

Science and Technology Australia (STA) – how it benefits NSA and its members

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is Australia's peak body in science and technology, representing more than 80,000 Australian scientists and technologists, belonging to more than 80 member associations and working across all scientific disciplines. STA's mission is to bring together scientists, governments, industry and the broader community to advance the role, reputation and impact of science and technology in Australia.

As well as providing a unified and respected voice for the STEM sector as a whole on issues of national importance, STA offers a range of resources and other benefits to its members to enhance their capability, efficiency and connections. A detailed description of STA and what it provides to its members can be found on the STA website (www.scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au), but in summary, STA:

- Connects with Policy
 - STA connects scientists and technologists directly with Parliamentarians through initiatives like **Science meets Parliament** and the **STEM Ambassadors Program**, and to Departmental decision-makers through strategic initiatives and networking events;
 - STA also makes regular submissions to government, publishes statements on policy decisions, and contributes to national discussions around the future of Australian science and technology through Parliamentary Forums.
- Connects with Business
 - Through industry collaboration events, STA facilitates dialogue between STEM professionals and industry leaders, and addresses the obstacles scientists and technologists are faced with when moving into the commercial sphere.
- Fosters Collaboration
 - STA forms partnerships and alliances to promote and enhance the role of science and technology in Australia and facilitates introductions for its members to sector influencers.
 - Through initiatives like the **National Research and Innovation Alliance**, STA brings representative bodies together to collaborate on issues facing research and development in Australia.
- Empowers STEM Professionals
 - STA offers a range of workshops, programs, and events which empower the members and staff of our member organisations, including **Superstars of STEM**, designed to propel Australian women of STEM into the spotlight, and **Super STEM Communicator Workshops**.
- Supports the growth and success of members
 - Tailored advice, tools, how-to guides, templates etc assist members in crafting advocacy and communication strategies, attracting new members, enhancing back-end administration.
 - Promotes equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) through active advocacy across the STEM sector, industry and government and through direct assistance to members in developing their own EDI policies and practices.
 - Provide members (and their members, in turn) with access to a range of benefits designed to help science and technology associations, societies and other organisations



to work smarter while saving time, money and resources, such as discounts, training, quality professional advice and exclusive offers from a range of service partners offering accounting & auditing, corporate governance and insurance, among other services.

As a respected and influential contributor to debate on public policy since 1985, STA provides a strong voice for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics sector. A thriving and diverse STEM sector is critical to Australia's future, with value extending beyond economics and innovation potential, to our wellbeing, prosperity, happiness and the environment.