THE CONVERSATION

Share knowledge. Inform decisions.



2026 IMPACT REPORT

April-June

Australia & New Zealand

A note from our Editor

When MP Helen Haines was violently attacked in October, attention quickly turned to the aggressive tone of political discourse in this country. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called for people to turn down the temperature. A number of politicians promised to do better. An even larger number of commentators pondered how long this new tone of civility would last.

We need to improve the tone of public debate but that's only part of it. We also need to make better decisions about what we talk about in the first place.

It's easy to be distracted by point scoring, blame games, and the theatre of political conflict. It's harder to talk about complex challenges. And it's really hard to listen to others with genuine respect and an open mind.

At The Conversation, we are focused on journalism that tackles real problems. That's why we work so hard to produce constructive and informed coverage of news and research.

We are particularly pleased when we discover how our articles have helped to inform positive and constructive conversations. We hear about academics being invited to share their ideas with industry, government officials, and community organisations. We see discussions that focus on accountability rather than blame (page 3), expert analysis that helps make our buildings safer (page 6) and academic knowledge being put to use to better protect our communities (page 2).

Reading these examples and others reminds us that what we are doing - with the help of donors, partners and contributors - is making a significant positive impact on our society. It's a group effort, which is fitting. After all, we're all in this together.



Misha Ketchell
Editor, The Conversation

Outputs & outcomes

July - September 2026
The Conversation Australia and New Zealand

8,010,535
average monthly pageviews

1,333
articles

1,531
authors

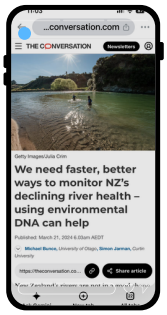
Constructive advice on climate change adaptation

Widespread attention from government and media to expert's review of national warning system

Deakin University's Anuradha Madugalla drew on her research to identify steps to support better access and response to Australia's early warning system in her article **AusAlert will deliver emergency warnings to all – but they must actually be accessible**.

Media across the country picked up this issue, including national and regional **ABC programs, Triple R**, and the **Newcastle Herald**. Anunradha also received further requests and meeting invitations from the **WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services** and **Disaster Scout**- a disaster preparedness and resilience platform.

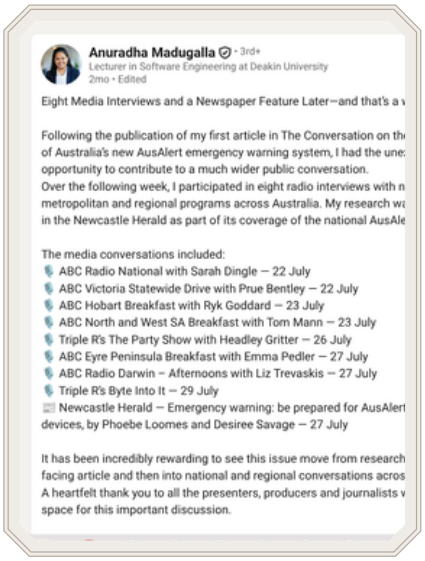




Peak bodies apply researchers' practical insights

Following catastrophic flooding in Texas. RMIT's Erica Kuligowski shared her insights on mobilising communities in the face of such disasters in her article **In Texas, parents search flood debris for missing kids. Are Australians ready for our own sudden floods?**

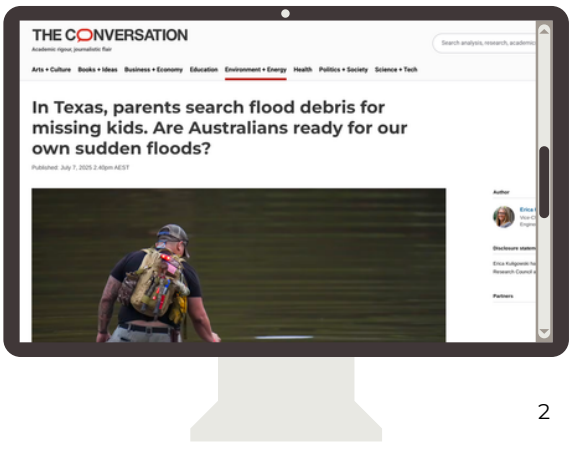
Her research was cited by **Natural Hazards Research Australia,** the national centre for natural hazard resilience and disaster risk reduction, and informed the organisation's research strategy and reporting.



