

News that's
free, independent
and based on
evidence.

Help us keep it that
way.

THE  NVERSATION

We exist to share knowledge and inform decisions

The Conversation launched in 2011 as an antidote to a news ecosystem that gives too much oxygen to misinformation and leans toward the shrill over the sober.

By partnering with academics, we produce news and analysis rooted in the latest research and evidence.

We do this as a charity, 100% independent and without onsite advertising or paywalls.

All our work is free to read and free to republish under Creative Commons.

Our not-for-profit company is guided by a clear purpose: to provide access to quality explanatory journalism essential for a healthy democracy and informed community.



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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

In their words: Why The Conversation matters

As an academic now primarily engaged in public advocacy, The Conversation is an effective outlet both to disseminate information to an informed audience and to access trustworthy news and research.

Jan Gothard, Adjunct Associate Professor, Murdoch University

I'm too old and proud to speak to ministers' PR people, and I've never been able to get much frankness from politicians. I should speak to academic economists more than I do, but these days I get my fill of academia by being an incessant reader of the excellent The Conversation website.

Ross Gittins, Journalist + Donor

I subscribe to The Conversation and keep finding information that is so useful for our students. Keep up the good work.

Maureen, Reader + Teacher

We republish articles daily on ABC News, but it's particularly helpful when big news breaks, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, so we can quickly grab timely, thoughtful analysis pieces to add to the mix of our news coverage.

Leigh Tonkin, Editor, ABC News

The Conversation provided a voice to many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars in a year that the country decided not to.

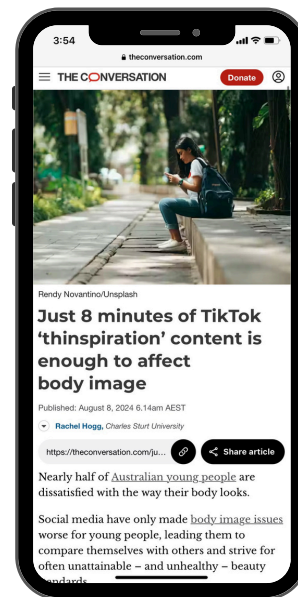
Sana Nakata, TC Author, Indigenous Education and Research Centre, James Cook University

Impact snapshot

Informing policy with evidence-based insight

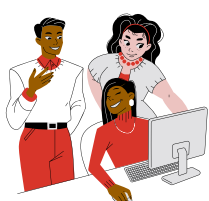
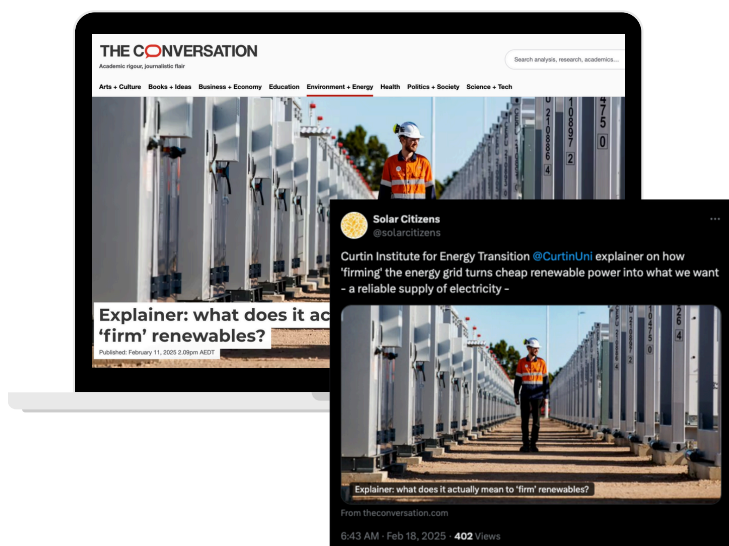
After Rachel Hogg (Charles Sturt University) published Just 8 minutes of TikTok 'thinspiration' content is enough to affect body image she was asked to contribute to a Parliamentary Roundtable on social media for young people.

She was also contacted by researchers from various institutions working in the field of eating disorders, and by international and national high-school and university students conducting work in this area. She was interviewed for ABC TV news and multiple podcasts.



