



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

Year in Review

2025



Notre Dame

Acknowledgment of Country

The University of Notre Dame Australia is proud to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land upon which our University sits.

The University acknowledges that the Fremantle Campus is located on Wadjuk Country, the Broome Campus on Yawuru Country and the Sydney Campus on Gadigal Country.

Our Objects

The objects of the University are —

- (a) the provision of university education, within a context of Catholic faith and values; and
- (b) the provision of an excellent standard of —
 - (i) teaching, scholarship and research;
 - (ii) training for the professions; and
 - (iii) pastoral care for its students.

Contents

About the University of Notre Dame Australia	4
Message from the Chancellor	7
Message from the Vice Chancellor	8
Key statistics	10
2022–26 Strategic Plan	13
Research institutes and centres	14
2025 highlights	18
Staff achievements	32
Student achievements	33
Table of statistics	35
Governance	36
Management structure	38

About the University of Notre Dame Australia

At the University of Notre Dame Australia, we believe in the power of education to change lives.

Our story started more than 35 years ago with a vision to establish Australia's first university with the Catholic intellectual tradition at its core.

Today, we have more than 13,000 students across campuses in Fremantle, Broome and Sydney and seven clinical schools in New South Wales and Victoria.

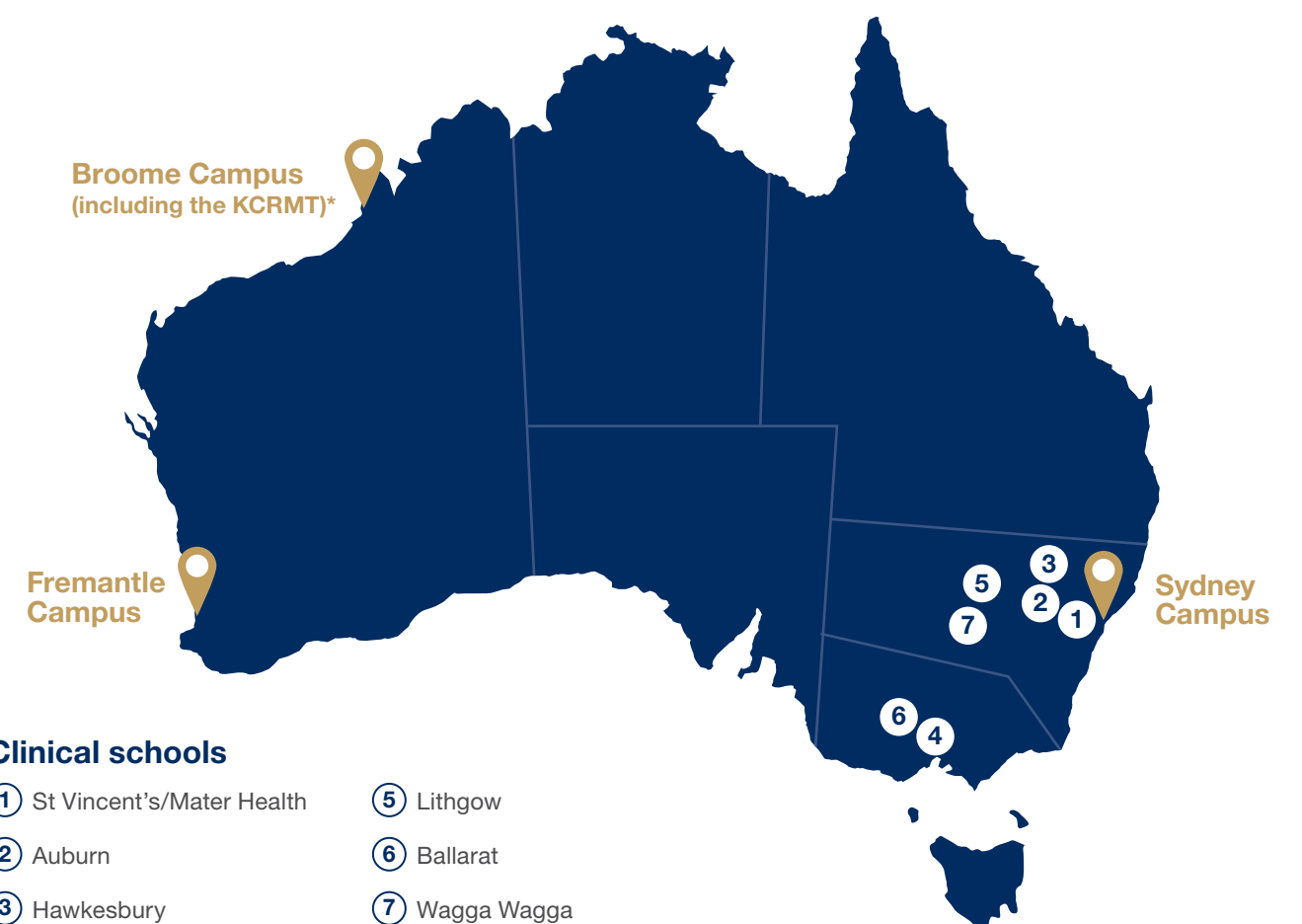
As a Catholic university, we are committed to helping students grow and to offering them a unique and fulfilling education experience.

Our Catholic identity is integral to who we are but we welcome and respect staff and students who practise all faiths or none at all. We encourage rigorous enquiry, debate and discussion. We believe in seeking truth and in the compatibility of faith and reason.

We take great pride in educating the whole person — the academic, social, physical and spiritual dimensions — and are deeply committed to supporting our students to be the best versions of themselves.

In 2025 we were guided by our Strategic Plan 2022–26. This plan underpins our objects, in particular our commitment to supporting the professions through the pursuit of academic excellence and impactful research.

Our five pillars — universality, educating for the common good, transformative research, integrating practice and knowledge, and integral human development — will ensure we continue to provide a unique, person-centred and transformative educational experience.



