

ACHIEVING THE SDGS – THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH

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PLAN FOR THE TALK

1. Introduction
2. How Universities contribute to the SDGs – Overview
3. SDGs and research
 - Types of problems
 - Types of research
 - Encouraging SDG-related research

INTRODUCTION

MONASH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (MSDI)



Monash is Australia's largest university and is ranked in the top 100 universities world-wide.

MSDI is a leading cross-faculty research and education institute that catalyses sustainable development solutions to global challenges.

SDSN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & PACIFIC

MSDI hosts the Australia, New Zealand & Pacific Regional Network of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

SDSN is a global network of universities launched in 2012 by UN Secretary General to promote solutions, policies and education for sustainable development and the SDGs.

SDSN Australia, NZ & Pacific focuses on SDG localisation, SDGs and universities, and mobilising youth



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WHY THE SDGS MATTER TO UNIVERSITIES



The SDGs have significant benefits and opportunities for universities

Increasing demand for SDG-related education

Framework for demonstrating impact

New funding streams

Support internal and external collaboration

Universities are critical to the achievement of the SDGs

Provide knowledge, evidence, solutions, technologies and innovations

Create SDG implementers

Cross-sectoral leadership to guide the SDG response



UNIVERSITIES AND SDGs

- Practical Guide on how universities can accelerate their contributions to SDGs
- Led by SDSN Australia, NZ & Pacific
- <http://ap-unsdsn.org/university-sdg-guide/>
- There is also a Japanese translation!



HOW UNIVERSITIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE SDGS – OVERVIEW

HOW UNIVERSITIES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SDGS



ACHIEVING THE SDGS THROUGH EDUCATION

- Provide knowledge and skills to address the SDGs
- Empower and motivate young people
- Academic and vocational training to implement SDG solutions
- Capacity building of students and professionals from developing countries





LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

**Student social entrepreneurship
program to find solution to one
or more SDGs**

A competition to design a social
business that addresses an issue
of equity or disadvantage in the
local community

Initiative of MSDI in partnership
with the Humanities faculties

PROMOTING THE SDGS THROUGH UNIVERSITY OPERATIONS

- Universities are often large entities and can have significant influence on the society, culture, economy and environment within their campuses, communities, and regions
- This influence relates directly to all areas of the SDGs
- University policies and practices should align with the spirit of the SDGs
- The 'Living Lab'





NET ZERO INITIATIVE



Monash University campuses to be net zero emissions by 2030.

First Australian university to make this commitment.

Through applied research and industry partnerships we aim to completely transform how we use energy on our campuses.

Test approach here so it can be deployed around the world.

Recently awarded the UN Momentum for Change Award.

PROMOTING THE SDGS THROUGH EXTERNAL LEADERSHIP

- Universities are uniquely placed to help lead the local, national, and international response to the SDGs:
 - Trusted and respected
 - “Neutral” ground
 - Relevant expertise for raising public awareness, building capacity in all sectors, and supporting policy making
 - Can lead by example





AUSTRALIAN SDGS SUMMITS



High-level multi-stakeholder forums to advance national implementation of the SDGs

Held in 2016 and 2018.

Led by a coalition of civil society, business and academia organisations, including SDSN.

Involved participants from all sectors, including government

SDGS AND RESEARCH

MAJOR TRANSFORMATIONS FOR THE SDGS



1. Inclusive growth

Transform from economic growth that is increasing inequality to economic prosperity that provides skills, decent jobs and reduces inequality.



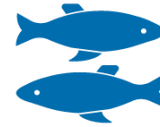
2. Health and wellbeing

Transform from disease care to healthcare and wellbeing for all. Promote healthy lifestyles and environments and ensure no one is left behind.



3. Clean energy and industry

Transform from economic growth that causes environmental degradation and climate change to clean and green energy and industry.



4. Sustainable food, land and oceans

Provide food for growing world population in way that protects biodiversity, land and ocean health, promotes healthy diets and reduces food waste.



5. Sustainable cities

Transform from sprawling, polluting, and unequal cities to well planned, green, fair and smart cities.



6. Education and the digital revolution

Ensure quality education and skills for all, life-long learning, boost innovation and realize the benefits of digital revolution to facilitate the SDGs.

RESEARCH FOR THE SDGS

- Research is fundamental for the successful implementation of all of the SDGs:
 - Understand the challenges
 - Localise the SDG agenda
 - Develop pathways and solutions
 - Develop and incubate technologies
 - Social sciences to support operationalisation of the SDGs
 - Critical observers of the SDGs



NEW RESEARCH APPROACHES

- Traditional disciplinary research is very important for the SDGs
- But solving complex challenges in the real world needs research that leads to action
- We need new research approaches:
 - Working across whole systems
 - Working across disciplines
 - Working across scales
 - Working in partnership with those implementing the actions





REVITALIZING INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS (RISE)

Using a water sensitive approach to upgrade informal settlements, delivering sustainable, cost-effective improvements in human and environmental health.

