



2022-2023

Impact Report

Certified



Corporation

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Acknowledgment of Country

We are committed to a positive future as we move together on our journey of learning. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and 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.

Almost 10 years ago, Torrens University Australia opened its doors for the first time with 165 students and a vision to be a privately owned and funded university that used profit for purpose and connected the world for good.

Today, alongside Think Education and Media Design School, and as part of the broader Strategic Education Inc. network, we are leading providers of higher education in Australia and New Zealand and our reach and impact extends to thousands of students in hundreds of countries around the world.

By weaving impact and purpose into everything we do as an education provider and a profit for purpose business with Certified B Corporation status, we leave a mark – a fingerprint – on our staff, our students, our alumni, industry partners and our stakeholders.

Our aim is to empower them, in turn, to leave their mark on the world using the knowledge, skills and an intrinsic sense of social responsibility that they have gained at Torrens Global Education.

Sometimes those changes are big and global, other times they are small and local, but each time change happens, it has a ripple effect that contributes to our overarching purpose of connecting the world for good.



On 1 November 2023, Torrens University Australia will celebrate a significant milestone – 10 years since the Torrens University Act was passed in South Australia and we became the first new university in Australia in 20 years.

Since then, we've surpassed even our boldest aspirations. We have proven that private investment in higher education has a place and purpose, and we continue to be Australia's fastest growing university. We are now ranked 7th in Australia for the quality of the educational experience we provide, and we have world-class researchers who are working in tandem with industry, governments and communities to create lasting and positive change in our world. Plus, in 2023, we were re-certified as a Certified B Corporation.

Most importantly, together with Media Design School, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and Think Education, we have continued to grow our impact in remarkable and tangible ways, as you will see throughout our 2022-23 Impact Report.

As a higher education provider, our mission is to connect the world for good by unleashing the power of education to create the next generation of changemakers, leaders and disruptors. As a private business, and a B Corp, our aim is to ensure that anyone who wants to access higher education can, and when they do it is affordable, industry-relevant, and inspires a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

I am so proud of the indelible fingerprints we have left on the education sector, on the lives of our students, and on the global community in the past year. Our staff are passionate, curious and innovative, our students are inquisitive and inspiring, and each year we produce graduates who don't just break the mould, they create entirely new dimensions of success.

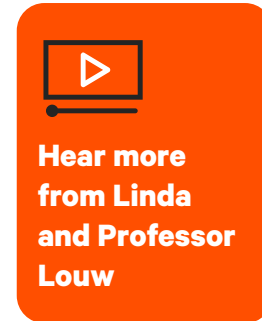
As we look ahead to the next 10 years of Torrens Global Education, we know there is more work to be done. The Universities Accord, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the rise of artificial intelligence are just some of the factors that are changing the way we think about higher education. We intend to lead the courageous conversations within the sector, and with industry and government, that are needed to shape the future of education in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, and around the world.

We can and we must accelerate our purpose and continue to empower our staff, students and alumni to leave their fingerprint on the world and make their own impact.

Linda Brown
CEO and President
 Torrens Global Education



We are committed to making an impact by effecting real change in the lives of individuals, their communities and society more broadly. It is embedded in everything we do – it is embedded in our curriculum, in how we interact with and empower our staff, and how we engage with industry, government and other stakeholders.



I am constantly amazed and incredibly proud of the commitment that our academics, teaching, learning and support staff make to help our students achieve their goals

But we live beyond an output era, we are living in an impact environment.

Therefore, it is not just about producing graduates with degrees. It is also about the contribution we make to our global community. That is the power of education and of Torrens Global Education.

Each interaction or touchpoint we have with our students, staff and stakeholders, is an opportunity to make an impression... leave an imprint – a fingerprint on their hearts and minds – and together we can transform the lives of others.

Professor Alwyn Louw
Vice-Chancellor
 Torrens University Australia

Executive Summary

7th



Fastest-growing university in Australia from 2017 to 2021

(2021 Australia Higher Education Student Data by Department of Education, published on 10 Feb 2023)

in Australia for Quality of Entire Educational Experience (2022 QILT SES Survey Results)



Top 10

for student support and teaching quality



98% of employers of Torrens University Australia graduates were satisfied with their technical skills



19.6K+ students from

124+ different nationalities

(as at 31 December 2022)



#1 in Oceania

Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School internationally ranked number one hotel school in Oceania.

(QS World University Rankings)



Media Design School Category 1 rating
NZQA External Evaluation Review;
Internationally ranked Top 10
Animation Career Review

\$48 million

in scholarships in 2022-23 FY

8,200+

students undertook work integrated learning, placements and other opportunities to work directly with industry

7,893

graduates between January 2022 - June 2023

1,914

staff across Australia and New Zealand, Aotearoa (as at 30 June 2023)



\$20,000+

raised for charities locally and around the world in 2022



54,000

people listened to our Research that Matters podcast series



4,280+

hot showers donated to One Voice



40

formal research partnerships

Certified



Corporation

Torrens University Australia, Think Education and Media Design School re-certified as Certified B Corporations in February 2023



Named one of Australia's most innovative companies for third year running by The Australian Financial Review BOSS.

