for the newly proposed Community Language Learning Hub and helping organise the 2023 Multicultural Festival and CLSSA Showcase.

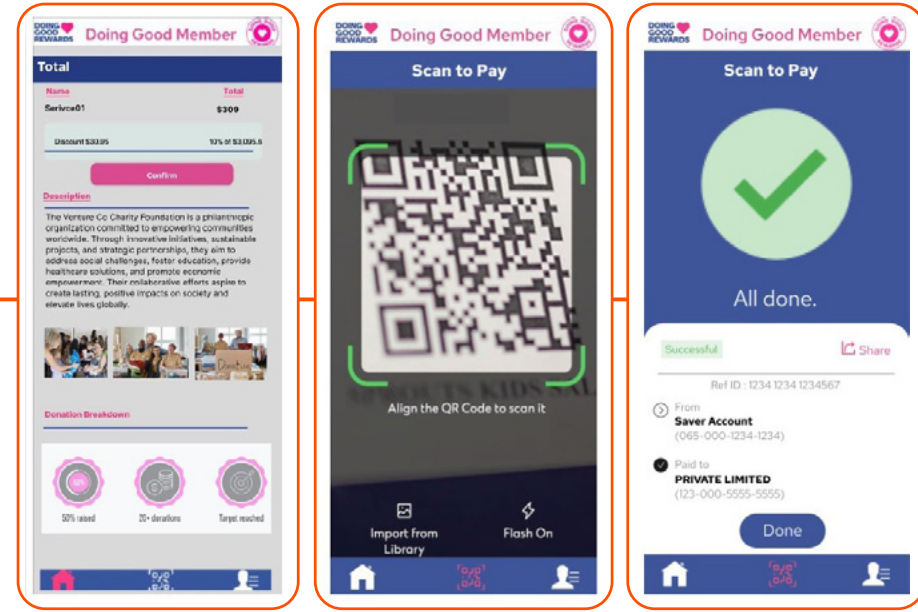
Dilma's placement allowed her to apply classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios, deepening her understanding of cultural diversity and social inclusion. This experience significantly impacted her career prospects, leading her to a role as a Community Engagement Mentor at CLSSA.

[Read more](#)

### Students partner with MSK Australia to drive innovation

Through a partnership with Torrens University's Social Enterprise Hub, Master of Business Information Systems (MBIS) and Master of Business Administration (MBA) students contributed to key projects aimed at enhancing Musculoskeletal Australia's (MSK) impact. MSK is a national non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of life for people affected by or at risk of musculoskeletal conditions.

The first project involved a critical analysis of MSK's 2019 survey data, resulting in a data dashboard that highlighted key findings and informed the development of MSK's short, medium, and long-term business strategies. The second project focused on creating a business case for a joint venture to develop an AI platform prototype. This platform will help consumers manage musculoskeletal conditions by utilising MSK's data. Both projects provided valuable insights and tools to support MSK's mission of better musculoskeletal health for all.



### MBIS students partner with Doing Good Rewards to expand charity-giving ecosystem

Torrens University's Master of Business Information Systems (MBIS) students collaborated with Doing Good Rewards™ Pty Ltd (DGR), a social enterprise revolutionising the loyalty and charity-giving spaces by rewarding individuals and organisations for their positive actions.

DGR connects people and businesses to unlock shared value, driving positive social change through everyday transactions. Their mission is simple: by doing good together, everyone benefits, with each contribution making a lasting difference.

The critical project aimed to identify customer payments made via bank transfers and BPAY, expanding the system beyond traditional card payments. Students researched open banking services, designed a white-label online banking portal, and developed a system to track payments and trigger alerts when discounts are applied. This innovative solution will significantly increase the amount of spending within DGR's ecosystem, boosting charitable donations and furthering DGR's mission to create large-scale positive social impact.

### Students partner with The Coffee Brigade to support Queensland's homeless

An estimated 21,000 people face homelessness in Queensland, and for over 50 years, the Coffee Brigade has provided them with coffee, sandwiches, and essential connection. Torrens University students from design and business programs supported this mission through two impactful projects.

First, they developed a refreshed brand identity and social media strategy to elevate awareness. Second, they organised a fundraising event to help ensure the Coffee Brigade can continue its vital daily service.