Clinical schools

- ① St Vincent's/Mater Health
- ② Auburn
- ③ Hawkesbury
- ④ Werribee
- ⑤ Lithgow
- ⑥ Ballarat
- ⑦ Wagga Wagga

*Kimberley Centre for Remote Medical Training

Message from the Chancellor

As the new Chancellor of the University of Notre Dame Australia, I reflect on the achievements of 2025 and am inspired by the University's commitment to its mission and to serving the common good. It brings me a deep sense of purpose and optimism as I commence my term as the eighth Chancellor of this unique institution.

“

Across teaching, research, community engagement and development, the University has demonstrated the importance of faith-informed education that responds thoughtfully to the needs of students, staff and communities.

The past year has highlighted Notre Dame's commitment to pursuing excellence while remaining grounded in its values. Across teaching, research, community engagement and development, the University has demonstrated the importance of faith-informed education that responds thoughtfully to the needs of students, staff and communities. From expanding regional learning opportunities to facilitating transformative international experiences, Notre Dame's work in 2025 reflects a strong and confident sense of direction.

I have been particularly encouraged by the dedication of staff and students. Their professionalism and passion, supported by strong governance and leadership, shape the life of the University.

My long-standing involvement with Catholic institutions, including as Chair of St Vincent's Health Australia, has shaped my connection with Notre Dame over many years. These roles have reinforced the importance of organisations that place human dignity, service and social responsibility at the centre of their work. It is this shared commitment that draws me to Notre Dame and reinforces my belief in the University's purpose.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding service of my predecessor, the Honourable Christopher Ellison, whose leadership over the past eight years has guided the University through a period of sustained progress and development. His commitment to Notre Dame and its Strategic Plan has laid strong foundations for the years ahead.

The higher education sector continues to evolve, with the establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission and ongoing shifts in the international student environment and broader policy settings. These developments present both challenges and opportunities, and Notre Dame will continue to contribute thoughtfully to sector discussions.

I welcome the opportunity to work closely in 2026 with academic leadership and management, led by the Vice Chancellor Professor Francis Campbell, to build on our momentum. Together, we will continue to support academic excellence, foster meaningful partnerships and sustainable growth and ensure Notre Dame remains a place where students are formed for lives of purpose, service and leadership.

It is an honour to be entrusted with this role and I look forward to contributing to the continued growth and impact of this remarkable University.

Mr Paul McClintock AO,
Chancellor of the University
of Notre Dame Australia.



Message from the Vice Chancellor

Reflecting on 2025, it is the resilience of the Notre Dame community and their enduring dedication to our students that is most impressive. From navigating the challenges brought on by the cyber incident that tested the institution in new ways, to celebrating milestone accomplishments, our academics and professional staff alike demonstrated professionalism, care for one another and a deep commitment to our mission.

The cyber incident came at a critical time in the student recruitment process, ahead of the commencement of Semester 1, 2025. This led to the need to rebuild most of our systems over time and staff responded to the disruptions in the most agile and innovative ways. The institution reacted to each of the obstacles the cyber incident presented with maturity and as projects were prioritised, the needs of our students were placed at the fore, uniting the university community to closely support them.

In 2025, the University delivered strong financial results, growing revenue by approximately 15% to \$298 million, which included a 12% increase in student load (EFTSL). This reflects the continued success of our student growth strategy. Disciplined financial management translated this growth into a modest operating surplus; the fifth consecutive year a surplus result has been yielded, while our measured capital program continues to strengthen the University's facilities and technology infrastructure.

This result is once more owed to the University's staff and their ongoing dedication, determination and careful stewardship of all that Notre Dame encompasses and I sincerely thank each of them. I would also like to acknowledge the support of the University's Board of Directors, Governors and Trustees, with special thanks to outgoing Chancellor, the Honourable Christopher Ellison for his outstanding service over his eight-year tenure. As we look ahead, we welcome our new Chancellor, Mr Paul McClintock AO, and look forward to working together towards advancing Notre Dame's mission. We have made great strides on the path to sustainable growth and we continue our ambitious journey to harness the power of education to transform lives and shape good citizens who have a positive impact across the communities in which they live, work and serve.

In 2025, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Broome Campus, which gave us the opportunity to reflect on three decades of service, partnership and impact in the Kimberley region. This milestone was complemented by important developments in regional education and health, including welcoming the first commencing medical student cohort to the Kimberley Centre for Remote Medical Training and the launch of the delivery of the Bachelor of Primary Education through the Reach Higher program.

Notre Dame strengthened its footprint as a university grounded in dialogue, inquiry and the pursuit of wisdom. The inaugural John and Anna Belfer Oration, celebrating the rich legacy of Jewish philosophical inquiry, was held in Sydney, in partnership with The Great Synagogue Sydney. This event, hosted by the Notre Dame Centre for the History of Philosophy, was the first of an annual lecture series which will bring a leading scholar to Sydney each year to explore a theme in the Jewish philosophical tradition. In Rome, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the World of Education, two international academic panel discussions were hosted by the University — one explored the role of the Holy See in global diplomacy

and the other, the impact of artificial intelligence on Catholic education and the pioneering work that the Holy See is already doing in this space and the interface between ethics and technology.

Three early career researchers received outstanding recognition in being awarded more than \$1.5 million through the highly sought-after and competitive Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award grants. They achieved the highest national success rate for Australian Research Council funding, for projects tackling climate threatened Indigenous heritage, blame in modern society and water security. The Global Centre for Catholic Leaders was established, to provide an open space of enquiry and practice to co-construct informed responses to the emerging challenges encountered by those engaged in Catholic leadership across diverse contexts.

The University also continued to invest in its campuses to enhance facilities and create spaces that will support students and staff for many years to come. Major assets were secured adjacent to the Broadway Campus on Myrtle and Mountain Streets to strengthen Notre Dame's campus footprint. Infrastructure investment continued in Broome while in Fremantle, with thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Wright family, we celebrated the opening of the Michael J M Wright Library, together with the Peter Prendiville Study Centre, Celia Hammond Student Support Centre and Justice Neville Owen Moot Court.

2025 was another busy and successful year. There is always more to do across any organisation to continue to bolster its financial sustainability. The ongoing determination, strength, creativity and collaboration of our staff is to be commended. As we formalise thinking around the new strategic vision to take us to 2030, we must look to equip ourselves with the tools and resources needed to realise this renewed vision for Notre Dame.