Doing good begins with respect and acknowledgement

Torrens University Australia envisions being a champion for equal education outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and an inclusive and diverse workplace that is not just culturally safe, but culturally rich and proud.

We acknowledge the importance of collaboration and partnership to walk together united with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through our journey of reconciliation.

Embedding Indigenous knowledge into curriculum

At Torrens University Australia we enrich the education we deliver by embedding Indigenous knowledge into curriculum. We are enshrining a mindset in our students to acknowledge, respect and champion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their culture.

In our Health Sciences team, we have several Indigenous Identified Academic roles teaching subjects including 'First Peoples Culture, History and Healthcare' and 'Social and Emotional Well-being in Australian Indigenous Populations'. This builds the capability and enhances understanding and cultural responsiveness of our future health professionals to provide appropriate health services to First Nations people.

[Read more](#)



“As we welcome new additions to our academic team and expand our offerings to staff, we take another step forward in honouring and valuing First Nations knowledge and our commitment to our Reconciliation Action Plan. We are committed to continue to take meaningful steps toward reconciliation and creating a more equitable future for all.”

Rochelle Morris
First Nations Liaison Officer



98%

employment rate for MDS alumni
(above New Zealand's national
average of 69%)



1,000+
students



Category 1 rating:

NZQA External Evaluation Review



334
graduates in 2022-23



**Internationally
ranked Top 10**

Animation Career Review



by MDS students in 2022,
in a mix of industry
and international competitions

Māori and Pasifika success at Media Design School

Media Design School is focused on growing the pathways and outcomes for Māori and Pasifika students through its focus and work with them, their families, communities, and through collaboration with secondary schools and industry partners.

We ensure a strong presence of Māori and Pasifika culture in our organisation, teaching and learning, with a safe environment for work, study and creativity, aspirations and events. Our Māori and Pasifika Steering Committee consists of key staff members and elected Māori and Pacific Student Representatives to help inform MDS's decisions with a cultural lens.

We are continuously creating and establishing valuable initiatives to help talented Māori and Pasifika students excel in a career in creative tech. As a result, this prestigious and non-traditional pathway is not only made more accessible, but it also finds more acceptance.

[Read more](#)

“The success of the Digital Creativity Foundation program is underpinned by Māori and Pacific values. We embed Mātauranga (Māori knowledge) Māori and Pasifika into our content, our delivery approach and our engagement between faculty and tauira (student). Our approach is whānau-based (family-based), where students develop a strong sense of identity and belonging, while exploring and developing their skills in Creative Tech spaces, creating a strong foundation for their future pathways.”

Bonnie Kea
Program Coordinator, Digital Creativity Foundation

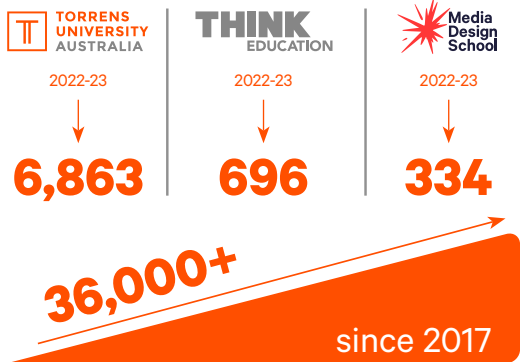


Education: the power to transform

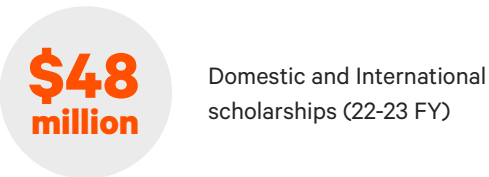
Education is our business. We are committed to empowering our students with knowledge, skills and an intrinsic sense of social responsibility that they can use to effect positive change.



Number of graduates



Scholarships



2022 QILT SES Survey Results*

The SES is the only comprehensive survey of current higher education students in Australia - it benchmarks our student experience against other Australian educational providers. In 2022, Torrens University Australia jumped seven ranking positions for 'Quality of Education' and improved across a range of other areas.

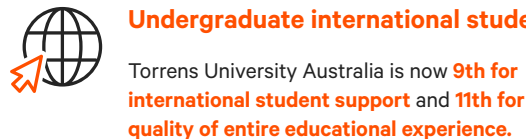
Undergraduate Domestic and International Students



Postgraduate Domestic and International Students



Undergraduate international students



[Read more about our 2022 QILT SES results](#)

Other QILT SES results



Community Services program was ranked as TOP 2 across 29 universities with programs in Social Work area of study



Interior Design programs ranked as TOP 5 across 25 universities with programs in Architecture and Building area



Creative Arts programs ranked as TOP 5 across 36 universities



Computing & Information Systems programs ranked as TOP 6 across 37 universities



*Sources: <https://www.torrens.edu.au/sources>

MBA (Sport Management) students complete a unique two-week residency with Real Madrid

Our Master of Business Administration - Sport Management students undertook a two-week residency with the world's most successful football club: Real Madrid. It was a transformative insight into stadiums and international sports management, and beneficial for students as they launch their careers in the industry.