**“We’re delighted to announce that we have raised \$30,000 from our inaugural fundraising dinner with 100% of the proceeds from the night going directly towards helping our friends.”**

The Coffee Brigade Team



One Voice 2023	\$10,200
The Big Umbrella 2024	\$9,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>

### Melbourne campus' Toffee Coffee putting Be Good in action

In 2024, Torrens University's Melbourne campus' Toffee Coffee cafe started partnering with charity foundation The Big Umbrella by donating 50c of every coffee sold to help their food rescue campaign, 'Feeding people, Forming communities'. In 6 months alone \$9,300 was raised.



The partnership with The Big Umbrella includes volunteering sessions where students and staff have the opportunity to participate in the food preparation and food delivery sessions at Federation Square for homeless people and others in need during an evening shift.

Prior to this partnership, the cafe partnered with One Voice Mobile Showers with a collective belief that access to personal hygiene is a fundamental right. The cafe raised \$10,200 in the second half of 2023 to provide hot showers for Melbourne's homeless community.

**“Giving them some kindness, dignity and genuine friendship for a few hours filled our hearts full of love. We are very proud to work in a company that encourages us to ‘BE GOOD’ and start and end with people.”**

Patricia Artico, Toffee Coffee Manager

**“As a Master of Public Health graduate of Torrens University Australia, I realised that addressing one aspect of the social determinants of health, such as food insecurity, is pivotal in providing equitable opportunities for the underprivileged members of the society in acquiring better health outcomes through events such as this.”**

Joseph Que - Master of Public Health

**“The experience of volunteering in The Big Umbrella made me think about social connections and empathy. It's enriching to hear stories behind people that welcome you with kindness. That really made me believe that small acts that we take can change a person for better, and how sometimes being open for a little more communication can change your perspectives.”**

Giovanna Fernandes - Bachelor of Business – Marketing

# Our planet

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We take pride in the meaningful steps we take each year toward fostering a healthier planet and the phenomenal work our students do to create impact in this space. We recognise there is more to achieve, and we are dedicated to enhancing our environmental impact across all campuses and business operations.

