

THE CONVERSATION

Share knowledge. Inform decisions.



2023 | **IMPACT REPORT** Oct – Dec

Australia & New Zealand

Our articles have a direct impact on policy

The Conversation plays a critical role in providing evidence to inform political and policy decisions.

The Conversation is scrupulous about being politically non-partisan and all our articles are authored by academics and researchers writing in their field of expertise.

Nearly one in five of the academics and researchers who write for The Conversation are contacted by policymakers. One in ten are invited to contribute to briefing papers or make submissions to parliament.



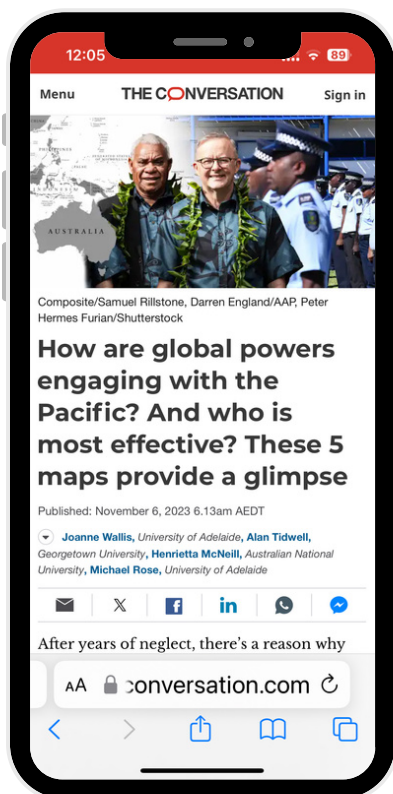
As part of The Conversation's series on disadvantage and institutions, Jan Gothard (Murdoch University) wrote: A migration review could close some disability discrimination loopholes – but not for people already waiting or refused visas.

Consequently, she was approached by several organisations making submissions to the government's Migration Inquiry regarding the best way to frame their submissions. Jan also corresponded by request with both the Department of Home Affairs and the Greens regarding the migration health requirement and disability discrimination, and the associated Inquiry.

She received extensive feedback on the article and support from migration professionals, academics, and human rights organisations. Partly as a result of this exposure, the submission to the Migration Review to the government Inquiry made by Welcoming Disability, the organisation of which she is co-founder, was supported by over 70 human rights and disability advocacy groups.

Jan was also contacted by a number of media outlets for follow up comments on the issue.

The lead article in our Power in the Pacific series – How are global powers engaging with the Pacific? And who is most effective? These 5 maps provide a glimpse by Joanne Wallis (University of Adelaide), Alan Tidwell (Georgetown University), Henrietta McNeill (ANU) and Michael Rose (University of Adelaide) – was emailed around the DFAT Office of the Pacific with the subject line: “This is important”!

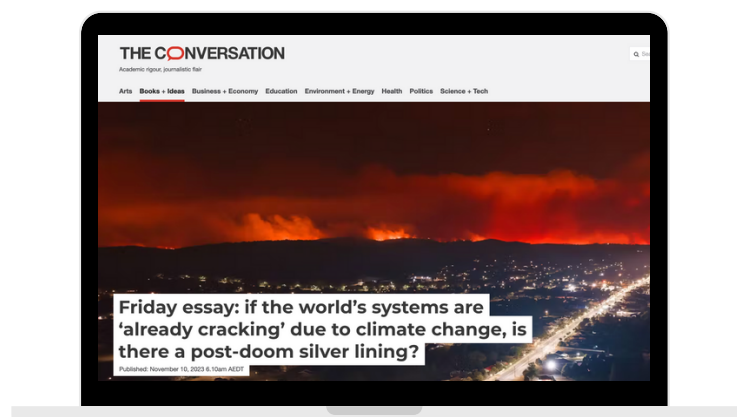


Tim Hollo, Executive director of The Green Institute (the official think-tank of The Australian Greens Party), contacted Tom Doig (UQ) about his Friday essay: if the world’s systems are ‘already cracking’ due to climate change, is there a post-doom silver lining to discuss the concept of “Slow collapse as a path to positive transformation”. They are planning to have semi-regular brainstorming meetings in the future.

