

# THE CONVERSATION

Share knowledge. Inform decisions.

2025

IMPACT  
REPORT

July – Sept

Australia & New Zealand

# Turning Knowledge Into Impact

Recently we learnt that one of The Conversation's multimedia articles has been shortlisted for a Walkley award for explanatory journalism. This might not sound like a big deal, but even shortlisting for a Walkley matters – it's the most prestigious prize in Australian journalism.

It was especially pleasing that this little nod went to our inactive quiz on [how to spot a rip](#). In Australia too many people drown on our beaches and in our waterways. When this piece was commissioned there had been an alarming uptick in drownings following the covid lockdowns.

Explaining how to identify and stay away from rips is a crucial public safety task, and The Conversation's interactive used our unique publishing model to play a part.

First, the editorial team came up with the idea and found an academic with the deep expertise to write the article, in this case a brilliant coastal scientist from the University of New South Wales, Professor Rob Brander.

Next the multimedia team designed an interactive quiz where readers were encouraged to have a go at identifying rips, with helpful feedback if they got it wrong.

Ultimately we wanted to serve the public interest by helping people be safer. As with all our work, our approach can be simple because we aren't beholden to vested interests or trying to stay afloat via clickbait. Nor do we try to amp up conflict or push an ideology.

This is one small example of how The Conversation has an impact, an important one we hope. In this report you will find many more wonderful examples of how we work with academics to make a difference. I hope this report is enjoyable to read and in its pages you find compelling evidence that access to quality information changes lives for the better.



**Misha Ketchell**  
Editor, The Conversation

## Outputs & outcomes

July to September 2025  
The Conversation Australia and New Zealand

**13,023,748**  
average monthly pageviews

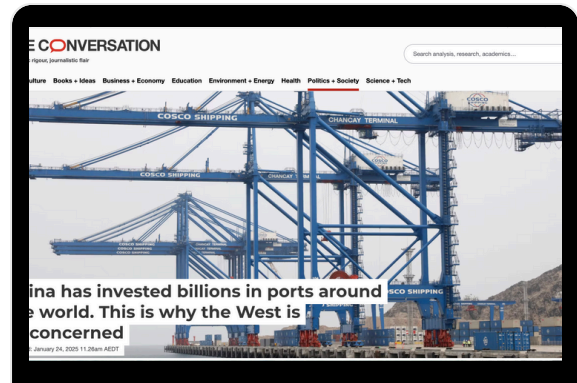
**1,170**  
articles

**1,429**  
authors

# Informing policy with evidence-based insight

## Local expertise on China shared with US Department of Defense

After publishing 'China has invested billions in ports around the world. This is why the West is so concerned', Claudio Bozzi from Deakin University's article was cited in *Atlantic Council: A pivot to China, not Asia*. This issue brief is part of the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security's National Defense Strategy Project, outlining the priorities the Department of Defense should address in its next National Defence Strategy.

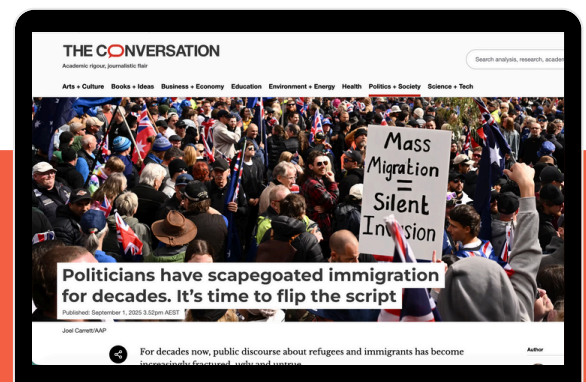


## VIC energy transition analysis attracts Ministerial attention

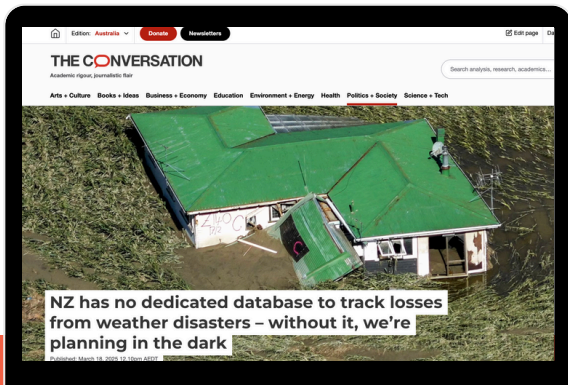
After Trivess Moore at RMIT published 'Yes, Victoria's efforts to wean households off gas have been dialled back. But it's still real progress', the Chief of Staff to Minister D'Ambrosio, Victoria's Minister for Climate Action and Minister for Energy and Resources, reached out to discuss some of the key implications raised in the latter half of the article.

