



MONASH
University

MONASH
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
ACCELERATING
FOR MOMENTUM

Acknowledgements

MONASH UNIVERSITY recognises that its Australian campuses are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Kulin nations, and pays its respects to their Elders, past and present.

Monash University acknowledges the enormous contributions of Harold Charles Mitchell AC (13 May 1942 – 10 February 2024), a great supporter of the Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI), the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Climateworks Centre.

Harold's philanthropy has played a key role in the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals and his support helped establish SDSN Youth, a global network of young people working together to achieve a better and fairer world.

His legacy and passion will continue through these programs that aim to address what he cared so deeply about - a better future for people and our planet.

Message from Chair, John Thwaites and Director, Tony Capon



Professor John Thwaites, Chair, Monash Sustainable Development Institute and Climateworks Centre; and Professor Tony Capon, Director, Monash Sustainable Development Institute reflect on 2023

As a global community, 2023 was a difficult year. The geopolitical conflicts and the lingering impacts of the COVID pandemic have disrupted sustainable development across the globe, making it harder for the world to take action on climate change, inequality, and planetary health. It was also an important year, as it marked the mid-point of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI), we were greatly honoured to have Shirin Malekpour and Cameron Allen as key contributors to the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), which was commissioned by the UN's Secretary General. While the report noted that we are behind our sustainable targets, there have been some green shoots. We have seen a significant growth in renewable energy across the planet and, at COP28, we saw the world move towards a future without fossil fuels.

In 2023, at MSDI and Climateworks Centre, we celebrated many achievements that helped to accelerate momentum towards the SDGs. For

example, we developed the Southeast Asia Framework for Ocean Action in Mitigation (SEAFOAM) project which is looking at ocean based climate solutions in Indonesia. We produced the Australian Industry Energy Transitions Initiative report which outlined pathways for Australia to get to net zero in heavy industry by 2050. And we are also working with the health sector to support its transition to net zero. At the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP28), we organised and took part in many events in the Monash Pavilion and beyond. It was good to see that this year's conference had a strong focus on health and we hosted many events, including a meeting of Pacific Health Ministers. Our work through Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE), Fire to Flourish and SDSN AusNZPac demonstrated our collaborative and practical ways to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our team is also growing. This year, we welcomed Mikala Hehir to our Executive, in the role of Director for Strategy and Engagement.

We're looking forward to 2024. Our new Circular Economy initiative will draw on the expertise from our specialist discipline of BehaviourWorks Australia to combine behaviour change and systems thinking. We're also expanding our relationships in Southeast Asia, in particular building sustainable development hubs and education programs at our Monash Malaysia and Monash Indonesia campuses. It's an exciting prospect as we've got so much to learn from each other.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our staff and students who are such an important part of the institute and our success. And we'd also like to thank our partners and funders., We couldn't achieve our work without their strong engagement and continued support.



[Scan to play video](#)

Contents

Message from Chair, John Thwaites and Director, Tony Capon // **04**

Our sustainable strategy // **05**

2023 - our impact at a glance // **06**

MSDI in the media // **07**

Awards // **08**

Graduating PhD students // **09**

Climate Action // 10

Environment and Health // 15

Sustainable Cities and Regions // 22

Circular Economy // 28

Inclusive Prosperity // 32

Leadership for the SDGs // 35

Thank you // **40**

Our sustainable strategy

Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI) is a world leading institute advancing the wellbeing of people and planet through innovative research, education, engagement and impact.

Our projects, programs, initiatives, publications and partnerships contribute to six strategic domains:



CLIMATE ACTION

Accelerating transitions to net-zero emissions



INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY

Enhancing participation, belonging and inclusion



ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

Improving environmental outcomes, health systems and advancing planetary health



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Catalysing regenerative and closed-loop approaches to building economic, natural and social capital



SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND REGIONS

Enabling thriving places and communities



LEADERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Advancing SDG literacy and action

We explore evidence-based solutions to real-world problems and champion systems transformation to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). We draw on our skills and knowledge and build diverse partnerships to incorporate different perspectives, connecting communities, industries, institutions and government.

In order to create broad, deep and long-term impact, we apply our shared capabilities to accelerate action across a diverse range of sustainable development initiatives: build capacity and empower leadership; facilitate collaboration; create, synthesise and translate knowledge; experiment and innovate; understand and influence behaviour; and shape institutions, policy and practice. The case studies shared in this year's report showcase these capabilities in our work.

2023 - our impact at a glance

At MSDI, we have been putting the pieces in place. Our approach brings together each part of the system to understand the big picture and their role in transition. We connect solutions to challenges and we build on knowledge to find new ways to create long-term and sustainable impact.

If we – the world, the region and Australia – are to achieve our 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must prioritise the areas that are lagging behind and turn commitment into action. We have a collective responsibility to create a world that will flourish and thrive into the future. We all now have evidence-based plans, good foundations and expertise.

Let's do the work.



MSDI in the media

AMPLIFYING OUR VOICE IN MEDIA: THROUGH GLOBAL CHANNELS AND PARTNERSHIPS

2023 was a year which saw MSDI continue to contribute significantly in the media landscape - further establishing Monash University's position as a thought leader in sustainable development, not only in Australia, but on the global stage as well.

As the world undertook the first 'global stocktake' of efforts to address climate change under the Paris Agreement - MSDI was front and centre in discussions and events covered by global media which included the launch of the UN's Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), the SDG Summit held in New York and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

UN GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT (GSDR) AND SDG SUMMIT

As contributors to the GSDR, Shirin Malekpour and Cameron Allen were published in the world's leading science journal, *Nature*, helping propel the agenda for SDG research.

In its post analysis of the UN Summit, the leading journal also followed up with an *editorial* featuring Shirin Malekpour's insights of the proposed outcomes from the Summit's political declaration. To date over 75 publications have referenced the work of Shirin Malekpour and Cameron Allen with a reach of over 105 million.

Another significant editorial by John Thwaites on *What the Asia Pacific Needs to Leap Forward on Climate Action* received global attention through the *State of the SDGs Special Report* - a collaboration between newswire agency, *360info*, and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

The article garnered a potential global reach of 340 million readers.

COP28

MSDI and Monash University made a significant splash in the heart of COP28 news with the Arab Emirates equivalent of Reuters - *Big News Network* - featuring three MSDI articles in their *What to Watch at COP28 segment* - *Climate Damage: Who pays and how* by Michael Dolan, Climateworks Centre; *The Climate Crisis is a Health Crisis* by Angie Bone, Karin Leder, Tin Tin Su and Tony Capon and *Tapping into Water Solutions to Close Development Gap* by Tony Wong, Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE).