Working with communities, governments, local leaders across 24 settlements in Fiji and Indonesia

Cross-faculty initiative, funded by Wellcome Trust and ADB with many partner institutions



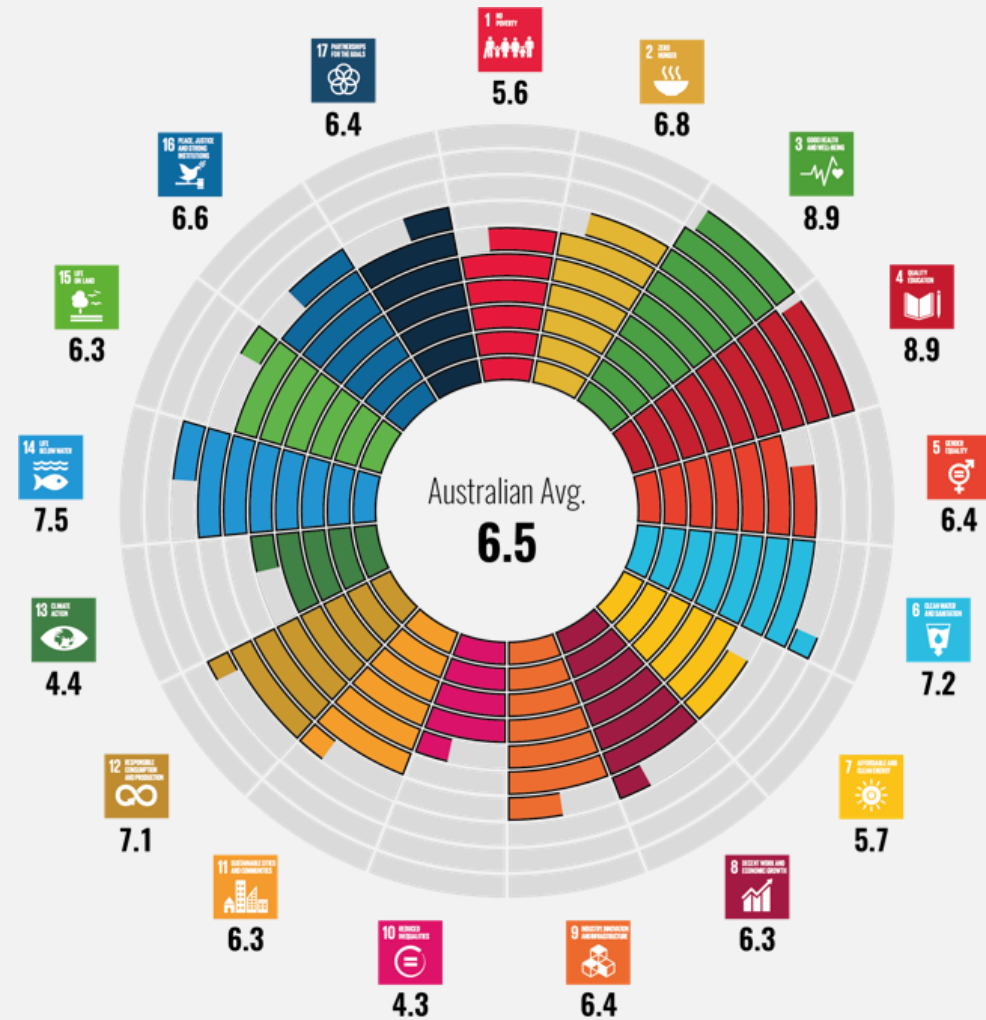
TRANSFORMING AUSTRALIA

An assessment of Australia's progress towards the SDGs.

Prepared by experts from across business, universities and the community sector.

Aims to stimulate public conversation about Australia's future.

www.sdgtransformingaustralia.com





OXFAM-MONASH PARTNERSHIP

Combining world-class research and development experiences to address the root causes of poverty.

Active representation from both Oxfam Australia and Monash University

Work jointly on:

- Innovative research
- Practitioner development
- Promotion of evidence-based approaches
- Student engagement



BEHAVIOURWORKS AUSTRALIA

Helping governments and businesses find behavioural solutions to social, environmental and organisational problems.

Work in partnership with government agencies and many other partners.

Researcher-in-residence program.

Graduate Research Industry Partnership (GRIP) program.



LAND USE FUTURES

Develop a pathway for a sustainable food and land use system for Australia.

