

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **MEET AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST SUPERSTARS OF STEM**

Australia's newest Superstars of STEM – 60 diverse brilliant scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians who want to step into the media spotlight as science experts - will be officially announced today by the Minister for Industry and Science, Ed Husic MP.

The new Superstars reflect the strong diversity of women and non-binary people in Australian science and technology - including three First Nations superstar scientists, six new Superstars from regional Australia, and Superstars from a wide array of economic, social and cultural backgrounds.

Minister Husic congratulated the newest Superstars of STEM on stepping into the public arena to help inspire the next generations of diverse young Australians into STEM.

"The need to boost diversity in our science, technology, engineering and mathematics sector is urgent," he said.

"There are huge skills shortages that can be addressed if we put our minds and collective effort to it – which means we have to draw deeply on our nation's expertise from all corners of the community."

"By doing so, we can deliver a stellar boost to our national economy and enable Australia to meet the growing demand for STEM-trained workers."

"I've always been a fan of the way the Superstars of STEM program pushes to deliver a diverse STEM workforce and ensures the next generation of scientists and technologists have visible role models."

"I just know these talented experts and communicators will play their part inspiring Australia's young people – from all backgrounds – into science and technology."

Science & Technology Australia Chief Executive Officer Misha Schubert said the program gave women and non-binary talent in STEM crucial skills and confidence to step into expert commentary roles in the media.

"We know it's really hard to be what you can't see," she said. "That's why this game-changing program is helping to smash stereotypes of what a scientist, technologist, engineer or mathematician looks like."

"By becoming highly visible role models in the media, these Superstars of STEM are showing our diverse next generations of young people - especially our girls and non-binary kids - that STEM is for them."

"Superstars of STEM is powerfully shifting the dial on diversity in Australia's science and technology sectors. The Australian Government's strong investment in this world-leading program is bolstering diversity in a sector that will shape our future economy. We are so grateful for it."

Superstars of STEM is an initiative of Science & Technology Australia funded by the Australian

Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources. The next 60 Superstars of STEM will join the program in 2023 and 2024.

Through a highly competitive selection process, the program selects 60 women and non-binary STEM experts and gives them the training, confidence, networks and experience to become sought-after media commentators as experts in their fields.

**About Science & Technology Australia**

*Science & Technology Australia is the nation's peak body representing more than 105,000 scientists and technologists. We're the leading policy voice on science and technology. Our flagship programs include [Science Meets Parliament](#), [Superstars of STEM](#), and [STA STEM Ambassadors](#).*

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