PARTNERSHIPS

As MSDI continues paving the way for change in the medical sector for sustainability transitions, Australia's leading medical journal, The Medical Journal of Australia and its magazine InSight+, has partnered with MSDI in ensuring this important discussion is front of mind with the people who can effect change.

\$79^M
worth of media exposure

4.0^B
audience reach

5310
media hits

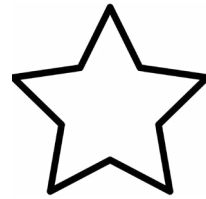
Awards



The **BehaviourWorks Australia** team won the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Educational Excellence in the category of Industry Education Programs for their Applying Behavioural Science to Create Change micro-credential.



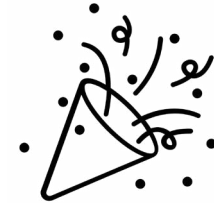
Dr Filia Garivaldis and Associate Professor Annette Bos accept the award



Congratulations to **Professor Rob Raven** who was named as a Highly Cited Researcher for his impactful work in shaping a healthier, more sustainable world.

Each year The Australian's 2024 Research magazine names 250 top researchers across a breadth of research fields. We are also extremely proud that Rob Raven – appearing for the third year as a research leader in the field of Business, Economics & Management – has been joined by Peter Bragge who was recognised as a research leader in the field of Health Policy & Medical Law.

Jennifer Macklin PhD from **BehaviourWorks Australia** was recognised for her outstanding achievement in promoting a circular economy, as a finalist for the ACE Hub's Circular Leader award.



Congratulations to everyone involved in delivering the eight units taught by our team of **MSDI educators** whose teaching and curriculum received 'Outstanding' also known as 'Purple' status in overall student satisfaction.

Master of Environment and Sustainability units:

ENS5510: [Innovation to influence system change](#)

ENS5520: [Understanding human behaviour to influence change](#)

ENS5920: [Environment and sustainability project](#) (semester 1 and 2)

ENS5340: [Transforming cities for sustainability](#)

Units within programs of Faculty of Business and Economics:

BEX3150: [Sustainability practice and organisations](#) (undergraduate capstone unit)

BEX5810: [Sustainable business and innovation](#) (Masters level)

BEX5200: [Climate change and carbon management strategies](#) (Masters Level)

Graduate certificate in Road Safety unit:

CAR5002: [Applying behavioural science to road safety](#)

Graduating PhD students



We congratulate our graduating PhD students and wish them well in their sustainable journey: Jennifer Dam, Joel Edwards, Dianty Ningrum, Alexandra Waddell, Bohdi Weaver and Conor Wynn.



(L-R) Joel Edwards and Dianty Ningrum



(L-R) Professor Liam Smith and Conor Wynn



(L-R) Alexandra Waddell and Associate Professor Peter Bragge



Climate Action

Accelerating transitions
to net zero emissions



Global and regional impacts

Transitioning to net zero emissions is more than ensuring our fast-growing region decarbonises its systems, it's also about ensuring a just transition that leaves no one behind. Climateworks Centre is designing a framework to demonstrate what 'good' looks like for [Just Energy Transition Partnership](#) implementation plans. These plans will accelerate greater emission reduction and drive investment towards the targets set in the Paris Agreement by providing an interdisciplinary perspective for policy-makers, financial institutions and societal actors to contribute to a successful transition.

Our Southeast Asia team at Climateworks Centre has been a trusted advisor to [Indonesia's ASEAN](#) chairmanship, producing [policy briefs](#) and convening a series of dialogues that bring together ASEAN member states, policy-makers, industry, think tanks, financiers and the general public in order to build regional and country-wide roadmaps for a just energy transition based on best practice. We're also helping Australia's governments understand their role in the transition from carbon-intensive to zero-emissions industries.

Drawing on its climate initiatives and networks, MSDI organised and participated in over 30 events at the [2023 UN Climate Change Conference \(COP28\)](#) in Dubai as part of the first-ever Monash Pavilion in the UNFCCC blue zone.

We facilitated conversation between thought leaders and key actors to explore how to advance just climate action across Australia and Asia Pacific. The events explored issues such as green economy transitions in the region, sustainable healthcare, youth empowerment, community disaster resilience, ocean action and more. MSDI also coordinated the first-ever COP ministerial side-event on health and climate change in the Pacific, co-hosted with the World Health Organization, as well as a discussion on the future of COP with past COP presidents and global climate leaders.

In the lead-up to COP28, MSDI and UNICEF Australia hosted the [Australian Local Conference of Youth 2023](#), consulting with over 200 young people to produce the 2023 National Child and Youth Statement on Climate Change, the official Australian youth input to COP28.



Professor Tony Capon, Dr Angie Bone and Sandy Swanson at COP28



Professor John Thwaites and Australia's Ambassador for Climate Change, Kristin Tilley discussing partnerships for a net zero and climate resilient Asia Pacific at COP28