Contributing to the global Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-use, and Energy (FABLE) Consortium.

How can we sustainably provide healthy food for a growing global population while achieving net zero emissions?

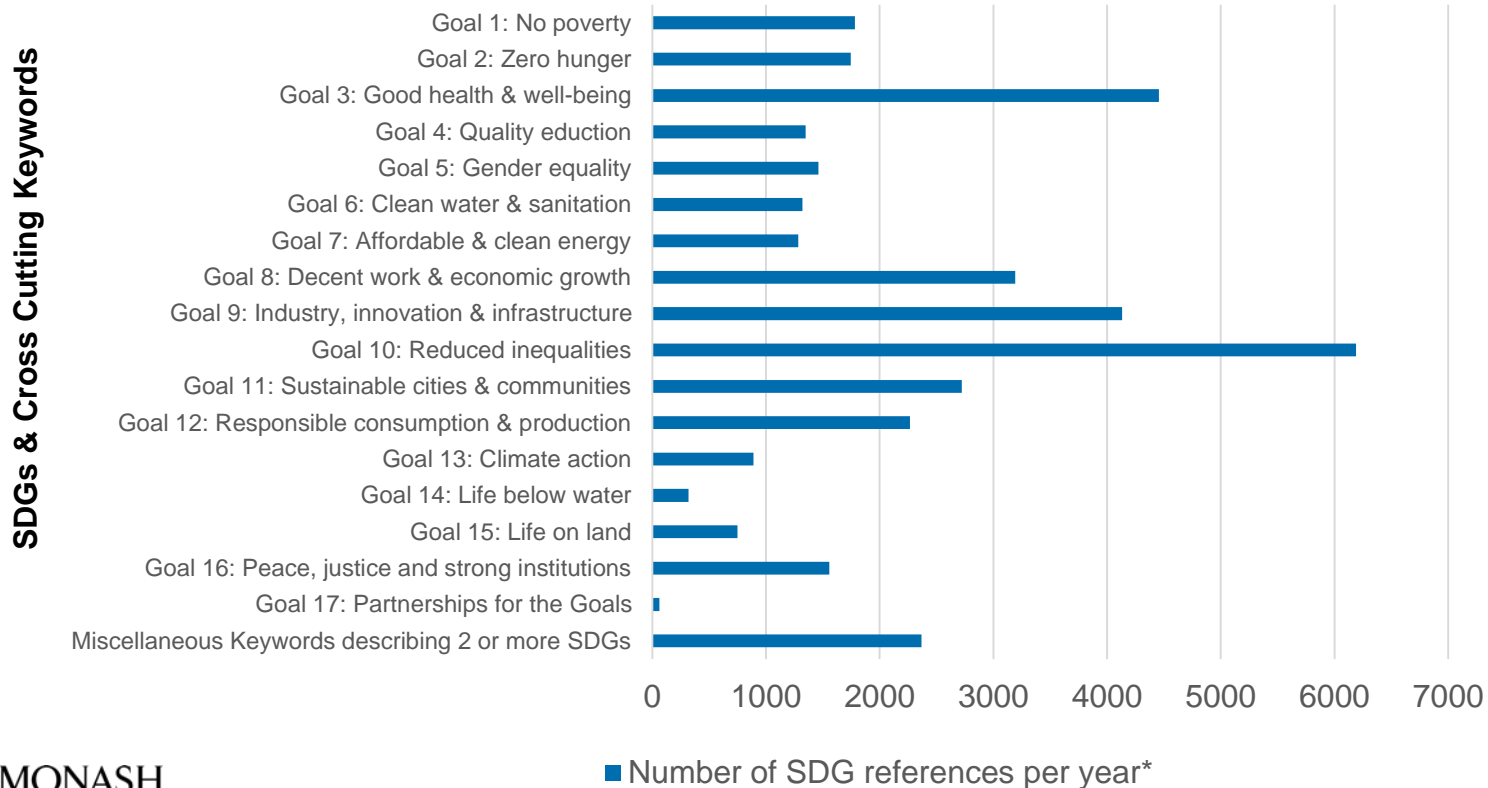
Globally coordinated, locally driven.





MAPPING OUR RESEARCH

SDGs most commonly linked to Monash university researchers (Average 2014–2018 data)



WHAT CAN UNIVERSITIES DO?

- Map researchers and encourage collaboration
- Promote the SDGs as a topic of research within the university
- Support new research approaches (e.g., through funding, promotion structures)
- Provide space for experimentation / living labs
- Mission-oriented research: Use the SDGs to identify challenges and bring stakeholders together to solve them



THANK YOU

www.monash.edu/sustainable-development

ap-unsdsn.org