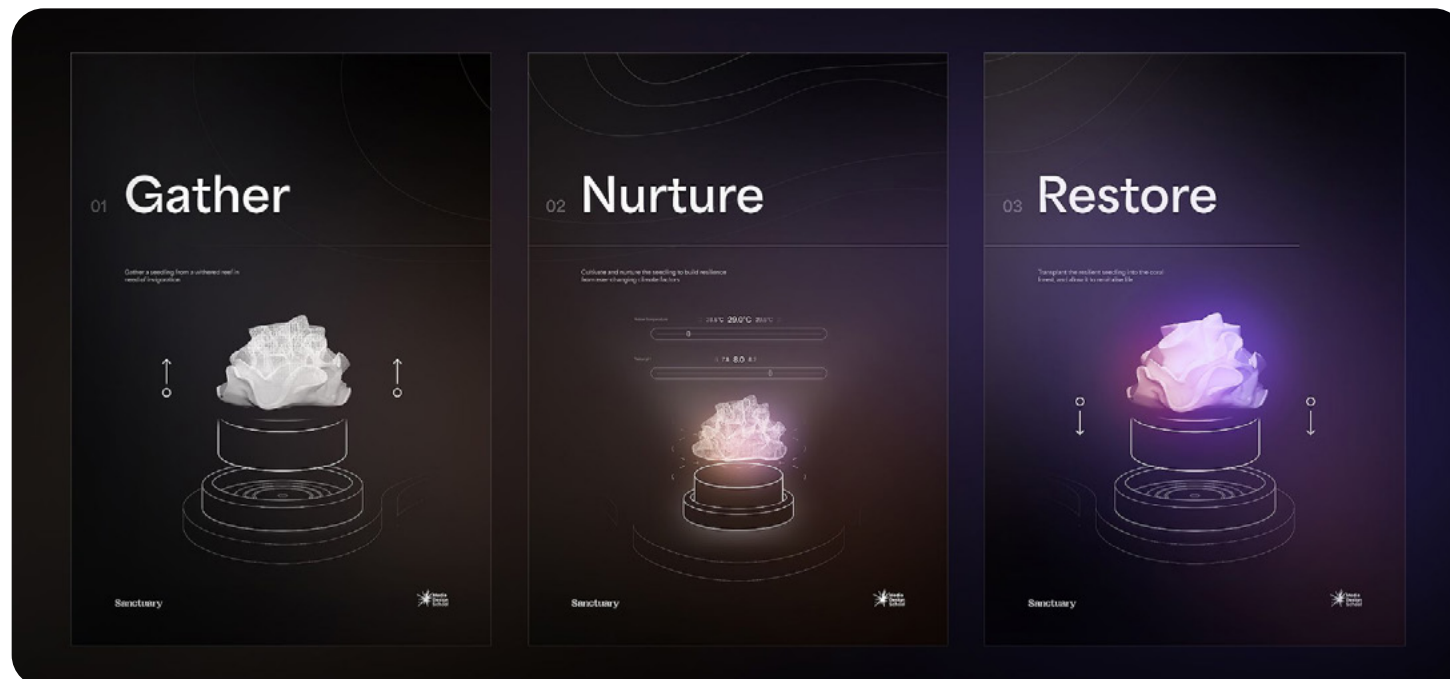
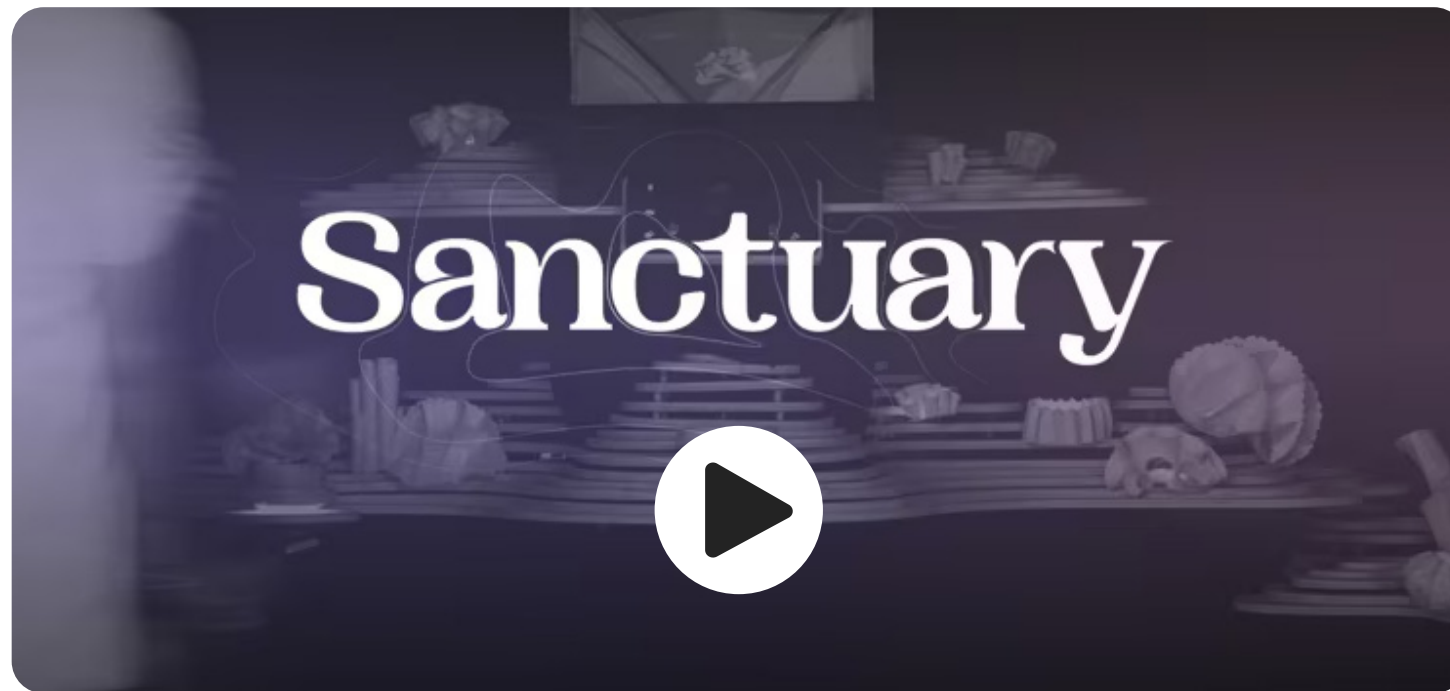


## Sanctuary: coral conservation initiative

Welcome to the “Sanctuary”, an experiential installation designed by Media Design School’s final year Bachelor of Media Design students, Calum De Fanti, Benjamin Walsham, Monica Luu, Cameron Loving, to advocate for coral aquaculture and marine restoration and fight coral reef extinction.