“From navigating the challenges brought on by the cyber incident that tested the institution in new ways, to celebrating milestone accomplishments, our academics and professional staff alike demonstrated professionalism, care for one another and a deep commitment to our mission.”



Professor Francis Campbell,
Vice Chancellor of the University
of Notre Dame Australia.

Key statistics



A national university

Campuses in Fremantle, Broome and Sydney, as well as seven clinical schools in New South Wales and Victoria.



Students and staff

More than 13,000 students and more than 880 employees (full-time equivalent) across Australia.



Quality graduates

The top university in WA for undergraduate and postgraduate employment outcomes.*
* 2024 Graduate Outcomes Survey, qilt.edu.au.



A top ranked university

The top university in WA for peer engagement as ranked by the Australian Government.†
† 2024 Student Experience Survey, undergraduate category (unpooled results), qilt.edu.au.



Impactful research

External research funding increased by 6% on the previous year, reaching \$6.2 million.‡
‡ 2025 Higher Education Research Data Collection of 2024 data.



International onshore countries

The top five international onshore countries are Nepal, Bhutan, India, Philippines and Vietnam.



Our graduates

More than 3,310 students completed their courses — an important milestone in their academic and personal journeys.



Alumni community

More than 41,600 alumni remain an important part of the Notre Dame community.



2022–26 Strategic Plan



Universality

Building on our reputation as a leading Australian university, we will use our connections, networks and relationships to provide every possible opportunity the world has to offer to our students, staff and university community.

Universality will demand that all our teaching and research cuts across disciplines and is carried out with a global outlook, even as we continue to foster communities on our Australian campuses.



Educating for the Common Good

Building upon centuries of tradition, we will continue to innovate, challenge and renew what we offer to our students, staff and society. We will ensure as many people as possible, from wide and varied backgrounds, have the opportunity to benefit from higher education.

In doing so we will play a part in forming good citizens rich in humanity, with a strong ethical framework, and with the commitment, courage and confidence to serve the common good.



Integrating Practice and Knowledge

The University will ensure that everyone in our community is prepared for the world of work through practical real-world learning and experiences.

This stems from our wider belief in the role of tertiary education to prepare our students for a world in which they will live and work.



Transformative Research

Our learning and teaching is enriched by high quality research and scholarship.

We want to create and transmit new knowledge, but we also commit to making a positive difference by undertaking research which addresses real-world issues and challenges, improving the lives of people in our communities.



Integral Human Development

We will help each of our students and staff flourish and achieve excellence as individuals and be the best version of themselves.

This begins by embracing all the opportunities, privileges and benefits that come from a university education. We encourage our students and staff to contribute to the common good of communities, going beyond their individual wants and needs to seek the good of others, using their education and all the formation we provide.

Our ambition is to serve society through educating and forming our students so they can, in turn, serve the communities in which they live and work.

It makes for a significant and exciting time as we seek to position Notre Dame as the leading Catholic university in the region, and to educate each student as a whole person with a readiness to act and to have a positive impact in the world.

Research institutes and centres

Notre Dame's national research institutes and centres drive leading research across the Fremantle, Broome and Sydney Campuses in health, ethics and society, Indigenous studies and philosophy.

Centre for the History of Philosophy

Established in 2024, the Centre for the History of Philosophy built its national and international profile with a new academic initiative focused on the study of Jewish philosophy. This deepened the Centre's specialisation in Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions and included research, teaching and public engagement activities.

The initiative's flagship development was the launch of a public lecture series in partnership with The Great Synagogue Sydney — the John and Anna Belfer Oration in the History of Jewish Philosophy. The series was inaugurated by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, with a keynote delivered by leading Sydney rabbinic thought leader Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton to more than 300 people.

Following the oration, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Synagogue, agreeing to work together to promote academic and public understanding of the history of Jewish philosophy in Australia. The Belanna Trust, which generously funded the oration, was also party to the agreement.

The Centre secured a \$200,000 philanthropic gift from Robert Magid OAM and Ruth Magid to support research and public education in the history of Jewish philosophy.

Its research capacity was further enhanced through the establishment of the Williams Papworth Research Fellowship, made possible by a philanthropic gift from Hilary Papworth in memory of her late husband Bill. The fellowship is held by Aden Cotterill, who is undertaking a project titled *Zeal: An Intellectual History*.

Another Memorandum of Understanding was formalised with the History of Philosophy Forum at the University of Notre Dame (USA), one of the world's leading centres for history of philosophy research. This partnership strengthens international collaboration in ancient, medieval and early modern philosophy and positions our university within a global network of leading scholars.

It was a busy publishing year for the Centre. Highlights included several high-profile journal articles by Peter Harrison, Arthur Keefer, Nathan Lyons and Catherine Wesselinoff; David Bronstein's co-edited collection *Definition and Essence from Aristotle to Kant* (Routledge); and a Montenegrin translation of Harrison's 2015 monograph *The Territories of Science and Religion* (University of Chicago Press).



Institute for Ethics and Society

Researchers from the Institute for Ethics and Society continued to grapple with big questions. How do we best achieve human flourishing? What makes a good society? How can we live and die well?

Research Fellow Dr Adam Piovarchy received one of the University's three Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) grants for his project *The Blame Game: Culpability, Co-Operation and Cultural Change*. His project will investigate blame as a mechanism for signalling shared expectations, sanctioning wrongdoing and shaping moral behaviour. Valued at almost \$500,000 over three years, the project will develop a new theory of blame and explore its uses both for good and bad.

The Institute hosts two other ARC-funded projects — Professor David Bronstein's Future Fellowship on Aristotle's theory of virtue and Associate Professor Nathan Lyons' DECRA on nature and culture in medieval philosophy and theology.

Senior Research Fellow, Dr Rosemary Hancock, was awarded a prestigious Humboldt Research Fellowship, which will support her to travel to the University of Leipzig. She will develop her second

book manuscript, drawing on an ethnography of community gardens and bush regeneration groups in urban Sydney.