[Find out more](#)



Student wins 2nd place in the National Innovation Games

The National Innovation Games brings together industry professionals, researchers and students to solve problems of national interest. Torrens University Australia student Ceyda Ceren Yaman was part of the winning team in May 2022, tackling unsustainable practices in the South Australia fashion and textile industry.

[Find out more](#)



Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School

Internationally ranked #1
hotel school in Oceania
QS World University Rankings



We're one of
Australia's most
innovative companies



Tier 1 internationally
ranked MBA
CEO Magazine





Our students make an impact on the ground in Kenya

Through our Social Enterprise Hub, our Master of Public Health students led a 3-way partnership with aid and development agency Bright Futures, and its Kenyan partner Dorcas Creations.

[Find out more](#)



Bringing industry expertise into the classroom – Bachelor of Nutrition

Final-year Bachelor of Nutrition students work on Live Brief Projects, created by industry professionals and based on real scenarios combining academic learnings with current, practical industry experience.

[Find out more](#)



Students create innovative concepts to communicate Reconciliation Action Plan

A unique Work Integrated Learning project asked design students to explore innovative ways that students can connect with our Reconciliation Action Plan and create opportunities to increase student awareness.

[Find out more](#)



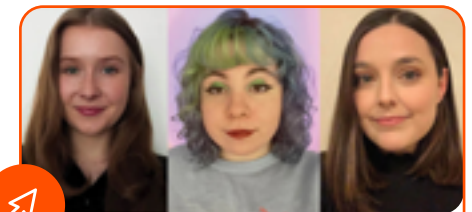
Switching the classroom for Nepalese health facilities

In December 2022, 26 health science students headed to Nepal to observe and experience various traditional and complementary and alternative medicine therapies.

“The entire experience in Nepal has helped shape me as a person, as well as contributed to my professional identity as a naturopath, future business owner and social enterprise entrepreneur.”

Chloe Thomas, Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy).

[Find out more](#)



The Big Issue Social Impact Project Challenge

Sport as a force for good

In collaboration with Socceroo legend and human rights activist Craig Foster, Torrens University Australia developed Sport for Good, a suite of free online short courses explore sport's growing role to drive change for a better world.

[Find out more](#)



Students learn how to take on the world of fashion at Vogue

In 2022-23, eight students had the opportunity to intern at Vogue Australia thanks to our ongoing partnership with the prestigious fashion magazine.

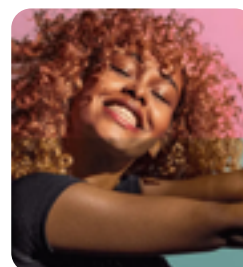
[Find out more](#)



Challenging Ageism

Launched in June 2023, and based on research from Torrens University Australia Research Fellow **Dr Rachel Ambagtsheer**, our free online short course, 'Challenging Ageism', is providing the skills to recognise ageism in daily life and strategies to help tackle it.

[Find out more](#)



Reframing students as emerging social entrepreneurs

At Torrens University Australia, Social Enterprise is in our DNA. Our Social Enterprise subject invites students to be open to using design as a force for good by introducing classes to inspiring leading social enterprises.

[Find out more](#)



MDS partnership with IBM and secondary schools helps Māori and Pasifika students pursue careers in tech

Up to 250 secondary school students are enrolled in IBM's PTech program of which MDS is a partner. This is a free initiative that will see these students take part in a five-year structured program that brings together high schools and tertiary education. It includes mentoring from a wide range of industry partners including Spark, Foodstuffs and IBM and learners complete an NZ Tertiary level certificate that will enable them to pathway to higher level tertiary study or entry level positions in the creative tech industry.

[Find out more](#)



Improving health outcomes for Indigenous Australians

Bachelor of Nutrition alumna Sharna Motlap, a proud Indigenous woman from Hammond Island in the Torres Strait and the Mbabaram tribe in far north Queensland, has seized every opportunity on offer during her studies at Torrens University Australia.

[Find out more](#)



Bulbuwil Project brings Stolen Generation stories to life through design

Design students at Torrens University Australia were challenged in a Work Integrated Learning (WIL) brief to create a physical memorial to pay respects to survivors of Australia's Stolen Generation. Growing cultural awareness and cultural understanding were also a significant purpose of this WIL brief. Our Common Core design students met with Aunty Sylvia, a Stolen Generation survivor, for cultural mentorship at key milestone points over the 12-week project. Students learned from her experience and through her stories to interpret their concepts and fulfil the brief in groups.

