



The Royal Institution
of Australia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
21 July 2022

55 Exchange Place, Adelaide SA 5000
PO Box 3652, Rundle Mall SA 5000
08 7120 8600 info@riaus.org.au

riaus.org.au

SA GOVERNMENT BACKS THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIA

Home then and now: State where we started is the State where we build

Today we're pleased to announce that the Royal Institution of Australia has received a grant from the Government of South Australia. This will provide us with the stability to grow other partnerships and allow us to continue our essential, not-for-profit role of making all Australians better informed about the science in their lives well into the future.

The SA Government's support means we can continue our critically important work of fighting misinformation with quality journalism and scientific facts. In today's world, it's more important than ever that people have access to accurate information about the science that affects their lives.

We're immensely proud of our role in providing that information, and the SA Government's support will help us continue doing so into the future. Thank you, South Australia, for your support of our work!

We're also dedicated to science education and want to continue our now long-established role of providing the best opportunities and resources for science teachers across the nation. The great thing about science is that there are always new facts to learn and new ways of looking at things. High-quality science education can help students have fun with science and increase their likelihood of choosing careers in science.

Our current education initiatives support 6000 science teachers – many in remote and regional Australia – with curriculum-informed teaching materials. We want to extend this support to parents and offer direct support to students themselves, with a particular focus on middle-school pupils. Our aim is to make science education more accessible and engaging for everyone involved, and the SA Government's funding helps us take a big step towards achieving our goal.

The facts: the world is still dealing with the aftermath of a pandemic. There is a compelling need for attention on energy and climate change abatement – Australian winter floodwaters and European summer temperatures both reach record highs in consecutive weeks. The most likely antidote – technological change – advances rapidly. An immediate and intensive focus on new power generation and storage is urgently needed.

Science is relevant to the lives of all Australians, and all should have access to the facts that will better allow them to navigate these complex and evolving topics.

Why? So that we can make better decisions – informed by hard-won, peer-reviewed scientific knowledge – as we fight to make our world a place in which the generations that follow us might enjoy the same comforts, the same pleasures, the same sense of awe and wonder.

Whether formal or informal, education and its sage companion life-long learning have never been so important to individuals and society. And yet there remain barriers – of equity, accessibility, affordability – that stand in the way of many people attaining knowledge of science: a right, we would argue, as fundamental as those to food and shelter. We need to lower or remove those barriers so that everyone can join in and play their role in finding solutions for the challenges we face.

The Government of South Australia's funding will give us the time and resources to engage with other partners who share our vision and goals. We aim to secure financial sustainability through corporate support and philanthropy. Corporate sponsorship can take many forms, from financial backing to in-kind donations of resources or services. Philanthropy is also a great source of financial aid, especially for causes that align with an organisation's values (such as environmental, social, and governance, or ESG).

We aim to build on the financial support of like-minded organisations, and to leverage their support and our shared goals into long-term economic sustainability. We intend to be telling Australians why science matters five years from now; we dream of delivering the same message to generations not yet born.

To do this means ensuring that our organisation can sustain its mission well into the future and adapt to new ways of producing and distributing content. By taking a holistic approach to financial sustainability, we hope to create a more sustainable and resilient organisation that can continue to serve our community for years – decades – to come.

We express our sincerest gratitude to all who have supported us throughout this journey. We have achieved so much thanks to our supporters' unwavering loyalty and commitment. That gratitude extends to the wider community for its involvement and input: the ideas and suggestions that have been put forward by readers, students, teachers – and critics – have helped shape our plans.

If you or your organisation would like to partner with us and support us – please reach out. The best partner to have is one that challenges us to invent new means of achieving our mission. And we look forward to continuing working with you, our members, as we strive to build an even brighter future. Thank you for unwaveringly standing by us, and please join us in applauding the SA Government's support for the RiAus: the future starts now.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Berryman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Will Berryman
Executive Director