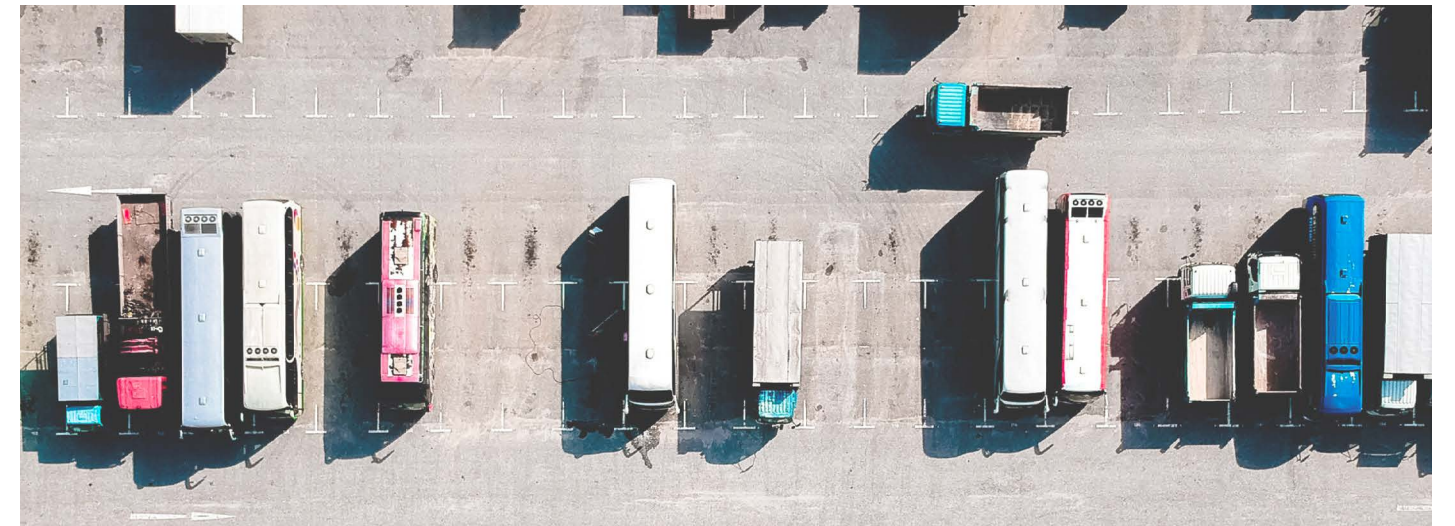
Decarbonising Australia

In January, the federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen spoke at the launch of the Climateworks Centre's and Climate-KIC Australia's [Pathways to Industrial Decarbonisation report](#), the culmination of a multi-year effort with Australian heavy industry to model 1.5°C-aligned decarbonisation pathways in iron and steel, aluminium, other metals, chemicals, and liquefied natural gas. The work showed that, while challenging, the decarbonisation pathway is possible and has since been referenced as part of national discussions on changes to Australia's Safeguard Mechanism and hydrogen strategy.

In April, Climateworks Centre released a brief for policy-makers centred on implementing [renewable energy industrial precincts](#), with Australian governments going on to announce several initiatives that correspond with the pillars and recommendations of our work. The most impactful of these initiatives was the creation of the [national Net Zero Authority](#), with Climateworks Centre's CEO, Anna Skarbek, invited to be on the advisory board.

Climateworks Centre's [Renovation Pathways](#) project is helping Australian governments create climate-ready homes based on existing, affordable, and accessible technology and design. Our research has filled gaps in knowledge by defining a zero carbon home and offering a suite of policies that can create change and opportunities for the housing industry. Our briefings with Federal, State and Territory Ministers continue to influence action. In partnership with CSIRO, Climateworks Centre modelled two possible [decarbonisation pathways](#) to show how Australia can reduce emissions by 85 per cent by 2035.

In October, Climateworks Centre's [Delivering freight decarbonisation: Strategies for reducing Australia's transport emissions](#) report underscored the transport sector's pivotal role in helping Australia meet its climate goals. In particular, the report outlines strategies for freight decarbonisation and collaboration between government and industry stakeholders to address implementation and financial aspects of decarbonisation. The report is referenced in the National Road Transport Association's Australian Road Freight Transport Decarbonisation and is also available on the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Insights page.



Net zero transitions

This year, the [Net Zero Precincts](#) Australian Research Council Linkage team has further developed and tested its innovative and interdisciplinary approach that brings together transition management and design anthropology to experiment with net zero transitions at the precinct scale. Following the release of the Stage 1 'Orienting' report, Stage 2 workshops were held with over 50 stakeholders to envision net zero futures through walking tours and the creation of living worlds that encompass nature-based solutions, the circular economy, renewable energy infrastructure, and active transport solutions. In Stage 3, we will activate the Net Zero Precincts Living Lab portfolio to demonstrate the potential for net zero transitions in the Monash University Clayton Campus and surrounding precinct, with the support of five PhD students, industry and government partners.

As part of Monash's Net Zero Living Lab, MSDI examined the [governance of University Living Labs](#) across the world to understand critical success factors for impact. A first of its kind, the study's lessons will support other MSDI living lab initiatives, such as Fire to Flourish and the Citarum Action Research Program.

The [Net Zero Carbon Urban Water Cycle project](#) is providing practical recommendations to support the Victorian Government's commitment to net zero. Our research offers policy, infrastructure and behaviour change solutions that benefit communities and water utilities in addressing two of the biggest issues we face today, climate change and the cost of living.

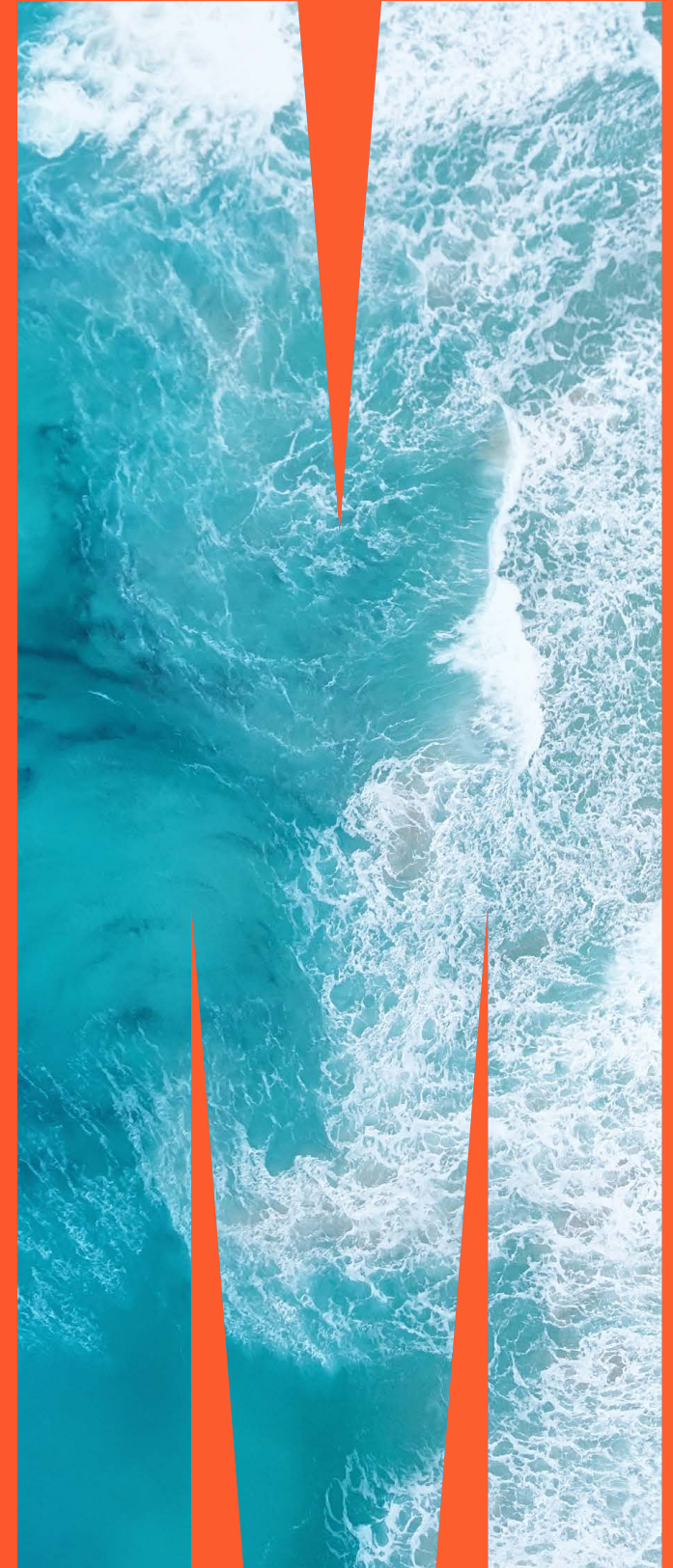


Caption: Walking tour of the Monash Clayton Campus for the envisioning stage of the Net Zero Precincts ARC Linkage project, August 2023. Photo Credit: Sam Rye.