[Find out more](#)

Connecting with industry

Torrens University Australia and Think Education

Everything we do at Torrens University Australia is driven by industry. We engage with industry to build curriculum and partner with organisations from around the world to give our students the experience, skills and networks they need to succeed.



1,874 organisations

actively engaged for work integrated learning (WIL)*



4,189 students

undertook WIL



678 design and creative technology students

participated in 43 live brief projects



4,185 nursing placements**

across public and private hospitals, aged care, medical clinics and justice health facilities

* WIL includes jobs, placements, live brief projects, volunteering, industry events and professional association offerings promoted in Careers Connect

** Bachelor of Nursing and Diploma of Nursing

*** This includes paid sponsorships, Memorandums of understanding, Industry Alliance Agreements, and Pathway Collaboration agreements

**** The Graduate Privilege Partner program™ formalises AIHS and BMIHMS relationships with world-renowned industry partners by facilitating graduate positions for highest achieving final year students planning their careers upon graduation.

12,644

casual / part time, contract, freelance, volunteer, placements / internships and graduate jobs and opportunities posted on Careers Connect



10

partners in the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School's Graduate Privilege Partner program****

Promoted 248

competitions or scholarship opportunities offered by industry or professional associations

The Benefit Mindset – Kathmandu

Torrens University Australia design and business students, along with Media Design School students, were mentored by Kathmandu's Social Impact Manager on projects that developed and applied Benefit Mindset to social causes.

Our students chose projects that provided an opportunity to explore how designed solutions can create real and deliverable change.

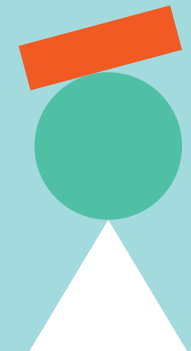
[Find out more](#)



In 2022, our students facilitated **12,258 appointments** for **8,764 patients** at our Practice Wellbeing Centres in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and trending the same way in 2023.

Services were provided across a range of modalities including naturopathy, nutrition, Western Herbal Medicine, acupuncture, Chinese Medicine, myotherapy, counselling and beauty and dermal therapies.

Students are fully supervised by qualified and experienced practitioners.



Connecting with industry

Media Design School

At Media Design School, industry alignment is at the heart of everything we do. Through our close connections with the creative industries in New Zealand and abroad, we are able to produce graduates who are armed with both the technical expertise and essential soft skills needed to land their dream jobs and excel from day one. Our valuable industry partnerships ensure that our courses are aligned with the latest industry standards and mirror the challenges and successes that are faced by a typical graphic designer, animator, developer, or creative director on a daily basis.

Partnerships

- New Zealand Game Developer's Association
- Became a GitHub Campus Program partner school in May 2023
- Partnered with Synty Studios in October 2022 to provide games students with the complete Synty asset library for use in their projects
- An academic partner of Epic's
- Partnered with NZTech, IBM, Datacom, Trans Tasman Business Circle, and Fortinet Cyber Security
- A member of Apple's iOS Developer University program
- Only school in New Zealand to have partnered with Sony Computer Entertainment Europe's PlayStation First Academic Development Program
- In 2022 we became officially certified by Houdini



Media Design School celebrates 10 years of Girls in Games

In 2022, Media Design School celebrated 10 years of Girls in Games. The initiative was created to help grow the number of women working in the games industry by nurturing their talents and passion in gaming as teenagers and highlighting potential careers paths.

[Find out more](#)



10 years of gaming and a \$300 million per annum industry pipeline

In 2022, Media Design School celebrated 10 years of Game Development courses and a \$300 million per annum industry pipeline with Decade Arcade, a free graduate show and industry conference comprised entirely of Media Design School alumni, at their Wynyard Quarter campus, in Auckland's innovation precinct.

[Find out more](#)



Andy Blood joins Media Design School

In September 2022, Andy Blood – former Facebook creative and serial innovator – joined Media Design School as its Industry Fellow for its postgraduate programs and to lead the way into Web 3.0.

[Find out more](#)



Twisted Tales: Google Industry Project

Dr. Jarek Beksa led an industry project, Twisted Tales, creating several interactive stories for Google. This project aimed to combine the best of e-books, audiobooks and video games to create interactive stories controlled only by voice commands. This project resulted in several commercial apps and provided paid employment to 14 MDS students while they studied.

[Find out more](#)

Our people

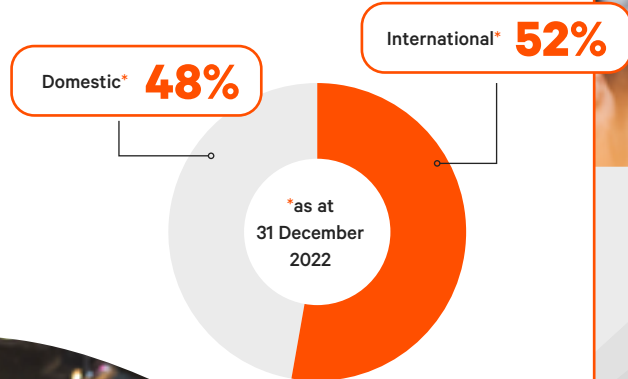
We begin and end with people - by helping our students - who go on to become our alumni, and our staff to reach their full potential, we are empowering them to be changemakers and help us realise our vision to connect the world for good.



