

## Topics of current interest

Covering the period April to June 2026

The following are recent articles and reports that may be of interest to Deans of Science. Let me know of any important ones that I have missed out. This list is not meant to indicate a particular point of view from the ACDS. We encourage you to follow the links to the original articles. Past issues of these 'Topics of Current Interest' are on the ACDS website under [Engagement](#).

### 1. Ministerial statement of expectations for the ARC

<https://www.arc.gov.au/about-arc/corporate-information/ministerial-statements-expectations-and-responses/statement-expectations-march-2026>

The Hon Jason Clare, Minister for Education, 26 March 2026

- This sets out the Minister's expectations around research priorities, security, program reviews and grant evaluations. The ARC Board's response will be published shortly.

### 2. Longitudinal Graduate Outcomes Survey

[https://www.qilt.edu.au/surveys/graduate-outcomes-survey---longitudinal-\(gos-l\)](https://www.qilt.edu.au/surveys/graduate-outcomes-survey---longitudinal-(gos-l))

QUILT, May 2026.

- Results are reported for students who completed the survey in 2022 and again three years later in 2025. Graduate outcomes are shown by study area (91% employment in science and maths), university and occupation. There is a wealth of information in the data tables and reports.

### 3. National Resilience and Science Council

<https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/jim-chalmers-2022/media-releases/budget-backs-innovation-and-investment>

Department of Industry, Science and Resources, 12 May 2026

- The government announced in the Federal budget that this new Council will 'better connect work across science, technology and industry, and support long-term reform of Australia's research and industrial capabilities'. It is essentially a reset / refresh of the National Science and Technology Council and we await further details.

### 4. ATEC discussion paper on proposed harmonisation roadmap

<https://www.atec.gov.au/consultations/have-your-say-tertiary-roadmap>

Australian Tertiary Education Commission, 26 May 2026

- ATEC released a discussion paper on how VET and higher education can work to have a more joined-up tertiary system. The ACDS submission will be on our website soon.

### 5. Horizon Europe

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/timayres/media-releases/access-worlds-largest-research-fund-horizon>

Department of Industry, Science and Resources, 9 June 2026

- The government has made a formal announcement about the planned association with Horizon Europe. Arrangements are being finalised so that 'Australians can apply for Horizon Europe grants from early 2027'.

### 6. Expenditure on Research and Development 2024-2025

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/technology-and-innovation/research-and-experimental-development-government-and-private-non-profit-organisations-australia/2024-25>

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 10 June 2026

- This report shows the amount of government and private non-profit support for research over the last two years. Government expenditure on R&D (GERD) increased in environmental, biomedical and clinical sciences, decreased in agriculture and computing sciences, and remained roughly the same in other areas. Private non-profit expenditure was almost entirely related to socio-economic objectives in health.

### **7. Update on 2026 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap**

<https://www.education.gov.au/national-research-infrastructure/2026-national-research-infrastructure-roadmap>

Department of Education, 22 June 2026

- Development of the 2026 Roadmap began last year, with oversight from an Expert Working Group (see the website for a list of members).
- From July to September 2026 targeted consultations will be held to support the development and refinement of the Roadmap Exposure Draft ahead of its release for public consultation.

### **8. AMSI Maths Camps**

<https://amsi.org.au/2026/06/24/maths-camps-project-group/>

Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, 24 June 2026

- AMSI plans to run Maths Camps in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education over the next few years. They are calling for expressions of interest from across Australia to provide expert advice and support.

### **9. Federal government new legislation on university funding**

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Bills\\_Legislation/Bills\\_Search\\_Results/Result?bld=r7501](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bld=r7501)

<https://ministers.education.gov.au/clare/universities-accord-opening-doors-opportunity-bill-2026-second-reading>

Federal Parliament, 25 June 2026

- Legislation has been introduced into Parliament to embed the new Managed Growth Funding System, to establish demand driven Needs-based Funding, and to formalise the role of ATEC.
- There is much discussion in the sector around what this legislation means for universities and how it will play out. Here is an ABC news article that appeared just as this 'Topics of Current Interest' was going to press.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-06-30/university-reforms-what-is-changing/106844454>

ABC News, 30 June 2026

### **10. ATEC insights**

<https://msg.dese.gov.au/pub/pubType/EO/pubID/zzzz6a3b04aa4e756349/interface.html>

ATEC, 29 June 2026

- The latest issue of the quarterly ATEC newsletter notes important activities around the Statement of Strategic Priorities, university submissions of draft compacts, the Working Group on Higher Education Costing and Pricing, the Higher Education Disability Roundtable, and the final report from Liz Johnson on Enhancing Professional Practice in Higher Education.

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