Find out more about how we are accelerating transitions to net zero emissions through our case studies. Scan QR code [click](#) to view.





Environment and Health

Improving environmental
outcomes, health systems and
advancing planetary health



Sustainable health systems

This year, we developed the [*Transitions to Sustainable Healthcare*](#) program, and commenced the establishment of a consortia of health sector leaders to help Australian health systems to become more environmentally sustainable and resilient. We provided a workshop on behaviour change for healthcare sustainability at the Climate And Health Alliance's [*Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum*](#).

In its second year and growing, our [*Sustainable Healthcare in Practice*](#) microcredential provided 70 healthcare professionals from all over Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, Brazil and Germany with skills and knowledge to influence the healthcare system towards sustainable healthcare in practice.



Planetary health policy and practice

Wellbeing is the ultimate goal of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) – for people and the planet to flourish. At a *MSDI and Centre for Policy Development roundtable*, the outgoing inaugural Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Sophie Howe highlighted how a wellbeing approach can shape policy for future generations' benefit. Inspired by the Welsh model, MSDI is fostering discussions on *embedding a sustainable wellbeing approach within Australian policy-making* and across economic sectors, while cultivating strategic partnerships to promote its widespread adoption.

MSDI participated in several consultations to inform the Department of Health and Aged Care's National Health and Climate Strategy, which was published in December 2023. We also contributed to a *workshop on planetary health* and global health with the Australian Global Health Alliance, and provided thought leading pieces on *fossil fuel exports and health* and *medical ethics and climate change* in leading health publications.



(L-R) Tony Capon, MSDI Director; Warwick Smith, Centre for Policy Development; Sophie Howe; John Thwaites, MSDI Chair at the consultation on the 'Measuring what Matters' submission



Healthy behaviours save lives

BehaviourWorks Australia worked with Monash's Centre to Impact Antimicrobial Resistance to identify four community behaviours which are most likely to be adopted and have the most impact in [controlling antimicrobial resistance](#), because when the drugs no longer work, we won't even be able to manage simple infections. Our study shows that we can all play a role from individuals, to the agricultural and retail industry, and to drug disposal systems.

BehaviourWorks Australia also collaborated with the Neuromedicines Discovery Centre to study the attitudes to using [psychedelic drugs to treat mental health issues](#), finding that there is cautious optimism in both the healthcare sector and the community which suggests that further education may build confidence in this innovative mental health treatment.

With the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, BehaviourWorks Australia developed an evidence-based, online interactive training module to enhance healthcare professionals' communication and collaboration skills to [escalate care in maternity settings](#). So far, over 3,000

practitioners have completed the training with the aim of creating better health outcomes for women and their babies.

BehaviourWorks Australia partnered with Austin Health, AQA, and the Victorian Transport Accident Commission to [empower young men living with spinal cord injury](#) in making better decisions about their health and lifestyles. The project's activities were based on a social care model that puts the patient at the heart of their care to achieve better physical and mental health outcomes. The Austin hospital is currently working with AQA Victoria to investigate how interventions that support new skill acquisition for patients can be embedded into everyday practice.

The Australian Alliance for Animals commissioned BehaviourWorks Australia to survey the communities' understanding and appetite for [systemic change for animal rights](#), including farmed and wild animal welfare. Overwhelmingly, Australians agree that animal welfare should be protected by the government through legislation and the Alliance has used our findings in public events and private meetings with policy decision-makers to pursue these changes.



Providing good data to make great decisions

Our *Evidence Review Service* conducted a global snapshot of successful government responses to public health challenges to understand their success factors. This review was funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) and contributed to a global effort to help governments around the world optimise impact of their public health efforts. We shared these findings in the publication *BMJ Global Health*.



Building on success

With two demonstration sites showcasing infrastructure in-situ in Makassar, Indonesia, and Suva, Fiji, our *Revitalising Informal Settlements and their Environments (RISE)* program showed visible progress in 2023. Construction of water and sanitation infrastructure continued in the first tranche of informal settlements in both countries, and is set for completion in 2024. This is the exciting result of five years of collaboration and planning with communities and local authorities, as well as support from our academic and NGO partners, and funders.

“RISE is a success story that can be replicated and scaled – for cities that can benefit everybody.”

- Professor Rebekah Brown, RISE Program Director, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Senior Vice-President, Monash University



New Fiji Ministry of Housing reps visit demonstration site and laboratory



Principal partner Wellcome Trust embarks on global tour visiting RISE teams, local partners, construction sites and laboratories at the 3 major hubs



Find out more about how we are improving environmental outcomes, health systems and advancing planetary health. Scan QR code or [click](#) to view.





Sustainable Cities and Regions

Enabling thriving places
and communities



Better local water systems

Our MSDI Water team worked with Melbourne Water to embed principles of safety, reconciliation, diversity and access to create inclusive practices that benefit their own workforce, as well as create meaningful outcomes for the broader community through the organisation's service delivery.

Water Sensitive Cities Australia (WSCA) is now implementing their ambitious [mainstreaming strategy](#) to see water sensitive cities principles and practices applied in every city, every day. This year, with the support of WSCA's partners, such as Monash Climate Change Communications Research Hub, the team has been delivering a national community water literacy project to foster better community impact on our water systems, as well as a lifecycle costs project to better understand the cost to build, operate and maintain green infrastructure.



Water sensitive regions

WSCA's international program aims to spread the use of water sensitive infrastructure to help urban centres in [Southeast Asia's Greater Mekong](#) region become more inclusive, liveable and resilient. As part of this program, WSCA delivered a [regional conference and training](#) for the Resilient Urban Centres and Surrounds to identify the opportunities and the emerging practice for advancing nature-based solutions in the region.

The [MSDI Water team](#) partnered with Yayasan Plan Indonesia to apply gender equitable and socially inclusive Integrated Water Management (IWM) practices in a water planning project in Sumbawa, Indonesia in order to create richer outcomes for minority groups within local communities, including women, children, people with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. We supported the establishment and ongoing multi-stakeholder inclusive IWM forum in Sumbawa and produced guidelines that can support other projects.