Our students

19.6k+ students*

*as at 31 December 2022



8,800+

International students

from **124+**
different nationalities

Our staff

1,914 current staff*

*as at 30 June 2023

182 staff members currently studying with 100% Tuition Reduction Benefit

72 staff members completed study under Tuition Reduction Benefit (January 2022-June 2023)

90 leaders from Australia and New Zealand completed the Elevate Leadership Program (plus 180 from the USA)

33 employees have used paid parental leave between 1 July 2022 - 31 May 2023



Empowering our staff to achieve their academic dreams

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 plan. In 2022, it was announced that the 100% Tuition Reduction Benefit scheme would be a permanent offering for staff.

[Read more](#)



Linda Brown, President & CEO: 2021 EY Entrepreneur of the Year Australia

The founding and current CEO of Torrens University Australia, Linda Brown, was named EY's Entrepreneur of the Year for Australia in 2021 (awarded in 2022). The distinguished accolade awards forward-thinking leaders who build and sustain successful, dynamic businesses that reframe the future.

[Read more](#)



Naturopathy staff, students & alumni recognised as industry leaders

Our staff, students and alumni were well represented at the Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA) Naturopathic Symposium conference in May 2023. They were also recognised widely at the Naturopathic Symposium Awards for Excellence which showcase and acknowledge the best of the profession in Australia through research and clinical practice.

[Read more](#)

Honouring Matthew Hogarth's legacy

Matthew Hogarth studied the Bachelor of Creative Technologies (Game Art) program in 2019. Sadly, Matt passed away during his studies after a courageous battle with cancer. His legacy is remembered through the Matthew Hogarth Scholarship awarded to Game Development students who show exceptional dedication and talent. The first scholarship was awarded in mid 2023.



[Read more](#)

Niti Pearl Goel: How a graduate is transforming special education in India

For Niti Pearl Goel undertaking the Master of Education (Special Education) was a transformative experience. Since graduating, Niti has returned home to India and taken big steps to establish a more inclusive educational future for all by creating a new school focused on practical learning and critical thinking.



[Read more](#)

Professor Seyedali Mirjalili: world's leading AI expert

Torrens University Australia researcher Professor Seyedali Mirjalili was named in The Australian's Research 2023 magazine as Australia's, and the world's, top AI researcher. Professor Mirjalili's research focuses on how AI can revolutionise many aspects of our lives and solve global crises in a wide range of sectors such as food, industry and health.



[Read more](#)

Bringing together Mother Nature and AI

Professor Mirjalili is internationally recognised for his advances in Optimisation and Swarm Intelligence. His research advocates for nature inspired digital intelligence from a belief that Mother Nature provides efficient and sustainable solutions that can be adapted to solve various challenges. His research has studied the behaviours of ants, dragonflies and moths to larger animals including the grey wolf, and whale to assess, benchmark, and suggest cost-effective, resilient optimisation algorithms.

Learning facilitator and artist creates a mo-hair suit that's 'worn to be heard'



[Read more](#)

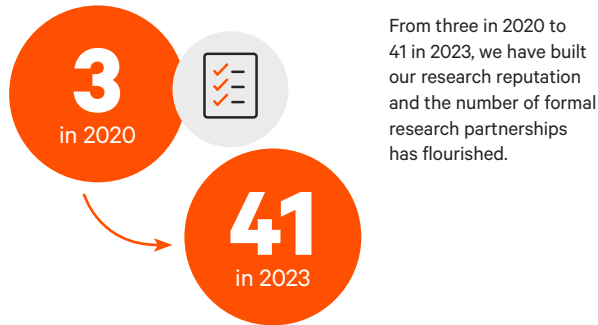


Our research

Our researchers connect and collaborate with community, industry and government stakeholders as they seek to creatively solve society's problems.

Our core areas of strength are sustainable development, housing and health, health sciences, health policy, human resource management, ecotourism, and computing sciences.

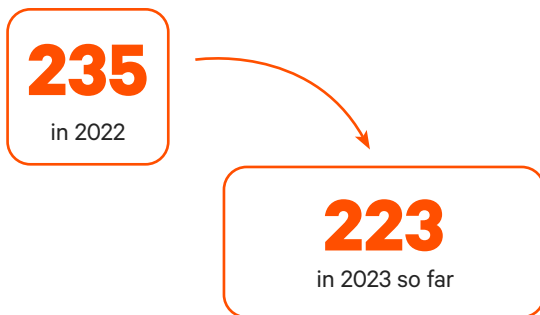
Number of formal research partnerships



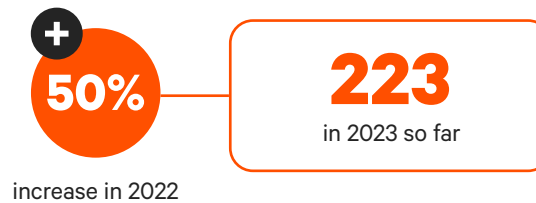
External research income:



Q1/Q2 high quality ranked journal publications



HDR student enrolments



External research grants submitted



“Students and staff from across the institution work collectively to design and execute studies that will create positive and lasting change towards a better world. Our partners across industries, governments and communities find us easy to work with as we craft teams from around the world who are devoted to high quality impactful research.”