Another Senior Research Fellow, Dr Victoria Lorrimar, helped shape Notre Dame's global conversation on AI and education. Dr Lorrimar represented the University at an important panel held in the 16th century Biblioteca Vallicelliana during the Jubilee of the World of Education. This event brought together international scholars to discuss how universities can promote deep learning, critical thinking and moral discernment in a time of instantaneous information.

Researchers published, or had accepted for publication, 12 research articles in leading Q1 philosophy journals, including *Ethics*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Erkenntnis*, *Episteme*, *Ergo* and *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*.



Institute for Health Research

The Institute for Health Research had a productive and impactful year, with staff leading or contributing to more than 140 peer-reviewed publications spanning palliative and aged care, cardiovascular health, injury and health, and homelessness and health, as well as data and methods in health research. Notable outputs included:

- *Heart Disease and Climate Change*, a new book by Professor Simon Stewart
- A *Lancet Public Health* paper led by Dr Aime Powell on cervical screening for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- An evaluation of sensory testing to predict osteoarthritis outcomes, published in *Pain* by Dr Myles Murphy and colleagues
- Research priorities in burns, featured in *Lancet Global Health* (Associate Professor Dale Edgar)
- A *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* report by Professor David Playford and colleagues on the use of AI for the early detection of left ventricular dysfunction

Collectively, the Institute's research activities were supported by over \$2 million in contracts and grants.

Professor Lisa Wood continued her vital, philanthropically-funded research with Home2Health, working with sector partners to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness. A major project on pregnancy and homelessness progressed, with a lived experience advisory group formed and a new project that explores the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on those experiencing homelessness.

Academic enrichment was promoted through the fortnightly Research Insights seminar series and staff contributed to national and international scientific meetings, including keynote presentations at the Annual Congress of the European Society of Cardiology.

The Institute established new formal research collaborations with Calvary Health Care, Curtin University School of Population Health, the Perron Institute and the Perth Blood Institute. New adjunct staff were welcomed who share a commitment to addressing the health needs of vulnerable communities.

Nulungu Research Institute

The impact and influence of Indigenous research from the Nulungu Research Institute continued to grow, accelerated by exceptional success in the ARC DECRA scheme, with two grants that will bring more than \$1.1 million to Notre Dame.

The two three-year projects are led by Dr Melissa Marshall (*Conserving Rock Art: Collaborative innovation for climate-changed futures*) and Dr Kat Taylor (*Re-Thinking Water Governance: Forever economies and industries of wellbeing*). Commencing in mid-2026, both projects relate to Indigenous self-determination in the care, conservation and management of Country, culture and heritage.

Nulungu researchers were involved in six further ARC-funded projects and have established collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal communities, government and industry to continue driving Indigenous-led research agendas and projects.

Chair of Indigenous Knowledge, Professor Anne Poelina, was increasingly sought after nationally and internationally to share her expertise relating to climate adaptation, water justice and cultural resilience. Dr Kathryn Thorburn and Associate

Professor Steve Kinnane, Chair of Indigenous Research, alongside Lloyd Pigram and Anna Dwyer, created a platform to elevate Aboriginal voices on clean energy, energy poverty and justice.

Nulungu also invested in a substantial community engagement program to showcase Indigenous research nationally. Key events included the annual Nulungu Reconciliation Lecture delivered by Dr Lilly Brown, *Reimagining First Nations futures: Reimagining our future*, and the Lucy Ngarbal Marshall Oration of the Nulungu Indigenous Chairs.

The Institute delivered its annual seminar series, launched by Indigenous performers Marrugeku. Through its newsletters, projects, higher degree by research study, professional development initiatives and academic engagement, Nulungu continued building Indigenous research capacity and creating meaningful pathways into transformative research for the common good.

Image: Galgaruru janyba ngan-ga (Kookaburra sharing stories) by Maxine Charlie. The artwork represents the different Countries of the Kimberley: saltwater, ranges, desert and river. The bird is a kookaburra, travelling across the region, keeping stories alive and people connected.



2025 highlights

Celebrating 30 years in Broome

Notre Dame proudly celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Broome Campus, marking three decades of commitment to education, community partnership and creating opportunity in Western Australia's Kimberley region.

The Campus was established with the support of the former Bishop of Broome, John Jobst SAC., who recognised that the Catholic mission in the Kimberley would benefit greatly from a Notre Dame presence. Known then as the Kimberley Centre, it opened on the site of the former Catholic girls' boarding school, Nulungu College, with Sister Patricia Rhatigan AO SSJG appointed as its inaugural Director.

From its earliest days, the Broome Campus had a clear mission to expand Catholic tertiary education in the region, provide greater educational opportunities for Aboriginal people in their local environment and to serve as an instrument for reconciliation.

Over the past three decades, the Broome Campus has played a vital role in delivering culturally responsive learning. The 30th anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on this legacy while looking ahead to future growth.

Notre Dame hosted its first Open Day in Broome during the celebrations, welcoming prospective students, families and community members to explore the campus. The launch of the Reach Higher program was announced, which will allow aspiring teachers to earn a Bachelor of Primary Education while continuing to live and work in their local communities.

The University also celebrated the academic journey of almost 40 students at the Broome graduation ceremony. Dr Rhatigan received an Honorary Doctor of Letters at the ceremony in recognition of her lifelong commitment to education.



Broome Opening



Broome Opening

Welcoming our first Kimberley medical students

Another major milestone of the 30th anniversary year was the official opening of the Kimberley Centre for Remote Medical Training (KCRMT). This transformative centre is Western Australia's first fully regionally based medical school and one of the most remote full medical programs in the world.

The KCRMT welcomed its first cohort of twenty first-year and seven second-year students in 2025, with 35% of the inaugural group hailing from the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

Their academic journey was supported by a \$10 million investment from the Australian Government in infrastructure, including state-of-the-art simulation laboratories, teaching spaces and purpose-built, on-campus accommodation.

These students will complete their first two years of training on the Broome Campus and spend their clinical years in rural and remote areas of WA.

The KCRMT was formally opened by Western Australia's Acting Premier and Minister for Regional Development, Ports, Science and Innovation, Medical Research and the Kimberley, the Honourable Stephen Dawson. The opening gave guests the chance to see first-hand the purpose-built facilities and the transformative medical training experience.