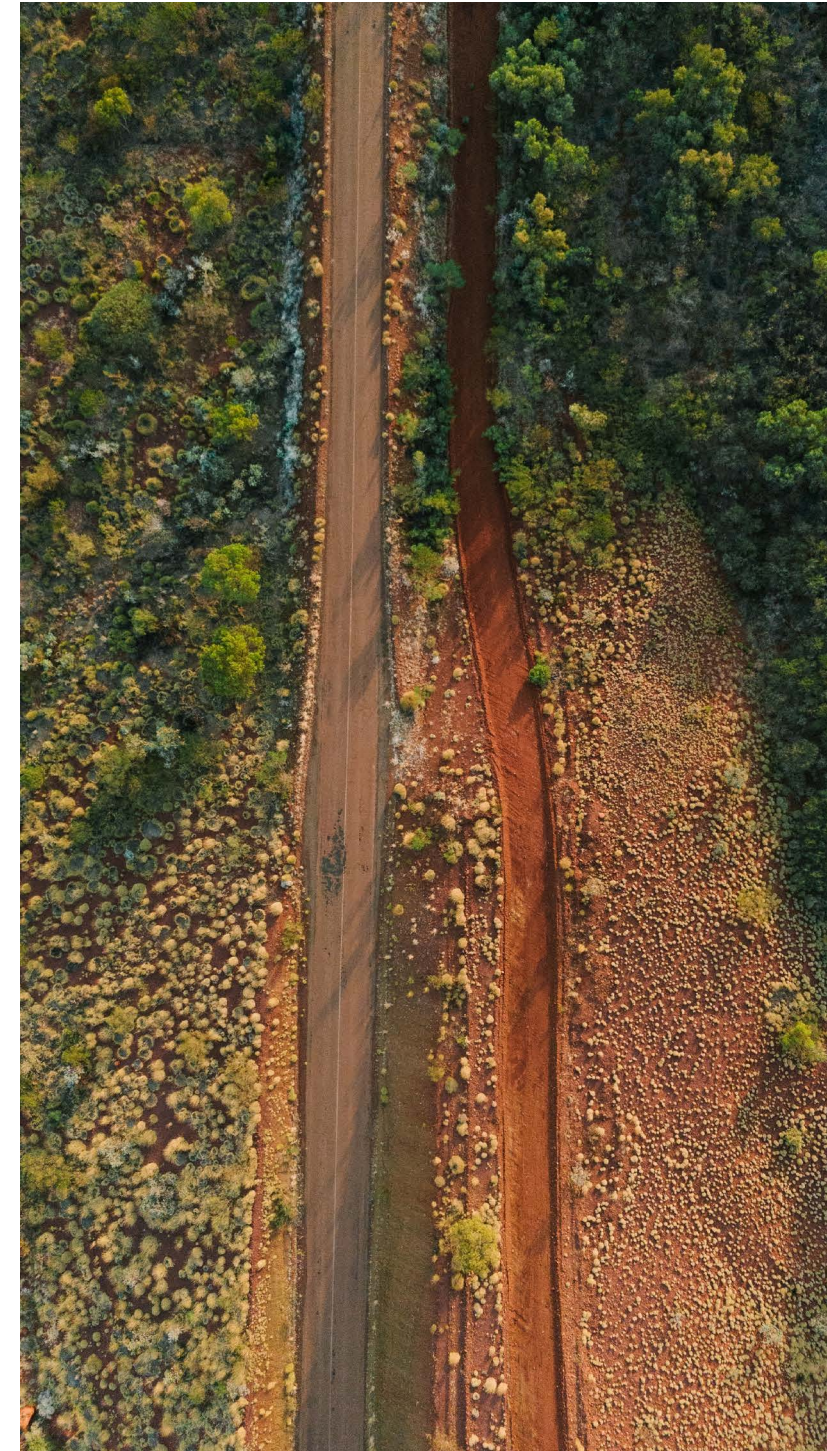
Mekong River



National Environmental Science Program

MSDI is delivering a suite of projects in the National Environmental Science Program's (NESP) Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub. The Aqua Nullius project designed and delivered a series of workshops for Indigenous and non-Indigenous water practitioners in the Murray Darling Basin. The workshops developed everyone's expertise in understanding and resisting the impacts of aqua nullius with the shared desire to save the area's dying rivers and water systems. Following the workshops, Indigenous Elder water officers were more able to articulate and advance sovereign water rights. The participating non-Indigenous public servants have a better understanding of First Nations water rights and how the settler-state institutions, laws, policies and programs, in which they are involved, perpetuate aqua nullius. High engagement in the workshops shows the value of creating these spaces to share knowledge and encourage change.

The Water team is also delivering a NESP project that is looking at [how to support water sensitive and liveable communities in regional, rural and remote Australia](#). It's been a year of bringing together stakeholders and listening to communities to define a model that will connect First Nations people, institutions, Industry, governments and funding, to co-ordinate effort, build skills and benefit communities in ways that work in the regional and rural context – because what works in the city doesn't always suit the country. Another of our NESP projects concerns the [management of hazardous waste, substances and pollutants](#). The project, in collaboration with CSIRO and Sustainability Victoria, is generating high-quality data related to the mass and potential availability of chemicals in our waste streams to assist safe recovery and reuse of resources obtained from wastes and enable national resource recovery targets.



Informing efficient energy and waste practices

We launched our [Energy Upgrades for Australian Homes](#) project as part of the RACE for 2030 Cooperative Research Centre to make it easier for Australian households to upgrade the comfort and energy efficiency of their homes. The project will work with people and communities to achieve transformative impact across the whole system, including enabling policy, place-based delivery models, behaviour change, existing housing stock assessments, and supply chain capability.

The New Zealand Ministry for the Environment engaged BehaviourWorks Australia to identify relevant behavioural insights and principles on waste minimisation communication. The evidence was collated into the Ministry's [Best Practice Communication Guide for Waste Minimisation](#) and is being applied as part of the government's strategy to improve the behavioural effectiveness of central and local government waste-related communication.





Find out more about how we are enabling thriving places and communities. Scan QR code or [click](#) to view.





Circular Economy

Catalysing regenerative and closed-loop approaches to building economic, natural and social capital



Applying our expertise

Circular Economy has taken centre stage in policy and academic discourse as a regenerative approach to waste management and creating a more sustainable, secure and fairer future for all. Our expertise in [*co-developing solutions and implementing transitions to circular economy*](#) – in partnership with government, industry and communities – is creating real world impact through applied research, evidence review, capacity and capability building, and policy design. Our Chair, John Thwaites, is the Chair of the Australian Government's Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group. Our team is on the national stage, presenting at high profile conferences such as the Circular Economy Research Network conference and the Australian Circular Economy Hub's two day event, Circularity Conference 2023.