Professor Kerry London
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research

Building healthy futures

Alcohol consumption and breast cancer: reducing the risk for midlife women

Alcohol consumption increases the risk of breast cancer in a dose-dependent manner. This makes alcohol reduction critically important for reducing breast cancer risk among midlife women (45-64 years old) who are already at increased risk due to age. Research suggests this group of women are also drinking more alcohol than previous generations of women have. Researchers Professor Paul Ward and Dr Belinda Lunnay from the Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing, are in the final stage of a 3-year Australian Research Council Discovery Project and are focused on developing equitable approaches to formulating risk messages. They have co-designed approaches with midlife women that are tailored to women's reasons for drinking and the social class conditions that make alcohol reductions possible. They are now deliberating with stakeholders who deliver risk messages, including the media, health professionals and policy representatives, to ascertain the real-world possibilities for improved risk communication.

[Read more](#)

Genetic and environmental risk for cardiovascular disease and obesity in Australian rural populations

Our researchers, led by Professor Craig McLachlan, Director Centre for Healthy Futures, have identified novel genes and clinical parameters associated with cardiovascular and metabolic risk in rural populations. By using bioinformatics, they have identified therapeutic targets contributing to rare diseases such as cardiomyopathy. In a collaboration with East Grampians Health Service, our researchers have contributed new knowledge on screening for carotid artery disease in rural Ararat.



Dr Belinda Lunnay

Challenges faced by mothers living with HIV in Indonesia revealed

The Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing explored the mental health challenges experienced by mothers living with HIV whose children are also living with HIV in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and the coping strategies used to manage those challenges.

[Read more](#)

Your pay, postcode and parents affect your heart disease risk

Heart disease impacts everyone differently and is related – among other characteristics – to our age, sex, socioeconomic status and Indigenous status.

Torrens University Australia's Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU) explored the data further and explained why addressing systemic and social determinants of health, with a considered primary health care approach, are of the utmost importance.

[Read more](#)

People and industry for impact

Solving workforce issues for regional government in South Australia

Since 2021, we have had a partnership with Legatus Group, a peak regional local government organisation in South Australia, led by Professor Roslyn Cameron, Director, Centre for Organisational Change and Agility. Regional councils are often one of the biggest employers in a regional area and service regional communities and economies. Our initial research project centred on attracting, developing and retaining regional local government workforces in the Legatus LGA region of South Australia (15 Councils). The second project builds on this by exploring and developing a Local Government Careers Pathway & Workforce Toolkit for all Regional South Australia Councils (52 regional Councils).

Media Design School's researchers unleash creativity and innovation

Media Design School strives to be at the forefront of innovative research in the fields of design and creative technology, with a large proportion of our research involving creative practice. At Media Design School, we believe research is critical to the success of teaching and learning, industry innovation, and community engagement.

[Read more](#)

100 years to close the First Nations employment gap

First Nations Australians continue to face multiple disadvantages in employment and an analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data by Program Director Dr Hayden McDonald and Reza M. Monem has found it will take 100 years to close the employment gap.

[Read more](#)

Gender Equality in Tourism

The United Nations World Tourism Organization commissioned Professor Catheryn Khoo, from our Centre for Organisational Agility and Change, to write the Regional Report on Women in Tourism in Asia and the Pacific. The report maps women's participation in the region's tourism sector aiming to inform further work on gender equality and boost women's empowerment, advancing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

[Read more](#)



Societies in drastic change

Putting an ethical lens on AI: New guide helps start-ups navigate AI & ethics

Artificial Intelligence is arguably the most powerful tool that humanity has at its disposal in the twenty-first century and can help start-ups scale up at an exhilarating pace. But at this speed of adoption ethics can often be forgotten and risks can increase. To navigate the complexities of ethics, Torrens University Australia collaborated with the Australian Society for Computers & Law to produce the 'Ethical AI for start-ups framework and checklist' to help start-ups apply Artificial Intelligence in an ethical, transparent way that builds trust with customers.

[Read more](#)

Using AI for Skin Cancer Detection

Media Design School Lecturer, Dr. Rampreet Kaur's research explores the role of AI in healthcare, particularly the detection of skin cancer. The impact of Dr. Kaur's research is highly significant given that the technologies created could aid the early detection of melanoma. Dr Kaur has published several papers in the area including 'Automatic lesion segmentation using atrous convolutional deep neural networks in dermoscopic skin cancer images' and collaborates with a range of national and international researchers.