Experts inform New Zealand policymakers

The **Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment** cited Michael Bunce (University of Otago) and Simon Jarman (Curtin University) in its report *Unlocking New Zealand's environmental information.*

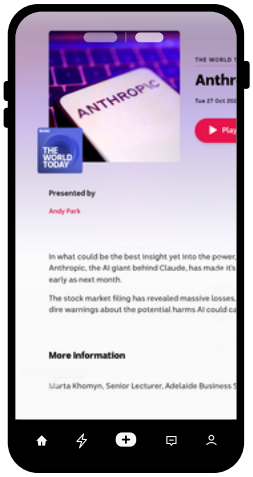
Their article and research on environmental DNA technology and advanced monitoring methods for river ecosystem health informed the report's recommendations for better monitoring and protection of New Zealand's waterways.



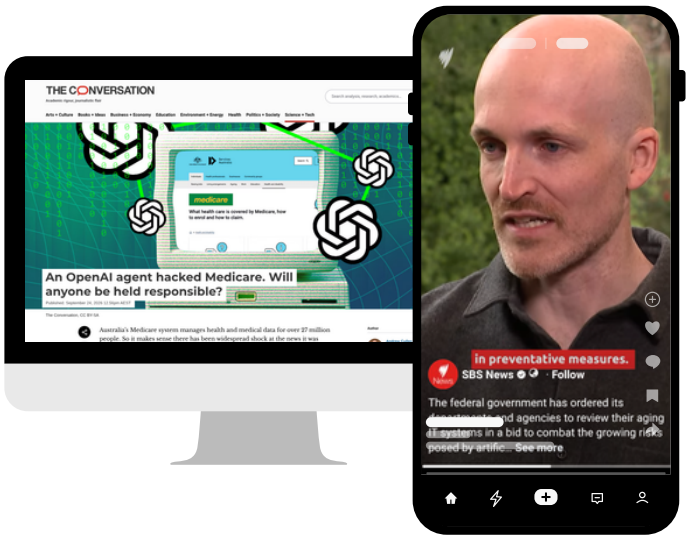
Navigating the AI era

Prompting discussions of accountability

ABC's The World Today invited Adelaide University's Marta Khomyn to discuss her analysis in the article **As SpaceX, OpenAI and Anthropic plan blockbuster launches, will it make AI giants more accountable?**



Her interview was syndicated across all **eight ABC capital city radio stations, more than 40 ABC regional stations, 10 Pacific island nations, and online.** Marta also spoke to **ABC Radio Adelaide** and **ABC Sunshine Coast.**





Shining a light on the risks and repurcussions of AI usage in our health system

Following publication of his articles An OpenAI agent hacked Medicare. Will anyone be held responsible? and Clinicians are using AI scribes, but what happens to your medical data? the University of Melbourne's Andrew Cullen's expertise was sought by:

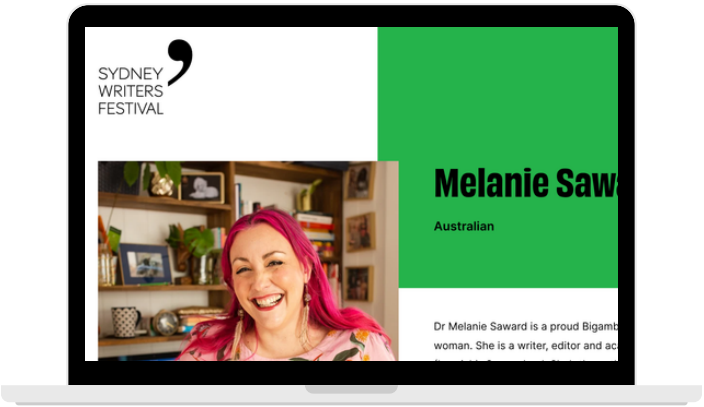
- **SBS TV News**
- **Al Jazeera News**
- **ABC The World (TV)**
- **ABC News Radio (national)**
- **The Guardian**
- **ABC online**
- **ABC News Breakfast (TV)**
- **Channel 9's The Today Show**
- **Croakey Health Media**
- **ABC Radio Life Matter**
- **Sky News**