Building economic, natural and social capital



OUR LOCAL IMPACT

In consultation with over 100 of Australia's circular economy experts, BehaviourWorks Australia produced a [Behavioural Roadmap for Circular Consumption](#) to identify priorities for consumer behaviour change and, more importantly, priorities for policy-makers and industry to create more lasting system change.

Continuing BehaviourWorks Australia's partnership with OzHarvest, in 2023 we looked at [maximising the efficiency of food rescue](#) at supermarkets and evaluating how their curriculum-aligned education program FEAST can support further reduction of food waste in homes.

[Australia's fashion and textiles industry and the nation's media](#) is seeking out our expertise to share our knowledge and we're seeing major brands and retailers, such as Country Road and Kathmandu, excel within the industry and embed circular economy piloting and practices into their business. Aleasha McCallion's membership of the Country Road Climate Fund Assessment Committee will continue in 2024. Some other 2023 highlights include being approached by key publications to write

news articles, as well as two live national broadcasts on ABC TV News and four radio interviews. Notably, this media engagement includes our comment on the launch of the national clothing product stewardship scheme, 'Seamless,' which we had supported through our advisory group membership.

As part of the Sustainable Community and Waste Hub of the National Environmental Science Program we are exploring [circular economy governance in regional and remote Australia](#). The survey and analysis in 2023 set us up to identify shared solutions and build local capacity to meet the unique needs of these communities. In 2024, we will focus on identifying and delivering place based solutions with local partners, and generating evidence for a national framework for supporting Circular Economy innovation in regional and remote Australia.

LEARNING THROUGH LIVING

The [Citarum Action Research Program](#) – a collaboration with Monash Art Design and Architecture, CSIRO, Universitas Indonesia, Universitas Padjadjaran, EAWAG, the West Java government, YPBB, proBSF, Precious Plastics Bandung, and local communities – is transforming the polluted Citarum River. Following extensive consultation with local governments and communities, the Masterplan drawing that sets out the plan for developing the Citarum corridor was completed. In the next 12 months, the program will co-design a community-run village waste management facility to support a circular economy for plastic and organic waste and contribute to local economic development.



[Living river - Citarum](#)
[Scan to play video](#)



Find out more about how we are catalysing regenerative and closed-loop approaches to building economic, natural and social capital. Scan QR code or [click](#) to view.





Inclusive Prosperity

Enhancing participation,
belonging and inclusion



Enhancing participation, belonging and inclusion

“Traditional knowledge and resilience makes First Nations peoples best-placed to lead their communities and protect Australia’s lands and waters from natural hazards intensified by climate crisis”

- NIDR Lead Researcher, *Bhiamie Williamson*.



CLOSING THE GAP

The National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Coalition of Peaks commissioned MSDI to build a ‘proof-of-concept’ simulation model to provide quantitative projections for four [Closing the Gap](#) targets. We partnered with the Millennium Institute to develop the technical model which will enable stakeholders to explore the effects of changes in drivers on the selected targets, helping to understand how to achieve better outcomes for First Nations peoples.

A FOCUS ON EQUALITY

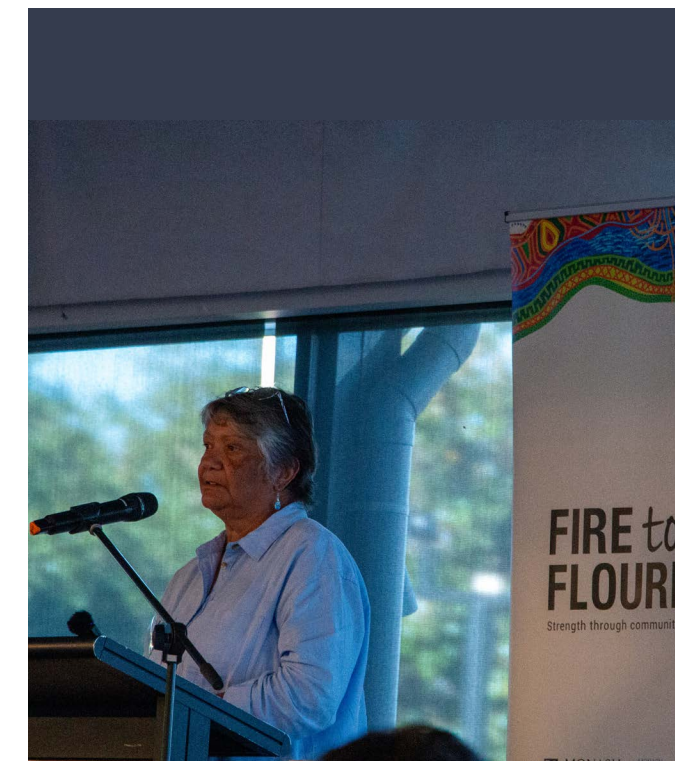
Our [Evidence Review Service](#) conducted 10 rapid evidence reviews and two qualitative studies on the issues and solutions to break cycles of social disadvantage in Australia for the Paul Ramsay Foundation. The foundation is using our findings to inform their practices, plan their programs, conduct policy discussions, and make grant decisions that will achieve the maximum impact.

FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

Our [Fire to Flourish](#) initiative is working alongside four communities in NSW and Victoria who lived through the 2019/2020 bushfires to build and scale new models that embrace, enable and empower community led recovery and resilience building in the face of climate change impacts. Unfortunately in 2023, two of the communities were again hit by bush fires. Thanks to our focus on relationship building over the last few years, people came together in stronger ways than they had previously. Communities are expressing hope for their future and developing trusting relationships which demonstrates how well they are healing.

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience (NIDR) is a stream within our Fire to Flourish initiative, led by Bhiamie Williamson, a Euahlayi man from north-west NSW, and in partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations and agencies. NIDR champions Indigenous leadership in disaster resilience and emergency management preparedness and response by enhancing and instilling a caring for Country mindset across all agencies

and organisations within the emergency, resilience and land management sector. In August, we hosted [the inaugural NIDR summit](#) in Meanjin/Brisbane to begin the conversation between and about Indigenous peoples disaster resilience. Attendees included Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, emergency management practitioners, and agency heads, including friends from Aotearoa New Zealand.