[Read more](#)

Security and sustainability

Australian and German researchers collaborate to explore antimicrobial resistance

Bacteria and viruses are increasingly resistant to the medicines used to kill them and treat infections, including antibiotics. Antimicrobial resistance, (AMR), also known as the 'silent pandemic', is one of the biggest contemporary threats to human and animal health, food security and sustainable development globally. An international collaboration of researchers from the Centre for Healthy Sustainable Development at Torrens University Australia and Bielefeld University in Germany aims to investigate whether equity and gender is being considered in efforts to tackle AMR in Germany and Australia.

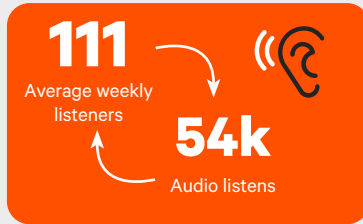
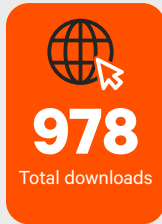
[Read more](#)



Photo Credit: Universität Bielefeld

Professor Dr. Kayvan Bozorgmehr,
Associate Professor Clare Littleton,
Victoria Saint

Research that Matters podcast series



Podcast series: how collaboration and industry connections are a game changer for research

Research That Matters is a 9-part compelling series, launched in January 2022, featuring 16 leading researchers from Torrens University Australia and Media Design School who are working towards solving complex global problems and propelling innovation.

[Listen here](#)

[Find out more about our Research Impact](#)



Research to reduce construction fatalities

A seminal study 'Integration of Building Information Modelling with Work Health and Safety Management,' led by Professor Kerry London and assisted by Associate Professor Zelinna Pablo is contributing to reducing the appalling safety record statistics of the construction industry. Funded by Lendlease in conjunction with NSW State Government Centre for Work Health and Safety, the study produced a suite of four industry guidelines focused on improving communication and coordination of information through innovative digital modelling. Professor London represented Standards Australia on the International Standards Organisation committee to develop a new international standard which will have significant impact on urban and regional development and asset infrastructure management for decades.



Digitanga - Te Hira Henderson, Curator Māori at MTG Museum, and Dr Moana Nepia, Senior Research Fellow Media Design School. Photograph by Mark Entwistle, courtesy MTG Hawkes Bay.

Media Design School researchers receive first externally funded research grant under the Indigenous Culture and Emerging Technology research theme

Media Design School researchers are exploring the potential of emerging technologies such as 3D scanning and blockchain for repatriation. The 'Digitanga' project aims to co-create rich and engaging digital assets and register their rightful ownership on the blockchain. These assets can then be used by iwi/hapū to connect and share knowledge, as well as to loan to museums as incentives for the repatriation of physical taonga.

Media Design School was awarded a \$213,000 research grant from the NZ Ministry for Culture and Heritage Te Urungi: Innovating Aotearoa Fund to finance the first stage of the project. The team are working in partnership with iwi/ hapū and museums, as well as an external advisory group including leaders in kaupapa Māori research, museum studies, and emerging technologies.

[Read more](#)

Our community

We recognise that while change starts with us, it is bigger than us and we contribute to positive change in the communities in which we live and work. That's why we weave social responsibility and purpose into everything we do.





In February 2023, Torrens University Australia, Think Education and Media Design School were re-certified as Certified B Corporations for the third time.


“We are proud to be the only university in Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand to be a Certified B Corporation and part of the community of over 6000+ Certified B Corps globally who have one unifying goal: to redefine success in business.”

Linda Brown, CEO and President, Torrens University Australia

together
FOR
Good

More than: **\$20,000**
AUD raised for charities locally and around the world, including:

- ◆ **\$12,355**
raised at Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School (Leura) Charity Gala for Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital
- ◆ **\$5,000**
raised for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Australia and NZ

 **160+ staff** participated in our Be Challenged Go Give event, a pick-a-path scavenger hunt focused on giving back to vulnerable communities across the globe

204 days of access to school uniforms for children in Cambodia

121 days of early childhood education for children in South Africa

153 days of education support to disadvantaged children in Thailand

1,830 days of access to life-saving clean water to people in Cambodia



Toffee Coffee
Flinders St Campus

50¢ from every coffee donated to **One Voice**

2022-2023* (*as of 5/7/2023):

34,999 coffees
= \$16,410.45 donations
= 4,288 hot showers



Providing care and support to those most in need

Torrens University Australia has had a long-standing relationship with Foundation House in Melbourne – a support service for refugees who have experienced trauma. The Practice Wellbeing Centre in Melbourne regularly receives referrals from Foundation House, offering them a range of support and services. Torrens University Australia alumni from the Southern School of Natural Therapies and staff are heavily involved with Foundation House, and a recent evaluation affirmed the efficacy and relevance of their complementary therapy services for refugees.