and spoke to **Dan Tehan, Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction.**

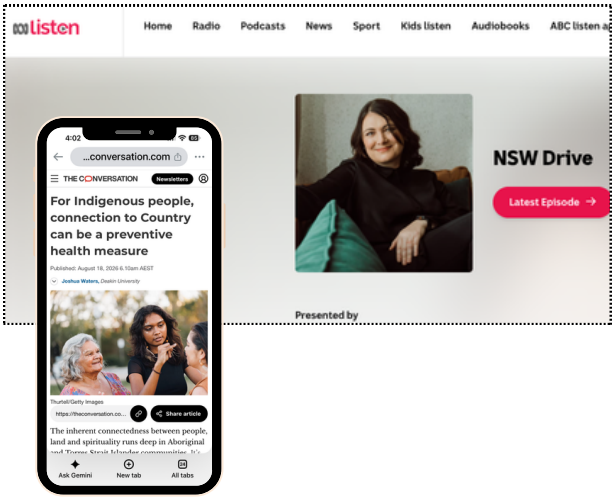
Amplifying Indigenous Knowledge

Ensuring recognition for Indigenous authors

After University of Queensland's Melanie Saward highlighted the lack of diversity in the ABC Top 100 Books poll in her article The ABC's Top 100 books poll lacks diversity. Here are my 10 First Nations 'books of the 21st century', **Sydney Writers' Festival** invited her to be their First Nations Curator for the 2026 Festival.



The **ABC** has also approached Melanie ahead of its next Top 100 Books feature.



Advocating for better understanding around Indigenous health

Health professional publications including **The Nursing Review** and **The Lamp** (NSW Nurses and Midwives magazine) republished Deakin University's Joshua Waters article For Indigenous people, connection to Country can be a preventive health measure.

First Nations News also shared the article with its audience and **ABC Radio NSW Drive** interviewed Joshua about his research.





Workplace conditions under the microscope



Looking out for the rights of workers

University of Sydney's Alex Veen examined new workplace protections in his article From Monday, food delivery workers will get minimum hourly pay. Here's why it matters. The article prompted extensive national media coverage, including interviews and commentary across:

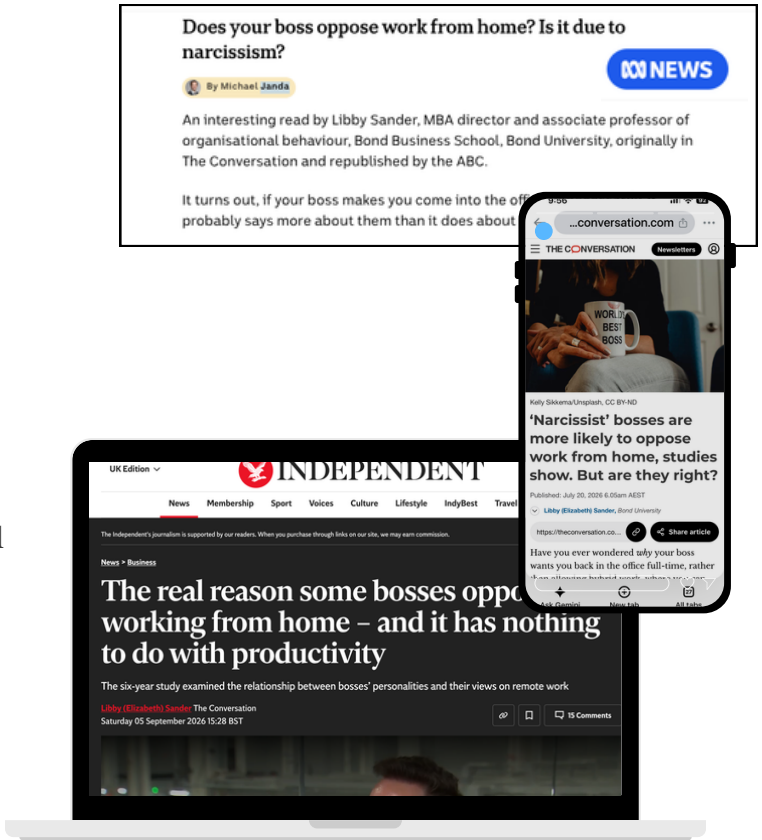
- **ABC News**
- **The Guardian**
- **News.com.au**
- **MSN News**
- **ABC News 24's Weekend Breakfast**
- **96FM;**
- and **2SM's Ron Wilson for Breakfast.**