16%

of authors are contacted by government or policy makers



8%

are invited to contribute to briefing papers or submissions to parliament

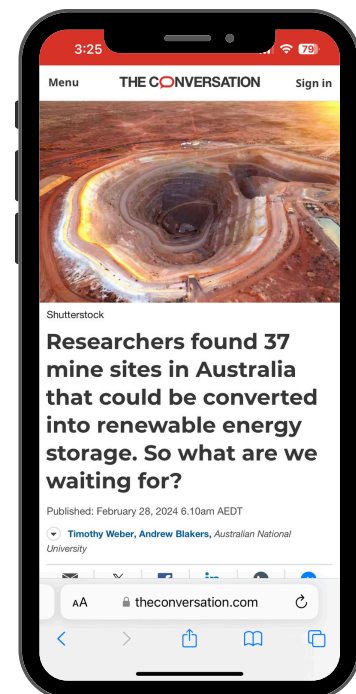
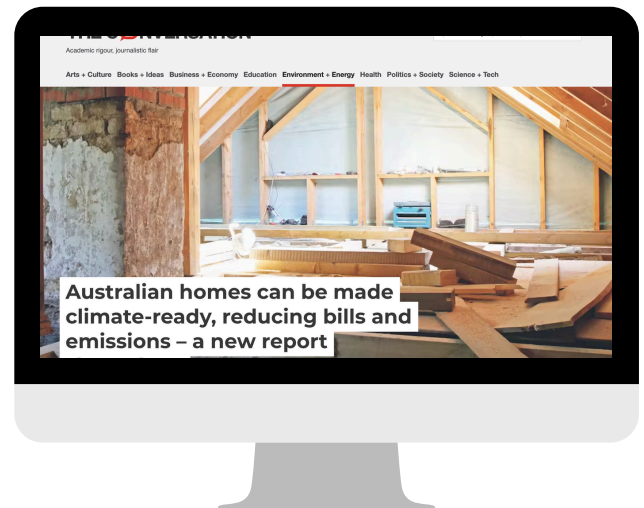
After Peta Ashworth and Ehsan Pashajavid (Curtin University) wrote Explainer: what does it actually mean to 'firm' renewables? the article was retweeted by Tom Koutsantonis, SA Labor MP, Leader Government Business in the House of Assembly, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Energy & Mining, and by Solar Citizens, an independent, community-based organisation working to protect and grow renewable energy and transport in Australia.

Our constructive journalism informs and empowers industry and governments to address climate change

As part of our series examining Australia's energy transition (Getting to Zero), Gill Armstrong (Climateworks Centre) and Michael Ambros (CSIRO) summarised their new report about how Australian homes can be made climate-ready, reducing bills and emissions. They received significant interest from the government about the report, leading to an overwhelming response for more data insights. CSR – industry leaders in Australia's supply chain also requested further data to help build their business case to scale up thermal shell upgrades.

After Timothy Weber (Australian National University) co-wrote Researchers found 37 mine sites in Australia that could be converted into renewable energy storage. So what are we waiting for? He was:

- interviewed for WeBuildValue magazine,
- invited to the Mining Towards Net Zero conference in Perth
- invited to write an article for Prime Creative Media's new mining industry magazine, and;
- invited by Great Basin Resource Watch to submit an abstract and oral presentation to the Nevada Water Resources Association Pit Lake Day 2025 conference.



10%

of authors are contacted by business or industry

Enriching the national conversation, thanks to philanthropic support

Expanding regional and rural representation

Thanks to philanthropic support, we significantly expanded our Regional and Rural Program to improve representation of underreported areas in the national conversation.

On-the-ground media masterclasses at regional universities across Australia helped academics boost their confidence in engaging with the media, with additional online masterclasses extending support to more participants.

This investment has led to a measurable increase in published stories from regional contributors—many of which reached wide audiences via The Conversation’s open-access, free-to-republish model.