Minister Dawson meets with KCRMT students



Chancellor Chris Ellison with Minister Dawson



Fatima Weston, Doctor of Medicine student

2025 highlights

Infrastructure for the future

In 2025, new facilities transformed our campuses in Fremantle, Broome and Sydney.

The Fremantle Campus entered a new era with the opening of the new Michael J M Wright Library. With the extraordinary and generous support of the Wright family, the library has transformed the centre of our Fremantle Campus, bringing modern library, private and open plan study and collaborative spaces to our students and university community, while honouring the building’s industrial heritage.

The library adjoins the new Peter Prendiville Study Centre, which gives students access to safe, modern study facilities 24 hours a day. The Celia Hammond Student Support Centre and new digitally-enabled moot court, named in honour of former Chief Justice and former Notre Dame Chancellor, Trustee and Governor, Dr Neville Owen, complete the new facilities that surround the Bateman Courtyard.

In Sydney, the University acquired property on Myrtle Street in Chippendale, which has been fully refitted with teaching spaces, simulation laboratories and student facilities to become a new home for nursing and midwifery at our Broadway Campus.

The University also acquired a long-term lease on new premises at 146-152 Mountain Street which will be home to the new health sciences programs in 2026, including the Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science, Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology, Master of Physiotherapy and Master of Speech Pathology (Qualifying). This new property includes specialist laboratories, new teaching spaces, a gymnasium and



contemporary student facilities. Both the Myrtle Street and Mountain Street acquisitions will allow for expansion of the Doctor of Medicine program and biomedical science studies at the Darlinghurst Campus.

These acquisitions and significant investments support the University’s Sydney Property Masterplan and will strengthen Notre Dame’s campus footprint and connectivity, creating spaces that foster innovation, collaboration and excellence for students and staff.

In Broome, students took up residence in the contemporary accommodation that was purpose-built to support the Kimberley Centre for Remote Medical Training. These on-campus residences have been transformative to the experience of our medical students and further enhanced the spirit of community on this unique campus. During 2025, and in preparation for a new cohort of students in 2026, four additional five-bedroom student accommodation villas were completed, together with a new teaching facility and student and staff social and recreational space.



New programs for students

New programs were introduced nationally to meet industry demand and broaden opportunities for students. These programs will equip graduates with the knowledge, skills and practical experience to make a meaningful contribution to their professions and communities.

- Bachelor of Occupational Therapy – Fremantle
- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education – Sydney
- Bachelor of Exercise & Sport Science (Assured Pathway) - Fremantle
- Bachelor of Computer Science – Sydney and Fremantle
- Master of Primary Teaching – Sydney and Fremantle
- Master of Secondary Teaching – Sydney and Fremantle
- Master of Social Work – Sydney and Fremantle
- Master of Computer Science – Sydney and Fremantle



2025 highlights

Leadership and legacy recognised

The University unveiled the refurbished Michael J M Wright Library in Fremantle, paying tribute to the late businessman, philanthropist and former Governor of Notre Dame.

The library project was made possible through a transformational philanthropic gift from the Wright family, the largest in the University’s history. Naming the library in honour of Michael Wright was a fitting tribute to his belief in the transformative power of education and his love of learning.

Mr Wright’s life was marked by quiet generosity and a steadfast commitment to building a better future for others. His contributions to education, and the arts reflect values that align with Notre Dame’s mission. The University was honoured to have members of the Wright family present at the opening ceremony.

The library upgrade was part of one of the most significant and exciting student facilities upgrades in the history of Notre Dame — the creation of a modern and vibrant Student Hub. Positioned at the heart of the Fremantle Campus, the hub is an interconnected space where students can come together to study and make new friendships and connections.

Another three distinguished figures, Dr Peter Prendiville, Emeritus Professor Celia Hammond and Justice Neville Owen, were recognised for their extraordinary service to the University through the naming of the new facilities.

The Peter Prendiville Study Centre, Celia Hammond Student Support Centre and Justice Neville Owen Moot Court were blessed by the Most Reverend Archbishop Timothy Costelloe during a ceremony that celebrated the new space and the vision and generosity of the people who made it possible.

Dr Prendiville, Professor Hammond and Justice Owen have each made lasting contributions through their leadership, governance and commitment to the University’s mission.



Members of the Wright family



Dana Robertson



Fremantle library staff



Official opening of the Michael J M Wright Library



Student Hub blessing and official opening



Chris Ellison, Celia Hammond, Peter Prendiville and Francis Campbell

2025 highlights

Exceptional contributions honoured

Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees were conferred upon three exemplary leaders in recognition of their contributions to Notre Dame, education, the Catholic Church and the wider community.

The University’s founding Governor, Dr Peter Prendiville, was honoured for his longstanding leadership and the pivotal role he has played in shaping Notre Dame since its inception. For more than three decades, he has supported the University through professional expertise, philanthropy and an unwavering personal commitment.

The Very Reverend Father Richard G. Ang OP PhD was recognised for his outstanding contribution to Catholic education, academic leadership and philosophical scholarship across the Asia-Pacific region. His intellectual leadership and work fostering dialogue between Eastern and Western philosophical and theological traditions were celebrated at the Sydney Graduation Mass in April.

The inaugural director of Notre Dame’s Broome Campus, Sister Patricia Rhatigan AO SSJG, received an honorary degree for her decades of dedicated service to education, the Church, Notre Dame and the broader Kimberley community. Through her ongoing commitment to reconciliation and cultural inclusion, Dr Rhatigan has changed the lives of countless people in the region.



Dr Peter Prendiville



Dr Richard Ang



Dr Patricia Rhatigan

Generosity that shapes the future

Notre Dame’s Annual Chancellors Appeal honoured the legacy of the Honourable Christopher Ellison’s tenure as Chancellor and aligned with the Church’s Jubilee Year of Hope. It achieved a 247% increase in funds raised on the previous year, reflecting deep donor trust in Notre Dame’s priorities.