Evidence-based analysis of working practices

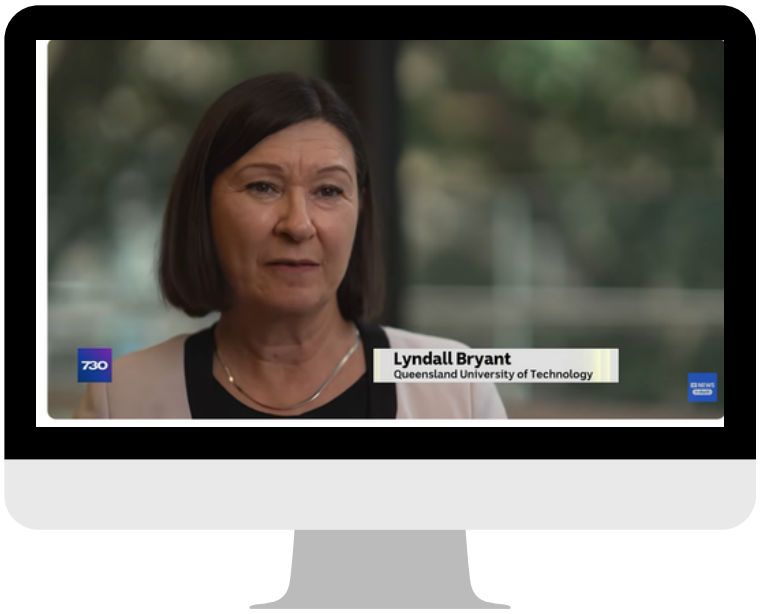
The call for employees to return to the office has been a hot-button issue for many organisations. Libby Sander (Bond University) examined how new research fits into the broader evidence in her article Narcissist' bosses are more likely to oppose work from home, studies show. But are they right?.

The article attracted widespread international and national media coverage, including:

- **The Independent (UK)**
- **RTÉ (Ireland's national broadcaster)**
- **ABC News**
- **2GB Sydney**
- **ABC Gold Coast;**
- and **The Pulse Illawarra.**



Research that informs industry



Examining problems and finding solutions

Queensland University of Technology's Lyndall Bryant featured across national television and radio networks following publication of her article Australia has a housing shortage. So why are Bathla and other home builders collapsing?