## Immigration policy analysis informs political discourse

After Jane McAdam (UNSW Sydney) published 'Politicians have scapegoated immigration for decades. It's time to flip the script', the Australian Peace and Security Forum announced that the article will be republished in its Fourth Peace and Security Quarterly Report (November 2025), highlighting the piece's relevance to ongoing discussions on migration, national security, and political discourse.



# Informing policy with evidence-based insight

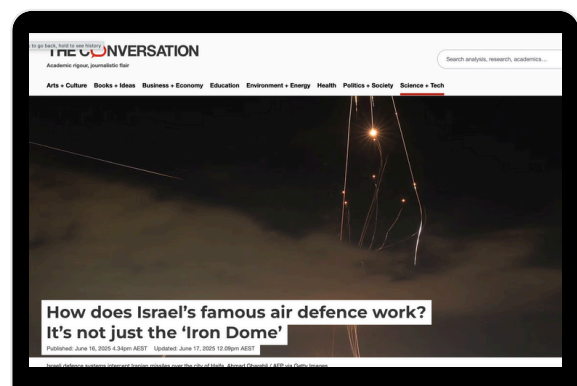


## New Zealand expertise helps hazard resilience planning

When Te Herenga Waka, Victoria University of Wellington, published 'NZ has no dedicated database to track losses from weather disasters – without it, we're planning in the dark', the article was cited in 'Building New Zealand's Long-term Resilience to Hazards: Draft Long-term Insights Briefing' by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This document highlights the need for a proactive, whole-of-society approach to building resilience.

## Analysis of Israel's aerial defence system informs UK Parliament briefing.

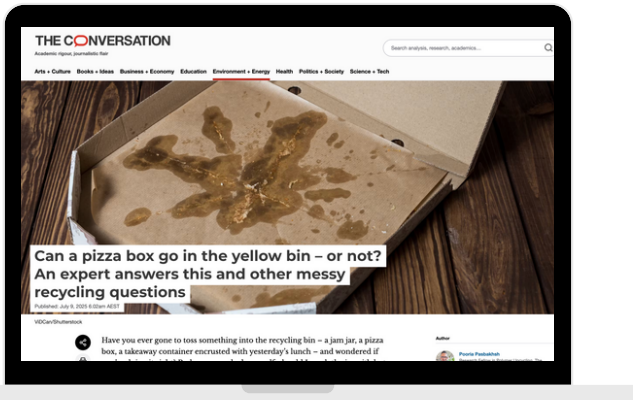
After James Dwyer (University of Tasmania) published 'How does Israel's famous air defence work? It's not just the 'Iron Dome'', it was cited in 'Defending UK airspace' by UK Parliament Research Briefings. The UK's integrated air and missile defence capabilities have been labelled as a 'critical weakness in the nation's defences'. The article explains why aerial defence is a complex issue, and how a country can defend itself against threats.



# Informing climate, environment and disaster response discussions

## Recycling research gets international media and industry attention

After Pooria Pasbakhsh from the University of Melbourne published '[Can a pizza box go in the yellow bin or not? An expert answers this and other messy recycling questions](#)' they were interviewed for three ABC radio programs in Brisbane, Adelaide and Darwin. The article was republished by media outlets all over the world including The New Daily, The Mirage, New Delhi Television and Tolerance.ca. The author received interest from the polymer recycling industry and the Australia Recycling Council for a discussion.



## Climate data risk research triggers international concern and a ministerial request

After a group of authors from Monash University published '[As US climate data-gathering is gutted, Australian forecasting is now at real risk](#)', they were interviewed with ABC Adelaide, ABC Hobart, and ABC News.

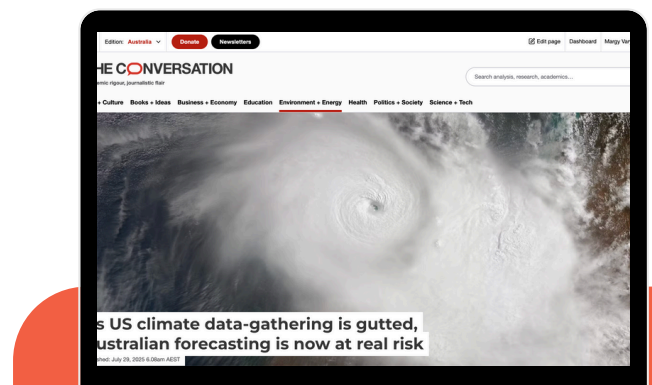
The incoming director of **the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting** said that the issue raised is 'absolutely' going to have global impacts on weather and climate forecasting.'

