



**Southern
Cross
University**

Southern Cross Matters



April Edition 2026

From the Vice-Chancellor

Dear Colleagues,

As you will know from reading my introductory remarks each month, one of the things that I enjoy most about Southern Cross Matters is the way that it traverses such a breadth of the activities, achievements and ambitions of our University community. I hope that this means that as you read through each month's content you find yourself learning new things and reflecting on the remarkable impact that we are making through our work in teaching and research.

From my perspective, all of the stories embedded in each month's edition are important and speak tangibly to our purpose and values, but I did in particular wish to draw everyone's eyes to the material relating to our wonderful Preparing for Success Program, now in its 20th year.

This is a significant anniversary that invites us to pause and consider just how much has been accomplished through the sustained personal commitment of the people who have conceived, shaped and delivered the program across those two decades.

It is, when you think about it, a remarkable thing: colleagues who have cared deeply enough, and consistently enough, to walk alongside students who arrived at the threshold of university carrying not just their hopes and ambitions, but also the very real weight of circumstances that make that first step harder than it should be - students who are first in their family to study, students who have relocated, students navigating barriers that many of us have not had to face.

That kind of quiet, steadfast dedication is not always easy to see from a distance, but its effects accumulate in ways that are genuinely transformative, and reaching this milestone is something that I think should give every member of our community a real and well-founded sense of pride.

I am also struck, reading through this edition, by the breadth and vitality of our research activity, and by the way in which so much of it maintains that same orientation toward the communities we exist to serve. In some cases, the benefits of the work that we do are immediately apparent. In other cases, the emergence of direct benefit can take decades. To continue to work in the way that we do on the hard problems - the problems that have no apparent immediate solution, the problems that lay dilemma after dilemma in the path of researchers seeking answers - this is just as much a part of our makeup as a university as the belief and dedication evinced by the remarkable people who deliver our Preparing for Success Program.

I think you'll really enjoy this month's edition - and as always, if there are stories you'd like to see in future editions, please do let me know.

Warmest wishes

Tyrone

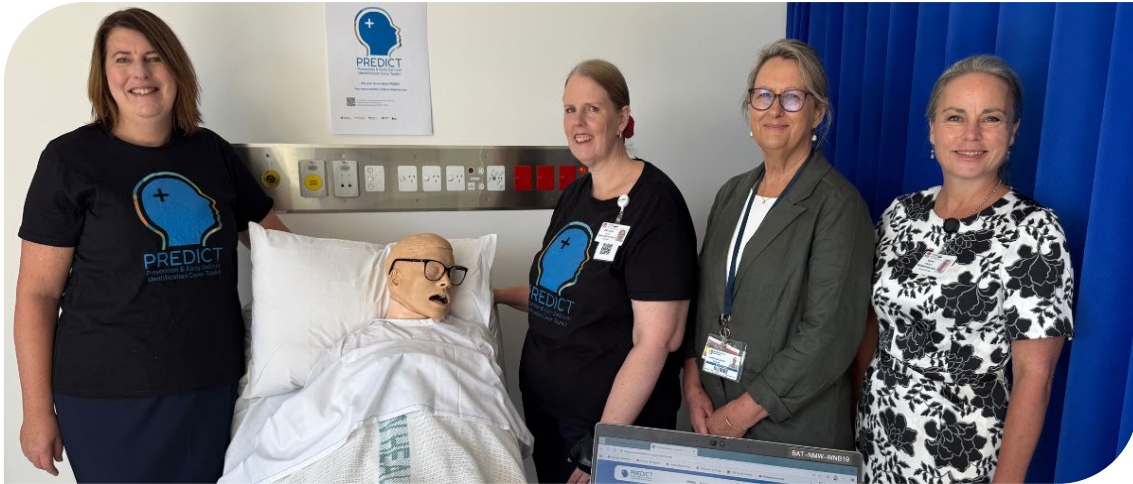


PSP 20th anniversary event at the Gold Coast campus

Opening doors for 20 years

For two decades, the Preparing for Success Program (PSP) has helped students overcome barriers and begin their university journey with confidence. From first in family students to those relocating for study, PSP continues to change lives through access, support and opportunity.