Rebecca English (QUT) wrote about regulating homeschooling as part of The Conversation’s ongoing series on disability. Consequently, she was invited to meet with the DDG of the Education Department (Queensland) who mentioned the article several times. Rebecca was also interviewed on ABC TV news, radio and online.

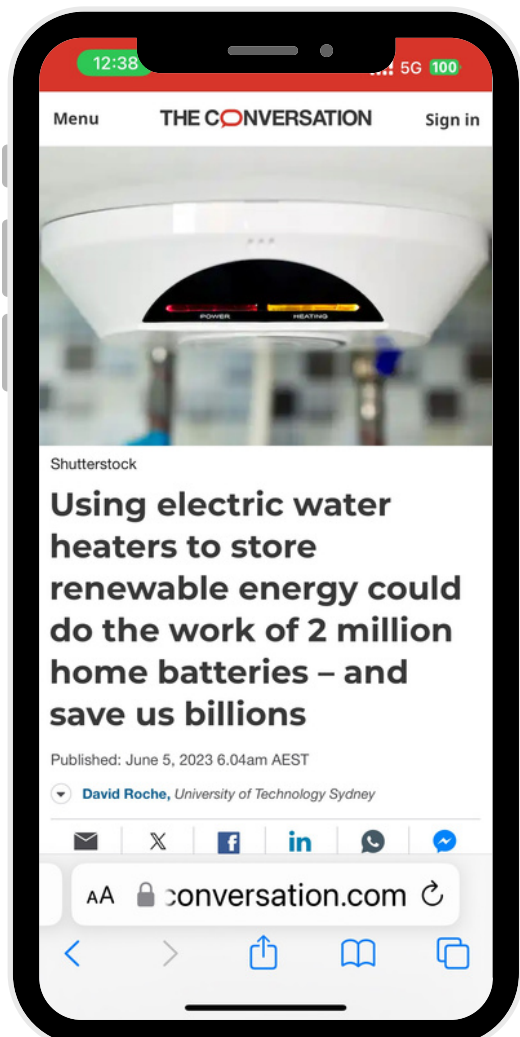
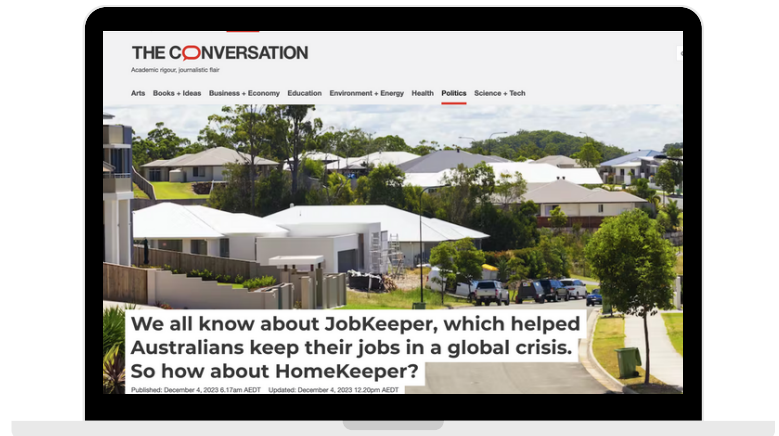
“The Conversation is a platform through which I can engage directly with the public, with educators and students, with government policy makers, and a wider range of journalists and news outlets.”

Professor Gabrielle Appleby
UNSW Law School



Zoe Daniel MP shared in Parliament Chris Wallace's recommendations proposed in an [article about JobKeeper](#). She concluded:

"I plan to run the ruler over this idea and see whether it stacks up. One thing is for sure, without braver action and without taking some bigger steps, the widespread and growing alienation of voters from our democracy will worsen. I saw it in the United States under Donald Trump, and I'm seeing worrying signs of it right here."



David Roche, Research Director - Strategic Energy Collaborations at UTS, reported The Conversation played a significant role in amplifying the impact of [his team's work on the role of residual hot water in the energy transition](#).

[His article](#) immediately led to numerous media interviews, [an article by Fairfax media](#), and ongoing engagement with electricity network operators, government and industry. In the policy space, their work was widely [cited by IEEFA](#) and others. They used the Conversation article to brief politicians and their staffers at both state and federal levels about the potential of domestic hot water to help drive policy change.