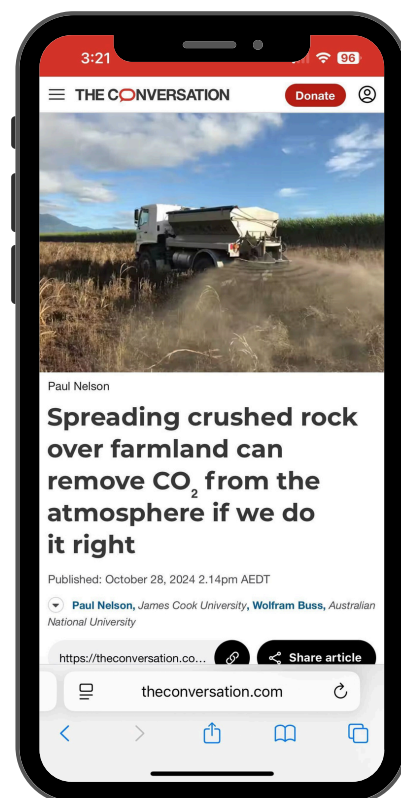
Universities in the program include:

- University of New England
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Southern Queensland
- Southern Cross University
- James Cook University
- Charles Darwin University
- Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin
- University of Wollongong
- Australian Institute of Marine Sciences.

“

Everyone we heard from said they found it very useful, and I know we already have a few new Conversation articles in progress as a result – mission accomplished!

Richard Davis
Head of Media and Communications
James Cook University



With thanks to your support

Supporting evidence-based policymaking

With the backing of a dedicated group of funders, we created a Public Policy Editor role to inject more expertise in Australia's policymaking debates.

This role has significantly deepened our public policy coverage, launching a new editorial series focused on the most pressing challenges facing Australia.

The editor also played a central role in developing our acclaimed Policy Tracker—an evidence-based tool enabling readers to compare party platforms during the federal election.

Strengthening academic networks and cultivating the next generation of journalists

We established a new role—Editorial Training and Engagement Manager—to deepen partnerships with universities and support diverse academic voices.

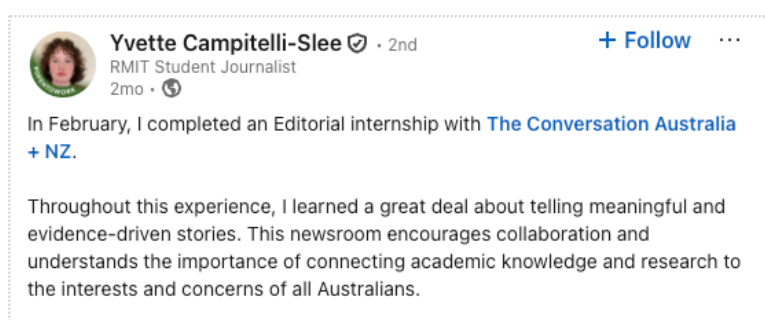
This role revitalised our internship program, mentoring a new generation of journalists committed to factual reporting.



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This experience has solidified my passion for journalism and made me confident that there are other like-minded people/organisations in this industry who value the responsibility and privilege we have as storytellers.

Feedback from a recent intern

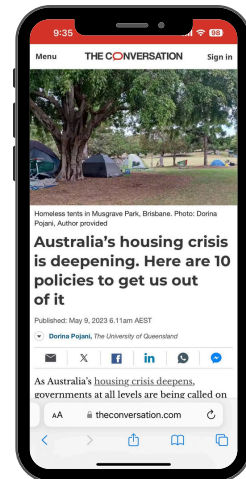


Support a series, editor or project

Over the years, philanthropic contributions have enabled us to undertake several projects that enriched public discourse and fostered a deeper understanding of critical issues.

For nearly a decade, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation supported the role of Cities Editor. This elevated research and expertise on issues ranging from climate resilience to social justice.