**Matt Kean, chair of the Climate Change Authority**, used this article extensively in an op-Ed in The Age and SMH. **The Bom issued a press release on the issue.**

Co-author Matt England, did the Science show with Robin Williams and discussed the issue.

Co-author Anthony Rae was recorded for Sky News, which **triggered a ministerial request.**

The authors were also invited to a science panel webinar at the **New York Academy of Sciences.**



# Informing climate, environment and disaster response discussions



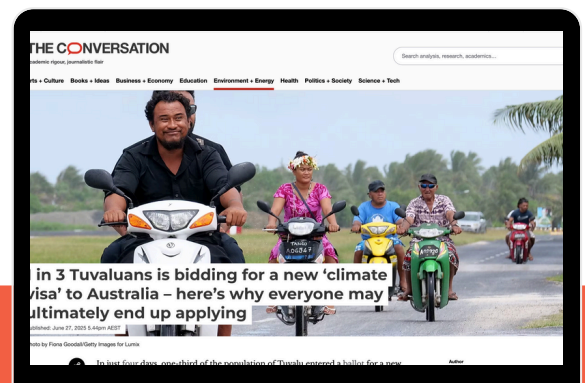
## Disaster resilience expertise gains global attention

After Iftekhhar Ahmed (University of Newcastle) published 'Why was the Afghanistan earthquake so deadly? A disaster resilience expert explains', the article was re-posted on PreventionWeb, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNDRR) online platform. Ahmed was also interviewed by multiple outlets, including China Newsweek, 95bFM Radio in Auckland and Sky News Weather in Australia.

## Climate migration analysis featured across major global and national media

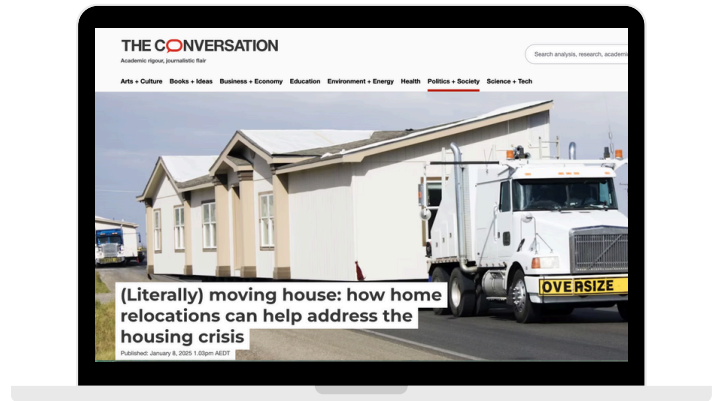
After Jane McAdam (UNSW) published '1 in 3 Tuvaluans is bidding for a new 'climate visa' to Australia, here's why everyone may ultimately end up applying', they were cited in or used as background for articles and radio pieces on BBC, ABC, SBS, Sydney Morning Herald, The Guardian, The Wire, Deutsche Welle, New Scientist, Nikkei Asia, Eldiario.es, WDR radio (Germany), Schleswig-Holsteinische Landeszeitung, Taiwan News, and Times of India.

The article was also cited in **Mixed Migration Centre: Quarterly Mixed Migration Update** on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region.



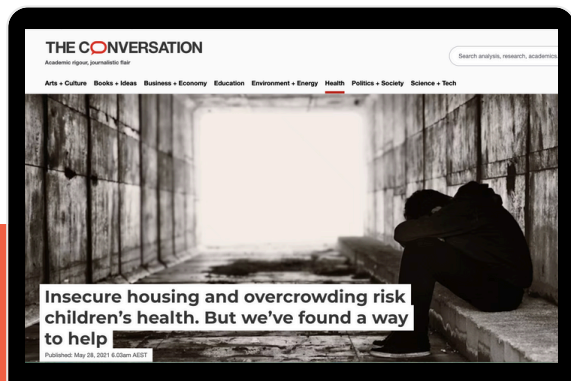
# Supporting better outcomes for young people at risk

After Johari Amar at Bond University published '(Literally) moving house: how home relocations can help address the housing crisis', they were interviewed by ABC Radio Brisbane, ABC Radio Newcastle and ABC News Ballarat. They are now collaborating with QUT on a housing affordability study and working with organisations that support marginalised youth on employability and skills shortage in the construction and housing sector.