Friends of Sala Bai Australia (FOSBA) in partnership with BMIHMS raised:

\$60,000 in 2022 **\$62,000** so far in 2023



Coffee Brigade Brisbane
(Since September 2021)

- **53** people working van and sandwich making shifts
- **500kg** of towels, bed linen and non-perishable food donated
- **Design and Business students** designed new logo and merchandise
- **Business students** designed and executed new marketing campaign to launch new brand/logo
- **Business students** volunteer to provide ongoing marketing support
- **Design students** (video and photography) produced 'The Friends of the Street' campaign

Social Entrepreneurship

2022 Social Enterprise Hub snapshot



74 industry internships



Supported the delivery of

60 industry projects

Over **1700** students involved in immersive experiences



\$90k in research consultancy funding

Working across the disciplines



Accounting



Business



Data Analytics



Design



Events



Health



Information Systems



IT



Marketing

Hear from Linda Brown, CEO and President Torrens University Australia, with Impact Boom at SEWF2022.

Country Education Program: providing rural and regional students with better access to higher education



Find out more about our Social Enterprise Hub



Back row: Peter Graves, Greg Harper, Ashnil Murray;
Front row: Hayden McDonald, Dominika Ohana and Ladan Ocara

Co-creating the future at Social Enterprise World Forum 2022

Torrens University Australia believes profit and purpose do not have to be mutually exclusive. The concept of social entrepreneurship is in our DNA, so taking a major partner role of the Social Enterprise World Forum (SEWF) in Brisbane made perfect sense to network and exchange ideas, to facilitate discussion and collaboration with various likeminded organisations.

[Read more](#)



Further reading

Meaningful design supports the LGBTQIA+ community

Our planet

As a Certified B Corporation, our aim is to continue to find ways to improve our environmental impact across our campuses and through our business operations. While there is still work to be done, we are proud of the work we have been doing to contribute to a healthier planet.



Our campuses



Wakefield campus

Adelaide

Flinders St campus

- In progress: Converting all fluorescent lights to LED

Wakefield campus

- Solar panels planned to be installed by EOY

Melbourne

Leura

Leura campus

- Solar panels installed and operational since June 2023

Brisbane

Australia

In Brisbane, we are currently consolidating two campuses into one, and undertaking a major refurbishment of our Bowen Terrace campus with sustainability in mind. This will include efficient lighting and sustainable and local procurement where possible.

Surry Hills campus

- Solar panels installed and operational since May 2023

Ultimo campus

- Energy saving lights with sensor activation
- Re-usable coffee cups provided to students
- Used batteries collected on campus and recycled via local shopping centre battery recycling program

Sydney



Toffee Coffee - Flinders St campus Reusable cup discount - 50c off

- 2022: 1,939 reusable cup discounts
- 2023 (to date): 1,358 reusable cup discounts

Partnered with Degraeves Street Recycling Facility to recycle coffee grounds

- 2022 - 500kg
- 2023 - 350kg (as at 5/7/23)

New Zealand



Auckland

MDS - Auckland campus

Awarded a 6* Green Star rating by the New Zealand Green Building Council, verifying high building sustainability.

Features include:

- Recycled rainwater on the living wall
- Solar panels
- Electric Vehicle charging points

Environmental impact

The first step to improving our environmental footprint is to measure our current impact and set goals for how we can do better. In June 2022, we began formally measuring and reporting our environmental performance across our campuses in Australia. These statistics* indicate how our waste management practices have had a positive impact on the environment in the year to date.

*Data supplied by Waste Options

80.72

Tonnes of Co² saved

494.47

Water KL saved

10,849.25

Litres of diesel oil saved

284

Mature trees saved

102,370.58

Energy saved (1kwh = 3.6MJ)

211.38

Cubic metres of landfill saved

5.23

Cars removed off the road for 1 year



Design students' 'flood disaster kit' aims to assist people to be prepared when disaster strikes

Inspired by the February 2022 floods in South East Queensland, students from Billy Blue College of Design at Torrens University Australia created a 'flood disaster kit' that captured the attention of the Queensland State Government. Selena, Mackenzie, Chelsea and Lauren decided to develop the kit as part of their Problem Based Learning subject.

[Read more](#)



Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School student participates in Global Youth Climate Training Program

Rachel Handley, a third year Bachelor of Business (International Hotel and Resort Management) student participated in the Global Youth Climate Training Program, organised by the University of Oxford and Net Zero. This experience has positioned Rachel to become a powerful advocate for sustainability in the hospitality industry and beyond.

[Read more](#)



Economics of Sustainability: Torrens University Australia and Modern Money Lab present suite of online courses

In September 2022, Torrens University Australia commenced offering a suite of online postgraduate courses in economics of sustainability, based on Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) and ecological economics, co-designed by **Modern Money Lab**. The courses aim to create a new generation of economists who will focus on economics through the lens of sustainability.

[Read more](#)