Sanctuary combines cutting-edge technology with thoughtful design to create a multisensory experience inviting participants to become coral gardeners, promoting awareness and dialogue for the vitality of preserving our ocean’s rainforests and re-illuminating the depth of lost coral.

This project was awarded two DINZ Best Awards in 2024, Silver for Student Digital and Silver for Student Social Good, showcasing the impact of creative efforts towards environmental conservation.



“Participating in the live brief Dark Sky Reserve project during my MBA enabled me to apply academic knowledge and diverse professional experiences, highlighting how integrating design and business skills can produce innovative and practical solutions for real-world problem-solving,”

Elicia Simon, MBA student and Program Director, Design and Creative Technology

## Social Enterprise Hub providing unique learning at the Dark Sky Reserve

The Social Enterprise Hub at Torrens University has enabled students from diverse disciplines - including engineering management, project management, business administration, and design - to contribute to the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve (RMIDSR), Australia’s first accredited Dark Sky Reserve. Accredited in 2019 by DarkSky International, RMIDSR offered students the chance to engage in real-world projects including branding, business case development, and observatory design.

International Dark Sky Reserves are publicly or privately-owned spaces that have exceptional starry nights and a nocturnal environment, and specifically protected for their scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and public enjoyment.

Consultancy projects include creating a virtual reality installation highlighting light pollution, now showcased at the Mannum Visitor Information Centre. Students also developed the reserve’s branding and a business case for its future observatory and planetarium. These hands-on experiences offered practical insights and fostered professional growth that has contributed to South Australia’s tourism, economic development, and environmental conservation.

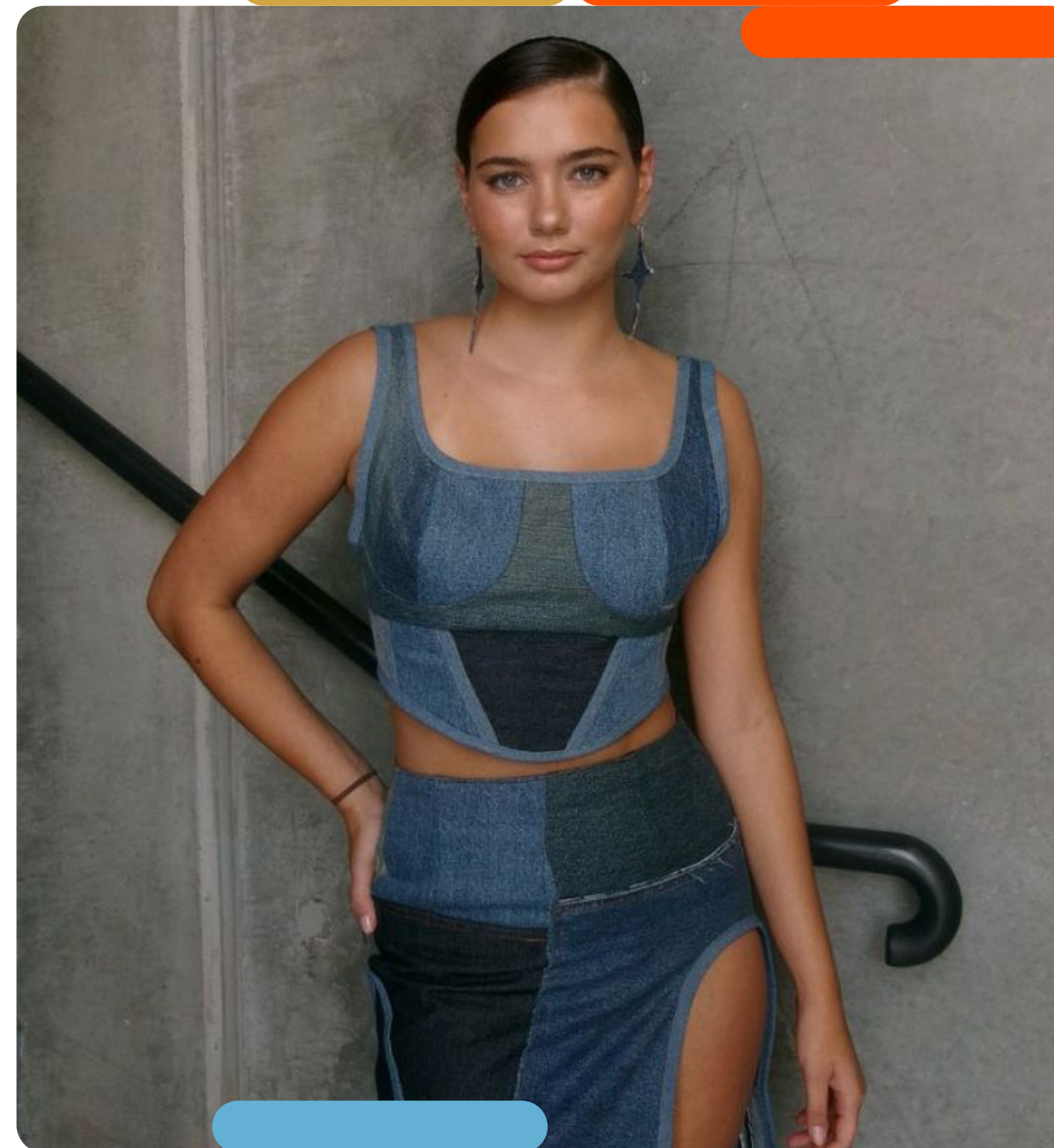
The collaboration between our students and project leaders exemplifies the university’s commitment to impactful learning experiences that promote social and environmental progress.