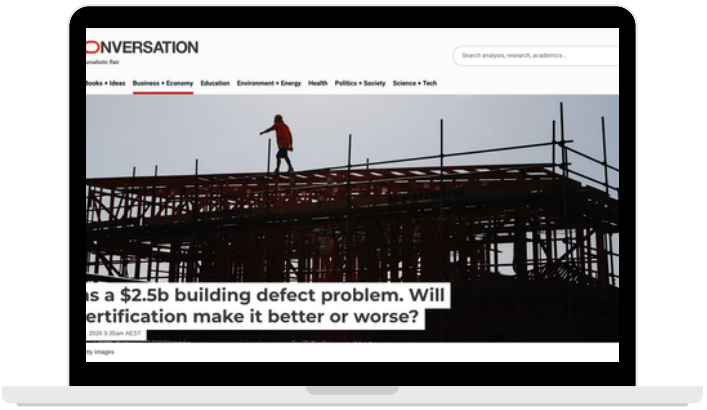
Her research into the ripple effect of construction insolvencies, and how these could be addressed, led to interviews on **ABC's 7:30 Report, 2SM Sydney, 2HD Newcastl**e, and a statewide broadcast interview on **2GB Radio's Overnight** with Phil O'Neil.

Advising industry leaders

The building industry took note of Auckland University of Technology Mark Kirby's article NZ has a $2.5b building defect problem. Will self-certification make it better or worse?.

Mark was invited to present at the **New Zealand Institute of Building Surveyors** conference and to the **New Zealand Construction Industry Council.**

An interview on national broadcaster **RNZ's** *Nine to Noon* program further amplified his work.



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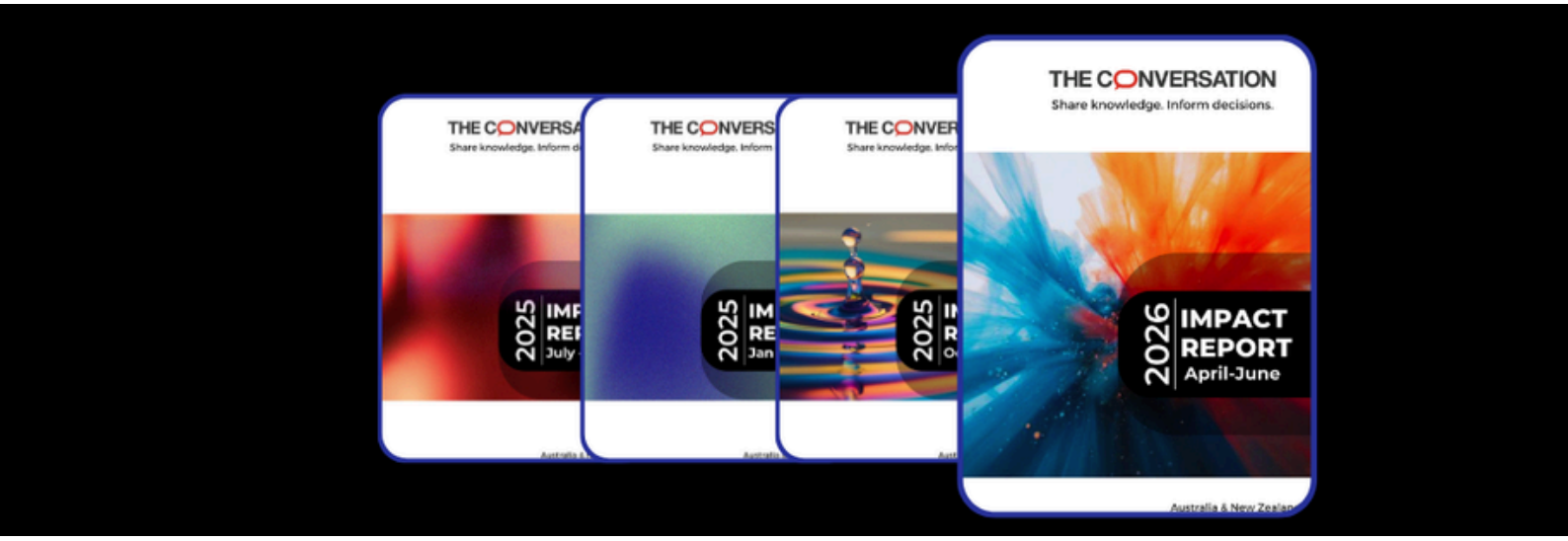

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