

SOCIAL SCIENCES WEEK 2026

Sponsorship Prospectus



socialsciencesweek.org.au



about

Now in its ninth year, Social Sciences Week is an annual showcase of the enormous breadth and impact of the social sciences in Australia. SSW brings together researchers, educators, policy makers, students and community organisations to showcase research and impact and to engage in conversations about important social issues.

who

Social Sciences Week is coordinated by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and supported by Australian universities and social science associations.

what

- Virtual and in-person events across the country
- A national launch event and coordinated publicity
- Randomly-selected grants for event organisers
- A full-day parliamentary showcase in Canberra, exclusive to partners
- A national schools program featuring a Great Student Debate



10,000+
PARTICIPANTS



75+
EVENTS



20,000+
WEBPAGE VISITS

Partner with the Academy or show your support for Social Sciences Week and get involved by hosting your own events.

If you host an event during Social Sciences Week, you will be acknowledged separately to sponsors with an event listing on the website.

Engaging Australia

Social Science Week engages audiences from across Australia with an enormous diversity of events and activities.

Highlights from the past few years include:

The Great Debate: the Academy's flagship program, bringing high school students and seasoned researchers together for live (and lively) team-based debates informed by social science evidence and expertise.

Film screening and panel discussion: Hosted by RMIT at Melbourne's Capitol Theatre (500+ capacity).

Peer Revue: Smart meets silly when cutting-edge research fuels improv comedy.

SOCIAL SCIENCES WEEK 2025 FEEDBACK

"The vibe was great and the calibre of panellists was amazing!"

"Events are usually very good quality and a wide range of topics."

"Congratulations on a great week. Thanks for making everything easy."

"The academics added professionalism and good use of humour in the topic"

"Everyone who was involved in the running of the event were really accommodating and impressive. Thank you for the experience!"

"I was impressed we were able to have a respectful and reasonable discussion on this subject"



SPARK GRANTS

\$1,000 events grants, selected through random draw.

Introduced in 2025, SSW Spark Grants support university, research-sector and community-based organisations to stage engaging public events during Social Sciences Week.

Applications take 15 minutes and eligible recipients are selected through a conditional random ballot, ensuring equity and transparency with events supported across Australia and online.



The Cairns Institute at James Cook University received a Spark Grant to host an event celebrating Papua New Guinea’s 50th Anniversary of Independence

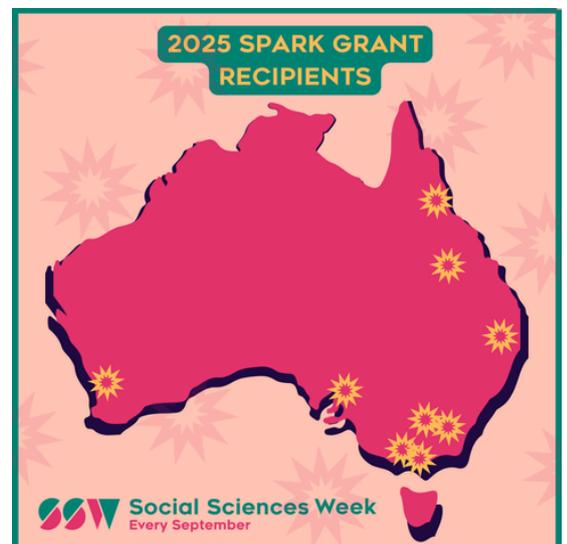
FEEDBACK FROM 2025 SPARK GRANT PARTICIPANTS

“I’m so grateful for the Spark Grants process. Even though we weren’t selected, it’s terrific to see an unbiased and accessible program supporting community organisations like ours.”

“I definitely would not have been able to do all these events without the Spark Grant.”

“The grants were very well planned and executed.”

“A terrific and very important program.”