“When we first engaged with the Social Enterprise Hub we were at an exciting stage and looking to collaborate with fresh minds to help articulate our vision for the RMIDSR, and the future observatory. Working with the students has exceeded our expectations and we’re extremely grateful for the ongoing collaboration.”

Chris Tugwell, Chairman, Mid Murray Landcare, SA

## Sustainable fashion leading the way at Brisbane campus

Fashion student Yahya Khashaee, based at Torrens University's Brisbane campus, has led a sustainable fashion initiative by collecting denim donated by staff and students for his 'One-of-a-Kind' fashion collection. Their brand, 'Khashaee,' advocates for upcycling, encouraging individuals to repurpose discarded garments, significantly reducing textile waste and CO2 emissions whilst highlighting the importance of sustainability in the fashion industry. The patchwork designs in the collection emphasise individuality and promote a conscious, eco-friendly approach to fashion consumption.



## Exploring vegan fashion with Dr Rachel Lamarche-Beauchesne

Dr Rachel Lamarche-Beauchesne, Senior Lecturer at Torrens University, is a leading expert in vegan fashion with a global background in fashion enterprise and marketing, including work at Stella McCartney. She shares her expertise with students in our Bachelor of Branded Fashion Design and Bachelor of Fashion Marketing programs and focuses her research on vegan consumer behaviour and innovative materials in the ethical fashion space.

A dedicated vegan for over 14 years, Dr Lamarche-Beauchesne became interested in vegan fashion in 2019 and has since explored the complexities of applying vegan principles to fashion consumption. Her PhD research examines plant-based leather alternatives and their impact on reshaping the industry.

Dr Lamarche-Beauchesne highlights both the environmental benefits and ethical challenges of vegan fashion, stressing the need for further material innovation and sustainable solutions for end-of-life fashion products. She acknowledges the ongoing debate over synthetic 'vegan leathers' and advocates for the development of non-toxic, sustainable alternatives. Her academic work, including the paper "Reviving the Silenced: Defining Vegan Fashion and Classifying Materials of Animal Origin," was featured in the Melbourne Fashion Festival's Independent Program.