After Yvonne Parry at Flinders University co-authored 'Insecure housing and overcrowding risk children's health. But we've found a way to help', with Matthew Ankers, she was formally recognised by University College London (UCL), which awarded her honorary Associate Professor academic status.

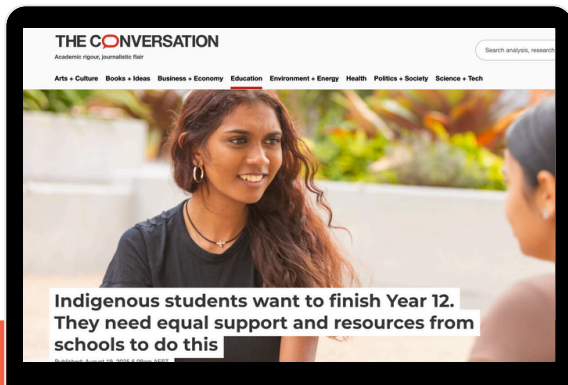
The article catalysed collaborative global work with UCL, leading to grant success and UK policy submissions. It also helped the authors to expand their research portfolio, and influence key decision-makers into policies and interventions that have driven systems-level changes in interdisciplinary prevention and intervention for children aged 0–5 years.



After Catherine Smith. (The University of Melbourne) wrote 'Thriving Kids' could help secure the future of the NDIS. But what will the program mean for children and families?', they were interviewed on Life Matters and ABC Regional, and were contacted by researchers in Disability from 3 different universities about potential collaboration. Australian Association for Research in Education also posted the article on their Edu ResearchMatters bog.



# Raising awareness of Indigenous issues



## Indigenous students research informs tertiary education standards discussion

After Maryanne Macdonald (Edith Cowan University) published 'Indigenous students want to finish Year 12. They need equal support and resources from schools to do this', TEQSA invited co-author Renae Isaacs-Guthridge to speak at the **National TEQSA Conference** session 'Embedding social cohesion in higher education quality assurance practices'. She was confirmed to appear alongside the Race Discrimination Commissioner, Giri Sivaraman, and Professor Shomit Sagar, Executive Director of ACSES.

## Deaths in custody analysis included in high school curriculum

After Thalia Anthony (University of Technology Sydney) published 'I can't breathe! Australia must look in the mirror to see our own deaths in custody', the article was incorporated into Year 11 English curriculum at Rosny College, Tasmania, exposing over 200 students to critical social issues in Australia's justice system.



# Reader Feedback

Our 2025 Reader Survey received over 5,000 responses, with 90% of readers saying they would recommend The Conversation.

*It eschews the sensationalism of most other media and, in particular, it doesn't generally promulgate partisan views of a particular political party.*

*It is a calm lake of sanity amidst the mountains of click bait.*

*The 'Your say' section has quickly become my favourite part of the daily email!! I love seeing that the editors acknowledge disagreement and dont overly censor the contributions. While sometimes I disagree strongly with the views of the contributors, the fact that they are allowed to have a platform makes me really excited for free speech and expression :)*

*It is one publication I can rely on not to generate stories using AI; when experts write about their chosen field, I can believe them.*

*It's more important than ever to have "fact traceable" information. Too many untruths are being passed as fact on social media.*

# Philanthropy powers public interest journalism

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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.

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## 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](mailto:helen.johnstone@theconversation.edu.au)

Scan the QR code to show your support



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

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### Impact (\$5,000+)

Lindsay Adams, Clack-McLure Fund, Alan Cameron AO, Phyllis Hodge, Sean Hughes, The Keir Foundation, Robert Mann, The Sharman Foundation, The Shepherd Family Foundation, Danielle Smith & Sean Carmody, In memory of Joceyln Kendall, Bev Rogers, Anon (5).

### Catalyst (\$2,500+)

Stephen Ball & Tracey Jarvis-Ball, Kate Brettell & Rick Walters, Marianne Broadbent, The Carthew Family Trust, Michael & Ros Crommelin, Kathy Egea, Graham & Anne Evans, Stephen Howard & Elizabeth Martell, Mark Levy, Wendy McCarthy AC, Rosalie Schultz, Mark Scott AO, Michael Wise, Anon (12).

# There is no Conversation without you

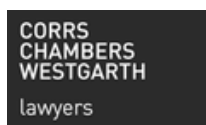
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**Helmut Schwabe**  
Legacy Supporter

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

“ *Thank you to all your team who make it possible to engage with thoughtful and incisive analysis of the issues that matter.* ”

**Lynne Badger, FoTC**

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