The University was also honoured to receive several transformative bequests that will have a lasting impact on students. The Robert Kennedy Bequest will enrich the student experience and support academic excellence at the Sydney Campus, while the Fr Cunningham Bequest will provide meaningful support for students in the School of Philosophy & Theology in Fremantle. In total, the University received \$1.3 million in bequests in 2025, a remarkable demonstration of generosity and trust in Notre Dame.



Leadership and service as Chancellor

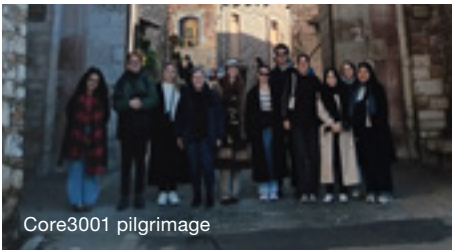
After eight years of dedicated service, the Honourable Christopher Ellison concluded his tenure as Chancellor in 2025, leaving a profound and lasting impact on Notre Dame.

The Board of Trustees took the decision to award Mr Ellison an Honorary Doctor of Letters in 2026 for his unwavering leadership and deep personal commitment to advancing the mission and values of the University. He helped drive the development of the Fremantle, Broome and Sydney Campuses and was a highly effective advocate for Notre Dame.

Mr Ellison will also be recognised for his distinguished Commonwealth parliamentary career and his significant contributions to education, law and community service.



2025 highlights



Core3001 pilgrimage



Cambodia immersion



School of Education students

Transformative global experiences

A group of students travelled to Rome for the Core3001 pilgrimage elective led by the School of Philosophy & Theology. Guided by experts in sacred art and architecture, they navigated the city’s historic streets to encounter the stories of Mary and Saint Peter.

Students and staff from the Faculty of Arts, Sciences, Law and Business undertook a two-week immersion at the Institut Catholique de Paris focusing on legal, cultural, social and environmental aspects of French culture. A separate group took part in a two-week immersion in rural Cambodia, hosted by local university, the Saint Paul Institute. The program included daily seminars on topics such as the economy and sustainability, language classes, cultural sessions and visits to sites of cultural significance.

Eight physiotherapy students travelled to Thailand for a clinical placement, where they worked alongside local practitioners and were reminded of the impact their future profession can have on communities. The final-year students were actively involved in therapy sessions, including physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and music therapy. The experience immersed them in a new healthcare setting and culture, extending their learning beyond the classroom.

Students from the School of Education also gained international professional experience, with 24 students travelling to England and Ireland to complete school placements. These placements broadened their perspectives by providing valuable insight into different education systems and classroom environments.

Advancing Catholic leadership worldwide

Notre Dame opened the Global Centre for Catholic Leaders, reinforcing the University’s commitment to faith-informed leadership and international engagement. The Centre brings together established and emerging leaders to engage in ongoing formation grounded in Catholic identity and integral human development.

Under the leadership of inaugural Director Laura Avery, the Centre’s network of scholars, researchers, practitioners, leaders, communities and organisations will come together to find solutions to the most pressing challenges for contemporary leaders in Catholic organisations.

International engagement

International engagement was strengthened through new academic partnerships that expanded opportunities for staff and students. A partnership with Saint Louis University in the United States will bring a world-leading interprofessional education program to Notre Dame’s nursing and science students.

The University also signed an agreement with the University of Chichester to develop dual-award degrees that include study in Australia and the United Kingdom, broadening study abroad pathways.

Across the year, Notre Dame welcomed international guests to its campuses, building research and academic ties worldwide. These guests included:

- Doctor Maura Mast, Professor of Mathematics at Fordham University
- Professor Leo Lefebure, inaugural holder of the Matteo Ricci, S.J., Chair of Theology at Georgetown University



Visit by Doctor Maura Mast, Professor of Mathematics

- Reverend Stuart P. Chalmers, Associate Professor at the Pontifical University of Salamanca

In September, the Sydney Campus hosted the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society conference, bringing together scholars from Japan, Taiwan, Egypt and the United States to discuss the conference theme *Scripture in Early Christianity*.

Jubilee of the World of Education

Notre Dame hosted a range of activities during the Jubilee of the World of Education at the Vatican in Rome. Staff and students took part in a formation program that took them through key sites in Italy’s capital, focusing on the Church, the University and St. John Cardinal Henry Newman’s influence on thinking through the contemporary university.

Notre Dame was represented at an expo at the Vatican, highlighting the new Global Centre for Catholic Leaders. Notre Dame and the Australian Embassy to the Holy See co-hosted two high-level public panel discussions during the same week.

The first was at the Pontifical University of Santa Croce on *The Church and the World: From Now until the next Jubilee*. The principal panellist was Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States within the Holy See’s Secretariat of State, and discussion focused on the role of the Holy See in global diplomacy. The second panel discussion, *How to ‘cultivate the intellect’ in the Age of AI - a Dialogue with St. John Henry Newman*, was held at the Salone Borromini, Biblioteca Vallicelliana.

Staff and students were honoured to be present at the Mass during which Pope Leo XIV declared St. John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church.



Victoria Lorrimar speaks on AI and education



Jubilee of the World of Education

2025 highlights

Building the medical workforce

The University continued to build Australia’s future healthcare workforce, with national recognition as a leading educator of general practitioners and increased Commonwealth Government support to train medical professionals.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine recognised Notre Dame’s Fremantle program as one of Australia’s top two programs for producing general practitioners.

More than 50% of medical graduates from the Fremantle Campus are choosing careers in general practice and rural generalism, positioning Notre Dame as a major contributor to Australia’s future primary healthcare workforce.

The University was later awarded 10 additional Commonwealth supported places to grow the Doctor of Medicine program as part of the Australian Government’s initiative to build the nation’s medical workforce.



Notre Dame was the only university in Western Australia to receive additional places under the program.

These Commonwealth supported places will help the University increase its capacity to train doctors and further its mission of improving just and equitable access to quality health care for all communities.



Creating future healthcare impact

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Calvary Health Care Australia to enhance health research and healthcare delivery nationwide.

The transformative agreement represents a shared commitment to advancing Australia’s healthcare system through innovative research and development, knowledge sharing and medical training.