## Media Design School Master of Design student wins Climate Hackathon

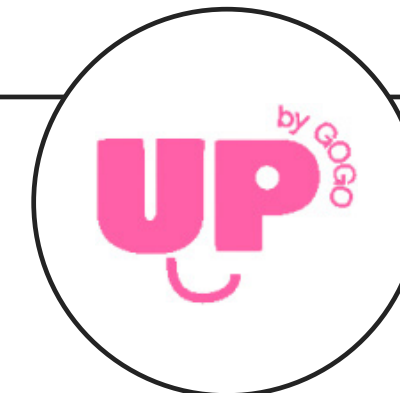
MDS Master of Design student Gary Guo, part of Team R.A.I.D, won the inaugural Future Wynyard 2050 Climate Hackathon with 'Dream Power,' an investor platform to promote and deliver solar-panel placement on multi-tenanted buildings, opening up the green economy, and enabling greater participation and distribution of benefits.

The Future Wynyard 2050 Climate Hackathon was a 2-day competitive event held in Auckland's Wynyard Quarter from 21-22 June 2024, led by Climate Connect Aotearoa and GridAKL, who challenged teams to answer - "What are the big climate change challenges that we can tackle, starting with the Wynyard Quarter?"

## Supporting equity and sustainability with GOGO Foundation

The GOGO Foundation's mission is to promote equity and inclusion, focusing on women and non-binary individuals, by dismantling disadvantage and marginalisation by creating employment opportunities for those facing challenges in the job market. GOGO enlisted the help of our Social Enterprise Hub for their new initiative, a removalist business startup, which aims to provide jobs while supporting a circular economy by minimising household waste and optimising reuse.

Torrens University students across various programs, including Master of Business Administration, Master of Engineering Management, Master of Business Information Systems, and Bachelor of Business Information Systems, worked on key projects for this venture. They developed a system requirements specification, mapped end-to-end processes for item reuse, and created a circular economy business model. Additionally, students designed a website for the new venture and produced an investor prospectus to attract potential partners and funders. These collaborations resulted in practical solutions supporting the foundation's efforts to foster sustainable business growth and equitable opportunities.



### Finding the Money

Torrens University Australia supported the nationwide tour of a documentary film 'Finding the Money,' featuring our Adjunct Professor Stephanie Kelton, and encouraging discussions regarding the role of the government in the economy in the context of issues such as climate change. The film questions whether the dominant economic narrative is still fit for purpose, given the challenges we face in the 21st century.



### Brisbane's efforts towards a sustainable planet

Since February 2024, Brisbane Campus staff and students have engaged with Containers for Change, to convert 10c for each recycled container into donations to local charity Substation33. Substation33 recycles and re-uses electronic waste, including computers, that would otherwise end up in landfill, and offers an inclusive space where people of all backgrounds can learn new skills and transition to employment. Since the initiative commenced, until July 2024, 2,816 containers have been saved from landfill and \$281 raised and donated for Substation33.



### Clothes swap

In a successful initiative to promote sustainability and community engagement, Media Design School hosted a week-long clothes swap on campus. Students and staff donated unwanted clothing, which was collected, organised and displayed for swapping. Due to high interest and continuous contributions, we extended the swap with the event's popularity sparking discussions to set up a permanent fixture on campus.

## Message from the Vice-Chancellor



**Professor Alwyn Louw**  
Vice-Chancellor  
Torrens University Australia

# We stand at a pivotal moment in our development.

Torrens University Australia is poised to launch into our next phase of growth. We have built a solid foundation of credibility, forged strong industry partnerships, and cultivated a reputation for knowledge creation and problem-solving through our research.

We have been instrumental in redefining what it means to be a university of the future, at a time of rapid technological advances, shifting societal expectations, and above all, expectations of students who have become active participants in the learning process requiring fundamental reorientation of the learning environment.

The success of higher education now demands personalisation, accessibility, flexibility and relevance to employment. At Torrens University, we are embracing this challenge by remaining vigilant and innovative to create relevant learning and flexible pathways that align with the realities and demands of diverse learners to effectively integrate life, learning and work.

Our mission remains clear: to provide tertiary education that enhances socio-economic mobility, improves quality of life, and contributes meaningfully to society through world-class research, quality learning and industry partnerships. This requires that we continuously align and collaborate effectively with society and industry towards common goals and addressing real needs.