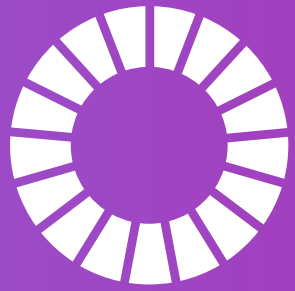


Helen Diroux, Community Lead for Tenterfield at the NIDR Summit



Find out more about how we are enhancing participation, belonging and inclusion. Scan QR code or [click](#) to view.





Leadership for the SDGs

Advancing SDG literacy
and action



Advancing SDG literacy and action

“As the risks and impacts of climate change become more visible every year, the call for net zero emissions is no longer restricted to country-level commitments.”

- John Thwaites, Chair Monash Sustainable Development Institute and Climateworks Centre, speaking at the International Conference for Sustainable Development

OUR GLOBAL REPORT CARD

After four years of extensive consultation, research and contribution through MSDI's Associate Professor Shirin Malekpour and her team, this year saw the successful publication of the UN's [Global Sustainable Development Report](#). The report finds that, with only seven years to go, the world is unlikely to achieve the 2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and that we need an urgent systemic and strategic approach to accelerate progress. The report provides a framework for understanding acceleration as a unique phase in the transformation process, as well as strategies, actions and tools to enable success. MSDI also led the publication of a Nature article, [What scientists need to do to accelerate progress on the SDGs](#) which was written by GSDR co-authors. The paper sets the agenda for research on SDG implementation in the second half of the SDGs timeline.

At MSDI, we are driven to achieve the SDGs and help others contribute to these shared goals. In 2023, MSDI's work on Leadership for SDGs was selected by the [United Nations Academic Impact](#) as one of 25 global best practice examples of implementation of the SDGs in higher education institutions.

OUR REGIONAL AND LOCAL FOCUS

MSDI is championing our region's needs and opportunities as we accelerate progress to the SDGs. MSDI is a member of the Pacific Urban Partnership and co-organised the [Sixth Pacific Urban Forum](#) in Suva, Fiji in September, bringing together important stakeholders to advance action for inclusive, safe and climate resilient urbanisation in our region.

As we continue to look at how to [localise the SDGs](#), in 2023 we had three PhD students exploring how different societal actors – including local governments and universities – adopt the SDGs to create change.



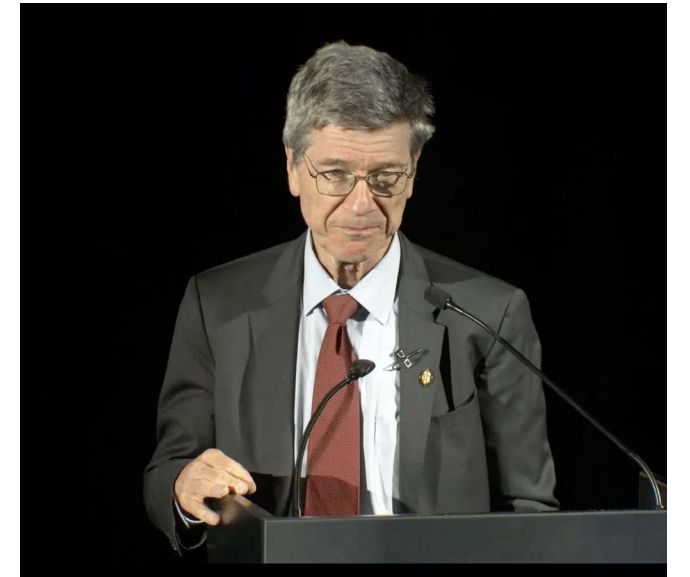
Advancing SDG literacy and action

ACTIVATING OUR NETWORKS

Mobilising different stakeholders in our region to address the SDGs is a key focus of the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network Regional Network for Australia, NZ and Pacific](#) (SDSN AusNZPac), which is hosted and led by MSDI. To mark the mid-point of Agenda 2030, the network collaborated with the UN Global Compact Network Australia on two workshops involving over 50 participants from different sectors, which reflected on Australia's SDG progress and identified opportunities for accelerating action in the next 12 months. In addition, the network ran a session on best practices in SDG Reporting in Higher Education with the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability, which was attended by representatives from 27 higher education institutions in the region.

SDSN AusNZPac Youth also [launched the Towards and AusNZPac Youth SDG Index](#), a youth-led report that is the first in the world to use the SDGs framework to measure young people's progress towards sustainable development. The report has been used as an advocacy and education tool across the country by Australia's UN Youth Ambassador to ensure that no one is left behind.

MSDI and SDSN AusNZPac co-hosted [SDSN president and globally eminent leader in sustainable development, Professor Jeffrey Sachs](#), in October, where he delivered a public lecture co-hosted by the City of Melbourne. Over 500 people attended the lecture and over 3,000 people have watched the [online recording](#) of the event. During his tour, Jeffrey also met with around 300 key stakeholders in industry, government, academia and civil society to intensify conversations in Australia on progressing climate action, the SDGs and wellbeing for the country.



Professor Jeffrey Sachs at the public lecture co-hosted by MSDI and City of Melbourne



Professor Jeffrey Sachs in conversation with Sam Mostyn AO at the public lecture co-hosted by MSDI and City of Melbourne



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BRINGING TOGETHER OUR KNOWLEDGE

MSDI representatives moderated and participated on panels at the [International Conference for Sustainable Development \(ICSD\) 2023](#), contributing expertise on the topics of 'Pathways to Achieve the SDGs' and 'University Action to Achieve Net Zero'.

This year we also launched our [Affiliates program](#), a network of researchers, educators, professionals, and PhD students from across all Monash faculties and campuses with an interest in sustainable development, in order to foster interdisciplinary and cross-faculty collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Photo credit: SDSN/Michael DeVito. (L-R) Tim Carter, President of Second Nature, Dano Weisbord, Chief Sustainability and Campus Planning Officer at Tufts University, Kendra Wasiluk, Program Director of Net Zero and Sustainability, Buildings and Property Division at Monash University and John Thwaites, Chair of MSDI and Climateworks Centre, and SDSN Leadership Council Co-Chair at the panel University Action to Achieve Net Zero during the International Conference for Sustainable Development 2023

BehaviourWorks Australia's [Changing Behaviour for Sustainable Development Massive Open Online Course](#) celebrated its first year, in partnership with the SDG Academy. The course is ranked in the top 10 out of the 41 Academy courses. Over 3,000 participants have signed up to the course and our data suggests that this is because they believe behaviour change is a useful tool in sustainable development and they want to build their behaviour change skills and knowledge.

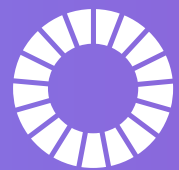


Professor Rebekah Brown, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research at the MSDI Affiliates launch





Find out more about how we are advancing SDG literacy and action. Scan QR code or [click](#) to view.