Supported by Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

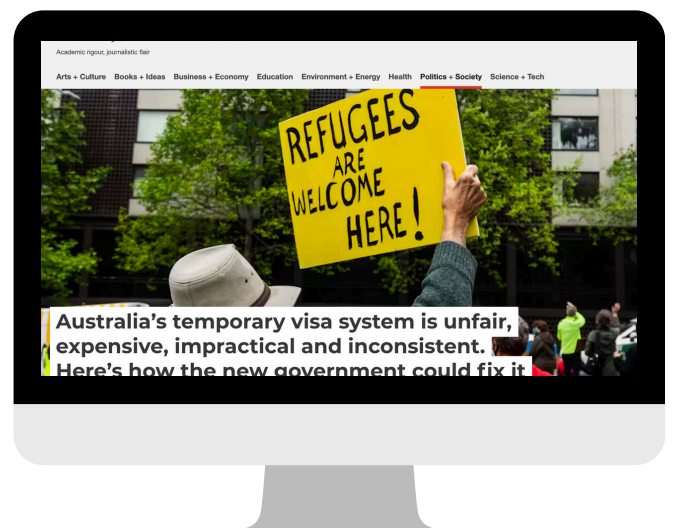


Supported by Reader Donations

Thanks to reader donations, we were able to establish our Books & Ideas section and, later, launch a dedicated newsletter. In a time where space for serious discussion on literature, philosophy, and culture is shrinking, we have built a community of authors and readers who can engage with in-depth book reviews, explainers and essays touching on everything from philosophy and history to politics and the culture wars.

The Broadley Trust has supported The Conversation's work with Australia's leading researchers on refugees and asylum seeker policy since 2021. They provide expert analysis and fresh policy ideas.

Supported by The Broadley Trust



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 contact Helen Johnstone, Philanthropy and Bequest Manager on 0422 851 282 or email helen.johnstone@theconversation.edu.au.

The Conversation would like to thank those individuals who have shown their commitment to our work with a major donation.

Patron (\$10,000+)

Lindsay Adams, The Sue Beeton Fund, The Bowness Family Foundation, Therese Cochrane & Fred Woollard, Tim Fairfax, Joyce Kirk, Peter Laver, Dana Lusic, The Orgill Family Foundation, The Koshland Innovation Fund, The Sky Foundation, Tony Wheeler, Harrison Young, Anon (4).

Impact (\$5,000+)

The Carthew Family Trust, Clack-McLure Fund, Kathleen Daly, Sean Hughes, The Keir Foundation, In memory of Joceyln Kendall, Bev Rogers, Anon (6).

Catalyst (\$2,500+)

Stephen Ball & Tracey Jarvis-Ball, Marianne Broadbent, Alan Cameron AO, Michael & Ros Crommelin, Kathy Egea, Stephen Howard & Elizabeth Martell, Nancy Price, Mark Scott AO, The Sharman Foundation, Fraser Tankel, Matthew Edward Taylor, Michael Wise, Anon (8).

*Updated May 2025

There is no Conversation without you

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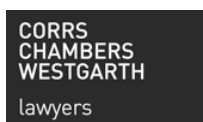
It takes a special individual to decide to extend the impact of their support for future generations.

Thank you to our Legacy Supporters who have pledged a gift in their Will.

Strategic Partners

We are grateful for the support of our philanthropic partners who provide valuable funding and support for our work.

The generosity of these funders ensures the survival of The Conversation.



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We are a not-for-profit publisher that relies on support from our 'Friends of The Conversation': our philanthropic community who allow us to remain 100% independent and without advertising and paywalls.

The Conversation offers sincere thanks to those readers who made monthly or single tax-deductible donations as Friends of The Conversation to help support our work.

donate.theconversation.com/au



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The world's leading independent publisher of research-based news and analysis.

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101 articles

Australia/NZ

34 editors
48 university members

Monthly averages
13.6 million page views
368 articles

Canada

12 editors
44 university members

Monthly averages
2.7 million page views
123 articles

France

17 editors
98 university members

Monthly averages
5 million page views
181 articles

Indonesia

12 editors

Monthly averages
0.5 million page views
95 articles

Spain

12 editors
67 university members

Monthly averages
2.8 million page views
188 articles

United Kingdom

28 editors
90 university members

Monthly averages
12.7 million page views
198 articles

United States

26 editors
91 university members

Monthly averages
12.7 million page views
198 articles

White pins mark where we now have staff working. The number of editors is full-time equivalents.