It will give staff and students the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing development of Calvary Care health services through research programs that aim to improve clinical outcomes for patients.



Research excellence recognised

The University enjoyed unprecedented success in the Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) scheme. Three of five Notre Dame applications were successful – a success rate of 60%, almost five times the national average of 13.1%. The most prestigious early career research grant in the country, just 200 DECRA’s are awarded each year across all disciplines.



Dr Adam Piovarchy, Institute for Ethics & Society

The blame game: culpability, co-operation and cultural change

Dr Piovarchy will examine how blame functions in modern society, drawing on game theory and psychology to better understand its role in upholding community norms.



Dr Melissa Marshall, Nulungu Research Institute

Conserving rock art: collaborative innovation for climate-changed futures

Dr Marhsall is addressing limitations in existing rock art conservation and management techniques by evaluating practice and advancing collaborative solutions.



Dr Kat Taylor, Nulungu Research Institute

Rethinking water governance: forever economies and industries of wellbeing

Dr Taylor aims to address gaps in Australia’s water governance by linking water reform to the development of sustainable, locally grounded economies known as forever economies.

2025 highlights



Philosophy outreach



State election debate



Fremantle Mayoral Debate

Engaging with our community

Notre Dame enhanced its community engagement by building strong connections with local organisations, fostering dialogue, inspiring young minds and contributing to public life throughout 2025.

In the lead-up to the local, state and federal elections in Western Australia, the University hosted lively debates that gave community members the opportunity to hear from candidates. These popular events saw locals question candidates on a diverse range of issues, holding them accountable on the issues that matter most to Fremantle.

Philosophy staff visited high schools to deliver collaborative sessions that addressed the ATAR philosophy curriculum and hosted two large on-campus workshops for students. This outreach helped build meaningful relationships with schools, raised the profile of the program and encouraged students to be critical thinkers.

The University’s new Tax Clinic visited the Kimberley for the first time to provide much-needed tax assistance to vulnerable community members and businesses. Free professional advice was provided to people on low incomes, those experiencing vulnerability or hardship and small business owners.

Notre Dame and the Majarlin Kimberley Centre for Remote Health teamed up with the Y Broome Early Learning Centre to support early childhood development by bringing occupational therapy students into the centre. This initiative helped the children build developmental skills while giving students practical, hands-on experience.

The University again supported the Blessing of the Fleet in Fremantle, welcoming alumni and the broader community to campus to enjoy Italian-themed hospitality and participate in the lively and colourful parade from St Patrick’s Basilica to Fishing Boat Harbour.



Blessing of the Fleet in Fremantle



The inaugural John and Anna Belfer Oration in the History of Jewish Philosophy.

Faith celebrated and explored

Notre Dame’s Centre for the History of Philosophy, in partnership with The Great Synagogue Sydney, launched a new annual public lecture series, the John and Anna Belfer Oration in the History of Jewish Philosophy. Held at The Great Synagogue, the inaugural Oration brought together hundreds of guests from multiple faith communities.

The event emphasised the history of shared inquiry between the Abrahamic faiths and the models that the history of philosophy can offer today for fostering inter-religious dialogue and understanding.

In partnership with the Australian Catholic University, Notre Dame hosted the 2025 Saint John Henry Newman Annual Symposium in Sydney, drawing together distinguished guests, scholars and members of the Catholic community for reflection, dialogue and celebration.

The keynote address was delivered by the esteemed Professor the Right Reverend Monsignor Roderick Strange – a leading theologian and internationally respected authority on Cardinal Newman.

In October, Notre Dame brought together some of Western Australia’s most respected voices to explore the role of faith in decision making and

shaping public life. Chief Justice the Honourable Peter Quinlan, the Honourable Justice Marcus Solomon and the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC CVO shared insights into how faith could inform ethical leadership and contribute to a more just and cohesive society.



Saint John Henry Newman Annual Symposium



Faith in Public Live event

Staff achievements

Behind every achievement in 2025 were Notre Dame's staff, whose expertise and commitment were central to supporting student formation and academic success. Guided by the University's mission and values, staff consistently demonstrated excellence in education, service and professional practice.

Vice Chancellor's awards

The annual Vice Chancellor's Promoting Excellence in Learning and Teaching (PELT) awards celebrate, showcase and reward the commitment of our staff to student-centred learning and innovative teaching. In July 2025, the Vice Chancellor presented the latest awards.

VC PELT Award for Initiatives that Enhance Student Learning



Ben Piggott and Jenny Conlon (team)
School of Education and School of Health Sciences
Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or student experience



Nadia Norrish
School of Medicine
Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or student experience

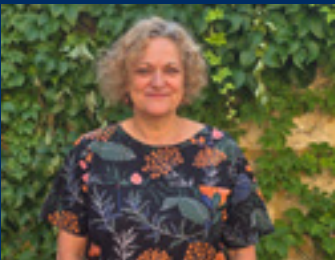


Lara Mackintosh
School of Arts and Sciences
Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn

VC PELT Award for Teaching Excellence



Nathan Smith
School of Health Sciences
Early career



Helena Kadmos
School of Arts and Sciences
Undergraduate teaching

VC PELT Award for Programs that Enhance Learning



Ainslie Robinson (Lead), Karen Clark-Burg, Michelle Morrison and Sallyanne Tingey (team)
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences
Widening participation (educational partnerships and collaboration with other organisations)

2025 Aspire Award



James Debenham, Director of the Majarlin Kimberley Centre for Remote Health, won the 2025 Aspire Award for leadership in rural health education. Associate Professor Debenham received \$5,000 towards the cost of attending the National Academies of Practice Annual Meeting and Forum 2026 in the United States — a globally respected event focused on advancing person-centred, team-based care.

Associate Professor Debenham is leading transformative work in rural and remote healthcare education, research and workforce development. This includes interprofessional learning, which supports students from different health disciplines work effectively in rural and remote settings. His dedication to culturally grounded, collaborative practice reflects the values at the heart of Notre Dame and makes a real difference to communities across Western Australia and beyond.