Parliamentary Showcase

Hosted by the Academy and the Parliamentary Friends of Social Sciences, SSW 2026 will feature new showcase events with exclusive opportunities for partners to celebrate their researchers, connect with federal MPs and Senators and share social science research with engaged audiences. The showcase will include:

- **Political engagement workshop** for early- and mid-career researchers with Academy CEO Chris Hatherly and government relations specialist Jo Scard (9:30am-12pm).
- **Social Science Impact Stories** put your best and most innovative teams and researchers before an audience of parliamentarians, senior public servants and advisors in a rolling series of 20-minute case-study presentations (1-4pm).
- **MP and Senator briefings:** 30-minute targeted meetings with parliamentarians and their advisors, in their offices, to discuss social science research relevant to their policy and electoral interests (concurrent meetings throughout the day).
- **Parliamentary Friends of Social Science Networking Event:** meet with the 20 Parliamentary Friends and their staff, along with Commonwealth public servants and research sector leaders at a Parliamentary networking function (5-7pm).



Grand Challenge lunchtime talks

In 2026, the Academy will introduce a new program of Grand Challenge lunchtime talks to showcase the work of Academy Fellows and other social science researchers.

The talks will be held online during lunch hours and will be recorded and shared on the Academy's YouTube channel for maximum coverage and attendance.

The Grand Challenge lunchtime talks will focus on the ways social scientists are helping to solve the biggest issues facing Australian society, with topics including:

- Declining Trust in Democracy
- Rising Social Inequality
- Technological Transformation
- Truth-telling and Decolonisation
- Climate Change and Ecological Justice
- The Breakdown of the Global Economic & Political Order
- The Impacts of Demographic Changes
- Mis and Disinformation
- Post-COVID Public Health
- The Future of Work, Workplaces and the Workforce

Social Sciences Week sponsors will be invited to co-host a Grand Challenge lunchtime talk and submit a guest speaker and or/host from their organisation.

Sponsorship Packages

By sponsoring Social Sciences Week, your organisation will support this vital national program, demonstrating your dedication to social science research and education. Sponsorship offers increased brand exposure and unique networking opportunities.

Your support will enable us to continue to promote and celebrate the social sciences, and to provide a platform for researchers, educators, and professionals to engage with the broader community.

We offer a range of sponsorship opportunities, including:

Principal partner

~~\$30,000 (one available)~~ **SOLD OUT**

As principal partner, you will have opportunity to host the national launch event and ensure maximum participation for staff and ECRs in the Parliamentary Showcase event.

Gold sponsor

\$15,000 (one available)

As gold sponsor, you will gain exposure amongst social science networks, enjoy featured event coverage on social media, and receive complimentary tickets to SSW events.

Silver sponsor

\$10,000 (two available)

Support SSW as a silver sponsor to reach a diverse and engaged audience interested in social science research.

Bronze sponsor

\$5,000

Become a bronze sponsor and receive acknowledgment and promotion for your valuable support of SSW.

Sponsorship at a glance

Associate your organisation with a national week dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of important social issues, and promoting evidence-based policy and practice.

BENEFITS	PRINCIPAL	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Parliamentary Showcase				
Staff involvement (workshop, audience, networking)	✓ x6	✓ x4	✓ x2	✓ x2
Social Science Impact presentations	✓ x3	✓ x2	✓ x1	
Facilitated parliamentary meetings	✓ x4	✓ x2	✓ x1	
Great Challenge lunchtime talks				
Co-hosted, co-branded event	✓	✓	✓	✓
Launch				
Host Social Sciences Week launch	✓			
Acknowledgment at Social Sciences Week 2026 launch	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tickets to SSW2026 launch	✓	✓ x6	✓ x4	✓ x2
Promotion				
Featured event in standalone media release and on SSW website	✓			
Banner ad in e-newsletter	✓	✓	✓	
Dedicated social media posts (about organisation or event)	✓ x5	✓ x3	✓ x2	✓ x1
Logo inclusion on website and <i>Socium</i> magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support announced on social media and e-newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓
Banner displayed at the Great Debate (Academy flagship event)	✓			

Questions? Contact us.

To enquire about sponsorship of
SSW2026 please contact
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In addition to marketing events under our
sponsor and partner agreements, we may
additionally promote events we deem of
particular newsworthiness/interest to
media and attendees.

All benefits will commence upon payment
of sponsorship invoice.