Building on this engagement, the UTS team scoped up ongoing research to help map pathways for smart hot water electrification.

Australia's eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant highlighted and commended the article by Marten Risius & Stan Karanasios (UQ):
[Australia has fined X Australia over child sex abuse material concerns. How severe is the issue – and what happens now?](#)



“In my first career as a chemistry academic...I saw so much great work, and great thinking, that was created but never crossed the unseen barriers that separate ivory towers from the Real World.

“In my second career as a road safety and transport policy bureaucrat, I encountered so much jaw-droppingly brilliant research that was being ignored in policy decision, not because it was wrong, but because it was unknown.

“The Conversation seems to be on a mission to help rectify both these issues, and to engage those outside the Academy in the discussions of topics that are both important and interesting.”

Friend of The Conversation

Our experts' analysis of the news is respected across the globe

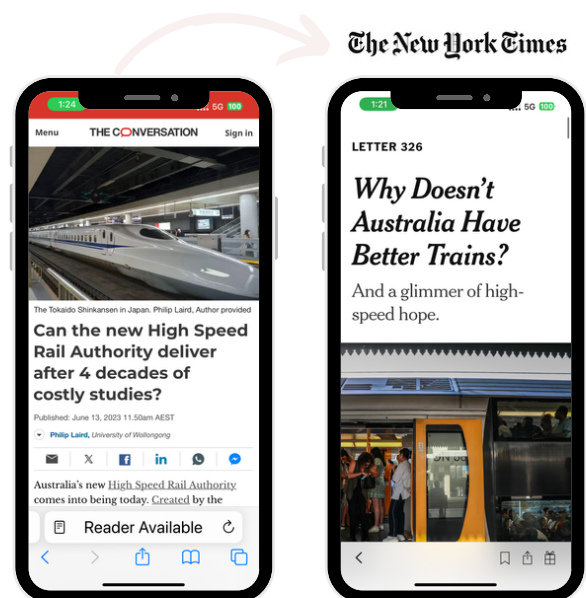
Whether it be a natural disaster, war in Israel, a corporate scandal or a big policy debate, The Conversation finds experts to make sense of the news. Our articles are republished across the globe by media and industry outlets including CNN, Science Alert, The Washington Post, BBC and The Guardian. And we are a go-to for expert commentary for broadcast and print media.

The New York Times featured an interview with Philip Laird (University of Wollongong) about his article on high-speed rail in their weekly newsletter.

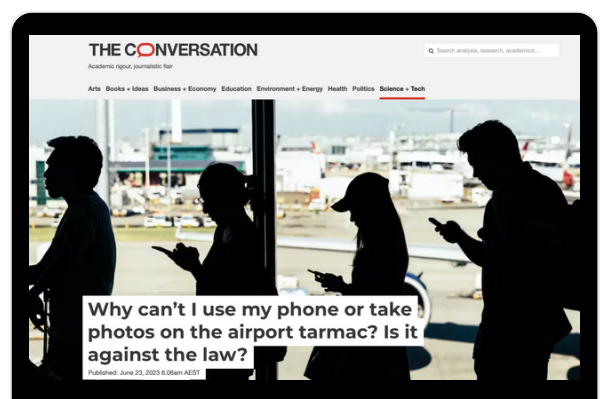
Paul Strangio (Monash University) was interviewed on CNN, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Al Jazeera, Time Magazine, The New York Times and Malaysian radio about his article on the implications of a No vote in the Voice referendum.

“Articles I have authored on The Conversation have attracted high levels of national and international media interest, which only furthers research translation and impact to the public.”

Evita March, Associate Professor,
Psychology, Federation University



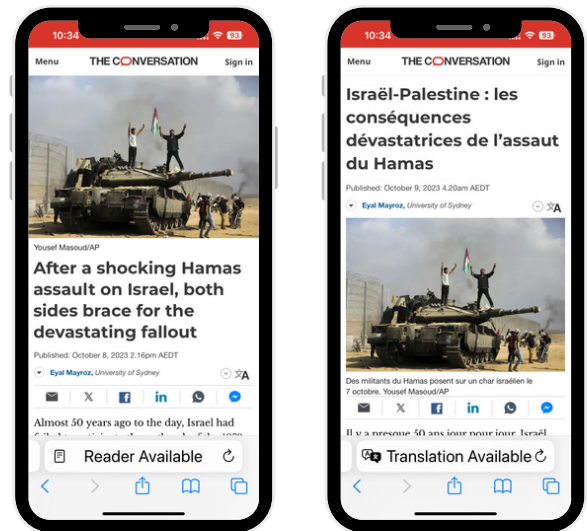
Doug Drury's article (CQUniversity) about using phones on airport tarmacs was republished and referenced by media outlets all over the world from CNN and the NZ Herald to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.