Student achievements

Students are central to Notre Dame's work but the role of a university extends beyond delivering an outstanding learning experience. Notre Dame takes great pride in educating the whole person and helping students flourish and contribute to society. In 2025, our students achieved great things across academic study, community service, leadership and professional practice. These highlights offer a snapshot of their impact.



Doctor of Medicine student **Kayla Williams-Tucker** was one of three students across the country to be awarded an Australian Medical Association Indigenous Medical Scholarship. The scholarship aims to close the gap in health outcomes by empowering the next generation of First Nations doctors.



Fremantle law student **Charlotte Carles** was chosen to represent Western Australia in UNICEF Australia's prestigious Young Ambassador program. She was the only participant from Western Australia and one of just a handful of young people nationwide to take part in the 2025–2026 cohort.



Fourth-year medical student **Brianna Ozies** won the Indigenous Medical Student of the Year Award at the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association 2025 conference. It was the second consecutive year a Notre Dame student received the honour.



PhD student **Olivia Comito** was named a finalist in the 2025 Young Achiever Awards for her work with WARPINE — a not-for-profit organisation focused on research into pancreatic, gastrointestinal and rare cancers. Her important research investigates how bacteria in the gut microbiome influence how patients respond to chemotherapy.



Three student athletes, **Luci Marsh, Emma Putt and Isabella Sayer**, proudly represented Notre Dame in the water polo at the 2025 FISU World University Games in Germany. The women's water polo team fought hard to finish sixth in a highly competitive tournament.



Highly sought-after Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships were awarded to 20 outstanding students from the School of Education. This achievement reflects the quality of Notre Dame's programs and the dedication and passion of students.

Three alumni received Western Australian Rural Health Excellence Awards. **Soleil White** was named Aboriginal Health Professional of the Year, **Tylah Bedford** received Young Professional of the Year and **Xavier Cornwall** was awarded WA Country Health Service Resident Medical Officer of the Year.

Graduate **Dr Maddeson Hardman** received the 2025 Junior Medical Officer of the Year award from the Health and Education Training Institute. This prestigious award recognises junior doctors who actively support prevocational trainees across the NSW health system through education and training programs.

Fourth-year medical student **Emma McNeilly** won the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia's Campbell and Annie Murdoch Prize in Rural and Remote Medicine. The prize is awarded to the student with the highest aggregate mark for in-training assessment during their year at the clinical school.



Table of statistics

Student statistics		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of students	Total	12,674	12,291	11,860	11,579	12,248	13,204
	Commencing	4839	4286	4341	4367	5,084	5,432
Student load (EFTSL)	Total	9,651	9,415	8,813	8,370	9,210	9,816
	Undergraduate	7,671	7,472	6,951	6,486	7,262	7,777
	Postgraduate	1,980	1,943	1,861	1,884	1,948	2,039
Student load by funding source (EFTSL)*	Commonwealth Grant Scheme	6,320	8,278	7,682	7,021	7,608	8,262
	Research Training Scheme	187	167	129	128	112	124
	Domestic fee paying	2,950	840	762	791	657	534
	International	194	130	240	411	833	1,355

Staff statistics		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Staff (FTE)	Total	890	762	852	790	809	883
	Teaching only	83	68	105	57	69	86
	Research only	12	13	16	29	30	28
	Teaching and research	353	300	306	287	274	279
	Other	441	381	425	417	436	490

*This excludes Open Universities Australia.
The University’s 2025 Financial Report is available at notredame.edu.au/annual-performance

Governance

As at 31 December 2025

Directors

- The Hon. Christopher Ellison**
Chancellor
- Professor Francis Campbell**
Vice Chancellor
- Mr Jack de Groot**
- Mr Richard Haddock AO**
- Emeritus Professor Sandra Harding AO**
- Ms Hilary Johnston-Croke**
- Ms Rebbecca Kerr**
- Mr Michael L'Estrange AO**
- Mr John Prendiville**
- Mr Andrew Whitechurch**

Trustees

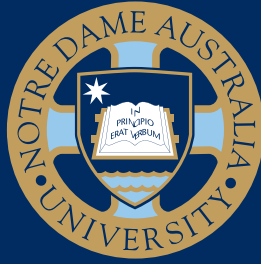
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| The Hon. Christopher Ellison
Chancellor | Mr Michael L'Estrange AO |
| Professor Francis Campbell
Vice Chancellor | Mr Daniel Lynch |
| Ms Rebecca Davies AO | The Hon. Justice Rob Mazza |
| Mr Michael Digges | The Most Rev. Tony Percy |
| Sr Susanna Edmunds, OP | Ms Anne Pitos |
| Mr Tony Howarth AO | |

Governors

- | | |
|--|---|
| The Hon. Christopher Ellison
Chancellor | Ms Nicole Lockwood |
| Professor Francis Campbell
Vice Chancellor | Mr Daniel Lynch |
| Mr Adrian Arundell | Ms Louise McCann |
| Mr Glen Chidlow | The Hon. Justice Rob Mazza |
| Ms Rebecca Davies AO | Emeritus Professor Con Michael AO |
| Mr Jack de Groot | Ms Meneesha Michalka |
| Mr Michael Digges | Mr Stephen Newton |
| Sr Susanna Edmunds, OP | The Hon. Justice Neville Owen AO |
| The Hon. Justice Kate Glancy | The Most Rev. Tony Percy |
| Mr Richard Haddock AO | Ms Anne Pitos |
| Emeritus Professor Sandra Harding AO | Mr John Prendiville |
| Dr Lyn Henderson-Yates | Dr Peter Prendiville |
| Mr Tony Howarth AO | Emeritus Professor Tony Shannon AO |
| Ms Hilary Johnston-Croke | Mr Andrew Whitechurch |
| Ms Rebbecca Kerr | |
| Mr Michael L'Estrange AO | |

Management structure





5-Star Ratings*



**Learner Engagement
Skills Development
Full-Time Employment
Graduate Salary**

*2025 Good Universities Guide

notredame.edu.au

ND7164 | CRICOS: 01032F
© 2026 The University of Notre Dame Australia, all rights reserved.

Join our online community



@notredamesyd
@notredameaustralia
@notredameuniaux