Thank you

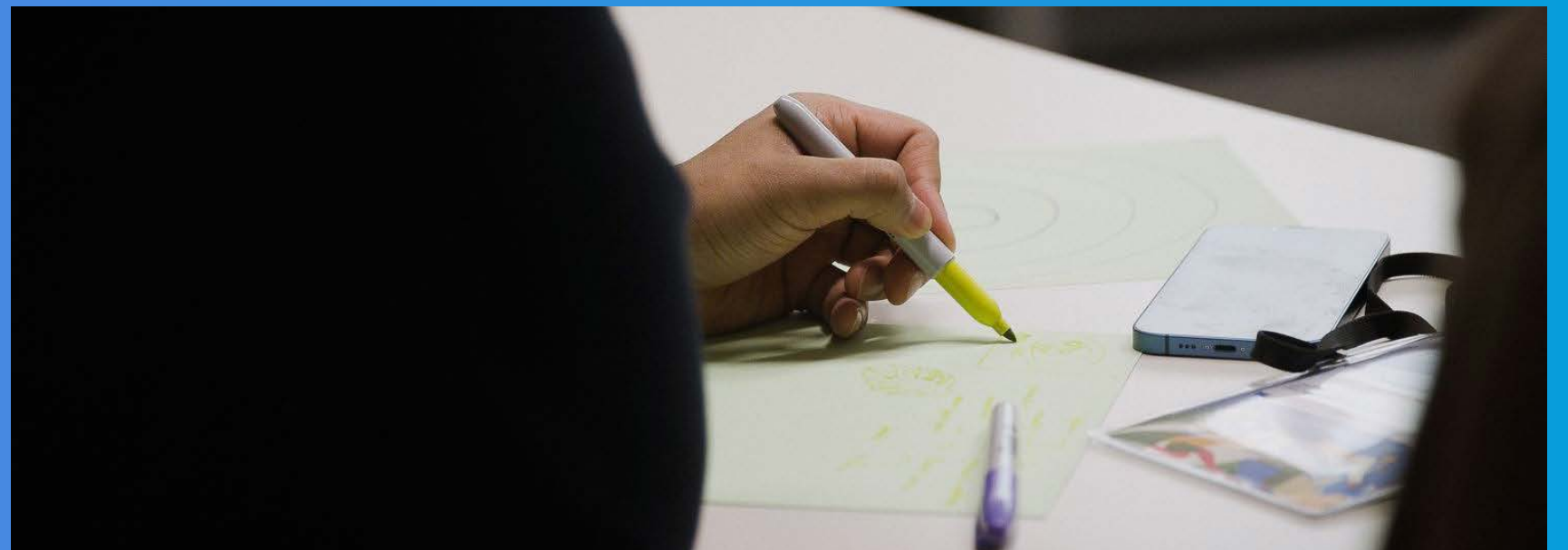
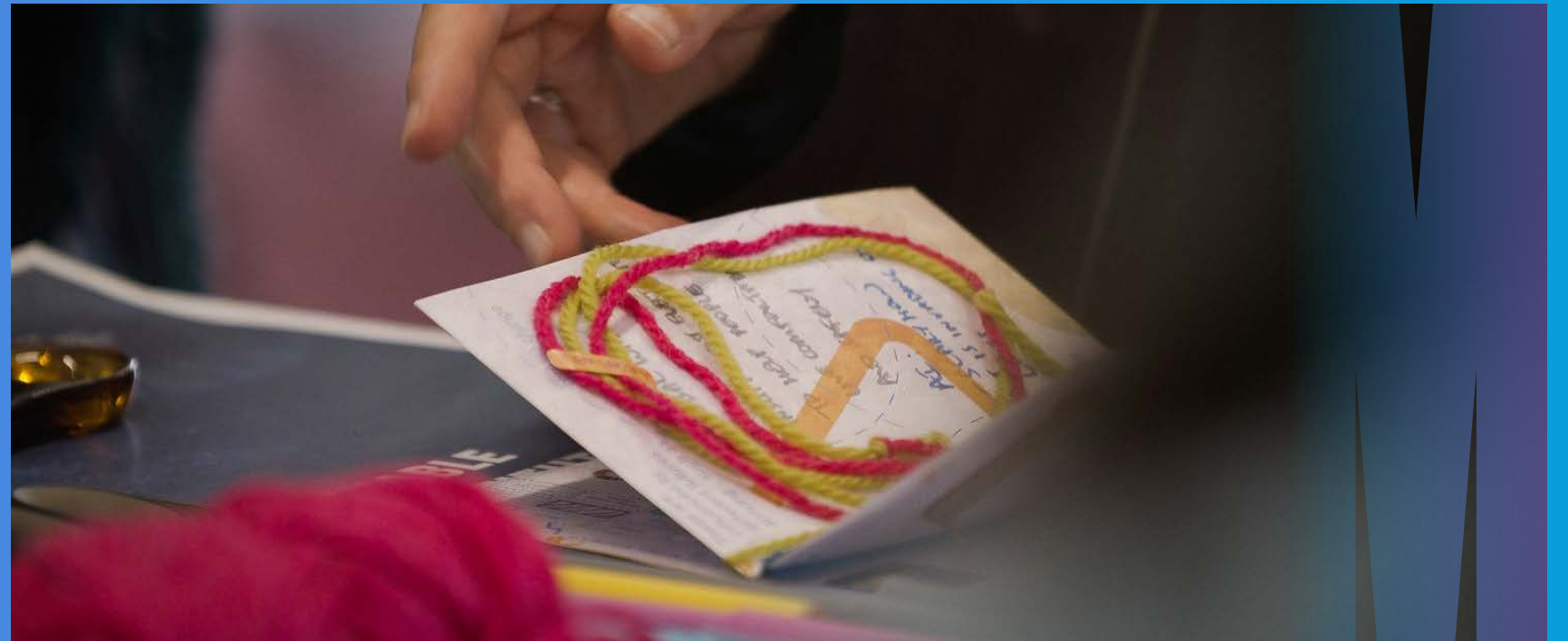


Collaboration is the thread that runs through all our work.

At MSDI, we believe in the value and power of systems transformation because we understand that, together, we can achieve more by sharing knowledge and connecting our effort.

We would like to thank our staff for their passion and impact through their work, our Monash University collaborators for their partnership and co-creation, our advisory and governance boards for their guidance, our peers and partners for their valuable contributions, our funders for their support, our students for their commitment, and our guest speakers for their generous intelligence.

You all help to accelerate momentum towards a shared sustainable future.



Change the world with us

Together we can transform the world into a sustainable, healthy, equitable and prosperous place.



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