Eyal Mayroz's (University of Sydney) article, After a shocking Hamas assault on Israel, both sides brace for the devastating fallout, was translated into Spanish, Portuguese, French and Bahasa Indonesian by The Conversation international editions, reaching audiences in France, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Portugal, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

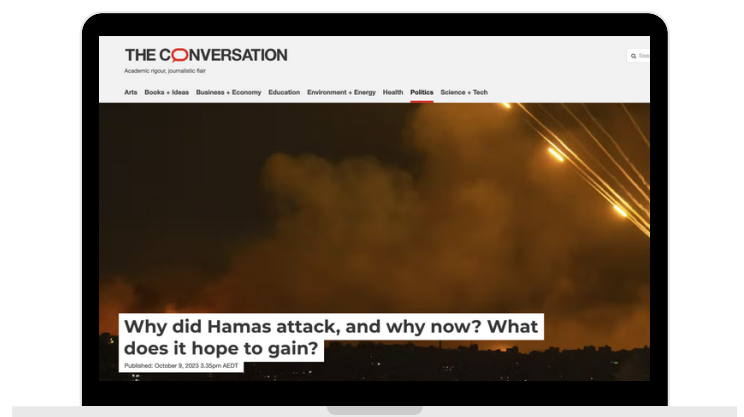
The article was republished widely across the globe and Eyal was interviewed by 7 News, 9 News, 10 News, ABC TV, ABC Melbourne Breakfast, ABC Darwin, ABC NSW Drive, ABC Current Affairs, The Guardian, The Age/SMH, Triple M, El Mercurio (Chile), Mamamia, the Wire, Sky News Australia, 2SER, Channel News Asia First and ABC RN Religion and Ethics.

After Ian Parmeter (ANU) published Why did Hamas attack, and why now? What does it hope to gain? he was interviewed by print and broadcast media including ABC Radio National, Melbourne, Hobart and Sydney; Channel News Asia; The Australian and the BBC. The Age/Sydney Morning Herald also interviewed him to update their Explainer article on Hamas.



“The Conversation articles have a very wide distribution, far wider than other platforms I write on, and not just in Australia but globally. Moreover, the articles are read by an astonishingly large number of readers.”

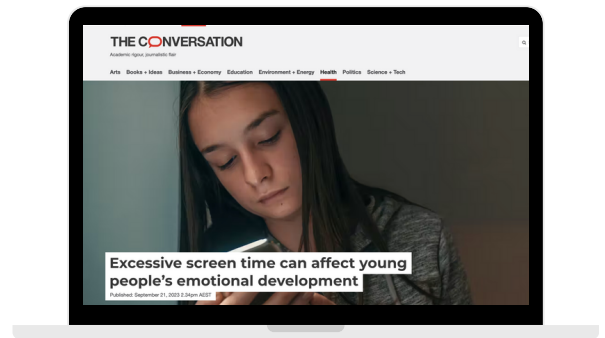
Peter Layton, Visiting Fellow,
Griffith Asia Institute



We improve the health of everyday Australians

Our health stories shape the decisions of doctors, specialists, policymakers and improve the awareness of the general public.

An article by Rachael Sharman caught the interest of a GP professional education provider, resulting in two successful studies regarding sexual health and treatment in young women.



“The Conversation is uniquely positioned to translate research as well as topical issues from an expert point of view into the public domain to increase the quality of public discourse and understanding of complex topics.

“After writing for The Conversation I have been contacted by a variety of media outlets (radio and television) to canvas the issues I have written about, politicians (up to Ministerial level) for my thoughts on issues of public concern, as well as a variety of academics and colleagues from related fields.”