[Find out more](#)



The NSW partnership (l to r): Dr Carla Sunner, Project Manager for the PREDICT delirium clinical trial at Southern Cross University; Belinda Lincoln, Clinical Nurse Consultant PREDICT at the Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD); Professor Christina Aggar, Chief Investigator for the PREDICT delirium clinical trial at Southern Cross University; and Karen Bowen, Nurse Manager Clinical Practice Nursing and Midwifery Services, NNSWLHD.

New trial to support carers through delirium

A Southern Cross University–led clinical trial is testing a practical toolkit designed to help carers support people experiencing delirium. Developed alongside healthcare professionals and families, the research aims to improve understanding and reduce distress in clinical and home settings.

[Find out more](#)

Spotlight stories



Emerging Aboriginal leaders and researchers are calling for stronger Indigenous leadership and decision making across Australia's native food industries.

[Find out more](#)



A Fulbright Scholarship has brought international pollination and bee research to Southern Cross University, strengthening global collaboration and the vital role of insect science.

[Find out more](#)



We welcome one of Australia's leading complementary medicines researchers, strengthening our national and international research profile in health and wellbeing.

[Find out more](#)



New research explores why traditional SMART goals don't always deliver meaningful motivation or wellbeing - and what alternatives might work better.

[Find out more](#)

Excellence in action



Global recognition for nursing. Southern Cross University nursing ranks in the top 225 globally in the QS World University Rankings by Subject. [Celebrate here.](#)

Sawfish far afield. Research helping transform understanding of endangered sawfish, informing conservation and protection efforts, have been featured in Forbes. [Read more.](#)

Strengthening the tea tree industry. Dr Jos Mieog has featured on ABC Landline, sharing knowledge of advanced tea tree breeding programs supporting improved genetics and industry resilience. [Watch the episode.](#)

University updates



Graduation is just the beginning. Congratulations to all on the Gold Coast Campus who participated in the recent graduation ceremonies. [Take a look.](#)

Support for students to study abroad. A range of loans, grants and scholarships are now available to support students seeking a global study experience, with opportunities across Asia, the USA and beyond. [More here.](#)

Research DataHub now live. We've launched our central platform for creating, managing and approving Research Data Management Plans. RDH supports researchers and HDR candidates and integrates with the Human Ethics process. [Access here.](#)

Inclusive Language Guide launched. We're building on our foundation for respectful communication across our community, supporting ongoing work in Respect, Belonging, Safety and Inclusion. [Explore the guide.](#)

World Autism Day on campus. March 2 was marked with interactive activities, a dedicated e sports quiet space, connection across campus – and a chance to participate in research. [Share with your network.](#)

Expertise - and some helpful advice. Commentary in The Conversation reveals how we might reduce grocery costs without compromising taste and nutrition. [Tuck in.](#)

Our Media Centre. Want to know what else we've been up to? [Check our Media Centre.](#)

People and culture



New resources to support our employee value proposition. Following the launch of Be bold. Belong. Be more., a range of resources are now available to help bring this into everyday use – including Zoom backgrounds and other assets. [Explore what's available.](#)

One SCU Roadshow feedback. Big sessions across all campuses meant lots of connection, energy and meaningful discussion - thank you for coming together. [Feedback very welcome.](#)

Get on top of your super. UniSuper consultant Carol Morton will be visiting campuses to provide information and general advice on super contributions, investments, insurance, beneficiaries and consolidating accounts. Gold Coast, 11 May and Lismore, 12-14 May. [Book an appointment.](#)

Welcome to those who've joined Southern Cross University in recent months:

Giselle Cavanagh, Professional Experience Coordinator

Dr Elena Carletti, Administration Officer

Marion Carrett, Senior Administration Officer (Research)

Nicole Bevan, Administration Coordinator (Research)

Alec McKenzie, Lecturer

Dr Andrew Grigg, Postdoctoral Researcher

Lauren Carn, Careers and Employability Coach

Emma Newman, Events Officer

Shabeeb Parayil, Senior Data Engineer

Sujan Awal, Technical Support Analyst

Genna Guy, Student Administration Officer

Magnus vid Streym, Student Administration Officer

Seth Thompson, First Year Advisor

Dr Lana Kairey, Clinical Trial Research Fellow

Have some news to share?

If you have some news or a story idea you'd like to share in an upcoming edition of SCU Matters, email us at content@scu.edu.au.