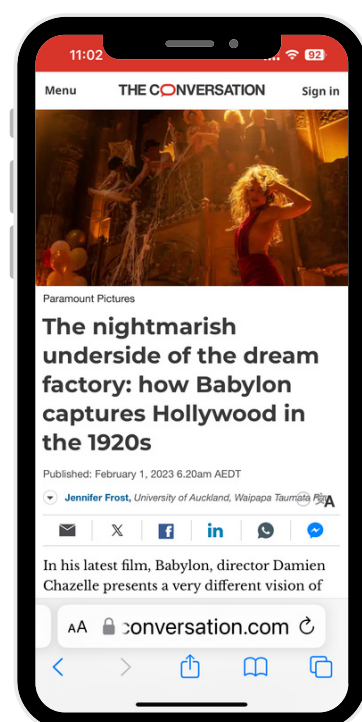
Rachael Sharman,
Senior Lecturer in Psychology,
University of the Sunshine Coast

We support arts and culture

The Conversation is not restricted to news analysis and public policy – we are influential on arts and culture too.

Catherine Speck's (University of Adelaide) [article](#) about artist Vincent Namatjira was a lead feature on The Age Arts page.

After publishing [What Manchester Museum's return of 174 Indigenous artefacts tells us about the future of museums](#), Mike Jones (University of Tasmania) was invited to meet with the Director of the Manchester Museum to discuss his research.



“The Conversation piece has helped me win an Arts research award and get included in a project on women experts in the media, where I mentioned how important you and your position has been to making these media opportunities possible. Funny how just one publication can yield so much!”

Jennifer Frost
University of Auckland



Alexander Howard (University of Sydney) wrote a piece commemorating Shane MacGowan from The Pogues. Shane's widow shared it on X.



@victoriamary
@Victoriamary

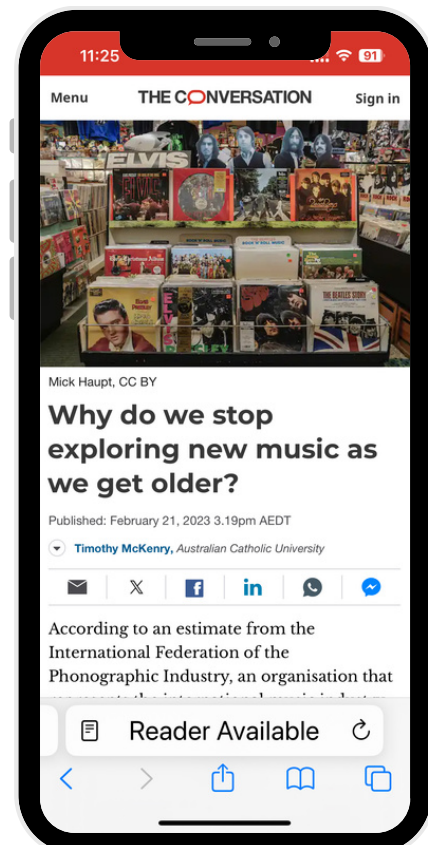
With The Pogues, Shane MacGowan perhaps proved himself the most important Irish writer since James Joyce theconversation.com/with-the-pogue... via @ConversationEDU



From theconversation.com

“The Conversation is enormously valuable to Australian academia. That we have access to experienced journalists who are interested in curating an informed public discourse based on our research is an asset to our society.”

Timothy McKenry
Professor of Music, Australian
Catholic University



Philanthropy powers public interest journalism



Major Donors

Larger donations empower The Conversation by significantly strengthening our newsroom. Recent support has enabled us to expand our breaking news coverage, hire specialised editors, and develop new pathways to our coverage for diverse audiences.

Our Major Donors have a special personal relationship with our organisation and the work we do to provide better information to support better decisions. They are kept informed on the impact of their support and join us for special events and opportunities to get closer to our work and our family of experts.

Want to know more?

For further information or a chat, please contact Helen Johnstone, Philanthropy and Bequest Manager on 0422 851 282 or email helen.johnstone@theconversation.edu.au.

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There is no Conversation without you

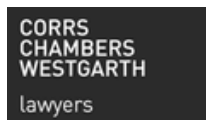
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Collaboration, trust, and a commitment to human wellbeing and the public good are at the heart of The Conversation's success, and that makes it something worth getting behind.

Peter Doherty AC FRS FMedSci

Laureate Professor, The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity