



Curtin University



# ***Sustainability in Business and Law***

***December 2024 update***

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# Sustainability in Business and Law | December 2024

Learn about exciting initiatives demonstrating our progress in alignment with our faculty priority Sustainable Development Goals.



## Gender equality

## Gender equality: what's taking us so long?

According to the United Nations, the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030.

At the current rate, it will take 300 years to end child marriage, 286 years to close gaps in legal protection and remove discriminatory laws, and 140 years to achieve equal representation in leadership in the workplace.



Issues such as poverty, education, and global health all contribute to this gender imbalance. However, what are the root causes and how can we accelerate the activity that will have a real impact and bring us closer to a truer global equality?

Discover more about gender equality, the latest insights from current research, and the areas where further exploration is needed, in this video introduction featuring our goal advisor, Professor Richard Oloruntoba, and his colleagues in the video above.

## Financial literacy workshops for women at risk

The second financial literacy workshop for 2024 took place in Kalgoorlie in August with a successful turnout. We have plans to expand this program to more regional, rural and remote areas where women need financial advice.

The workshops offer women an opportunity to gain invaluable practical insights to kick-start their financial journey and enhance their overall well-being.



## Empowering Women in Regional Communities

Professor Jane Coffey from the School of Management and Marketing, alongside Hannah Wilkinson from FBL Student Engagement, led the 'Career Ready in the Regions' workshop in Carnarvon.

In collaboration with the RRR Network and the Gascoyne Development Commission, this transformative two-day event equipped women with essential tools to navigate their current and future career journeys. The initiative focused on building participants' confidence and skills, empowering them to break barriers and seize new career opportunities. The Shire of Carnarvon CEO, Amanda Dexter, also participated, sharing her personal career story and engaging with attendees.

Since its launch, the 'Career Ready in the Regions' workshop series has connected with over 130 women across Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Karratha, Broome, Narrogin, Albany, Bunbury, and now Carnarvon. Each workshop highlights the importance of fostering professional growth and supporting the aspirations of women in regional areas.

## SDG Collaborative Research Project

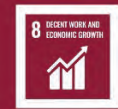
Energy Transition and Gender Equality in Australia and South Africa – Hiroaki Suenage, Helen Cabalu.

## White Ribbon Australia

The Faculty of Business and Law was proud to support White Ribbon Australia throughout the month of November, raising funds to support their programs to end gendered violence. Funds raised will directly support WRA with their primary prevention programs, to stop violence against women before it starts, with advocating for policy changes at government levels, and through education programs undertaken in schools, workplaces and communities across Australia.







## Decent work and economic growth

### 2024 WTO public forum

Dr Sharmin Tania, Lecturer at Curtin Law School recently organised a panel for the 2024 World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum, themed '*Re-globalization: Better Trade for a Better World*'.



Her panel, titled 'Green Policies for Inclusive Trade and Climate Justice', was held in Geneva and brought together a distinguished group of experts including:

- Associate Professor Ilaria Espa, USI Lugano and Senior Research Fellow at the World Trade Institute, Switzerland.
- Associate Professor Zaker Ahmad, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, and Georg Forster Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Göttingen, Germany.
- Dr Al Amin Pramanik, Economic Minister at the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, Geneva.

Dr Tania had the privilege of moderating the 70-minute session and the panel engaged in a thought-provoking discussion about making trade-related climate policies inclusive for least developed, low-income, and small island developing countries.

They explored concepts like climate justice, equitable green transitions, and technology transfer within the WTO's multilateral framework. To access the session's audio, [click here](#).

### Dimensions and prevalence of decent work in Australia

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre, in partnership with HESTA, has released new research on decent work in Australia, aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG8), which promotes decent work and economic growth.

The research suggests that decent work, characterised by job security, good work conditions, manageable stress, and flexibility, contrasts with precarious work. Using data from the HILDA survey, the report tracks trends in decent work across various industries and demographics.

The Centre, established in 2012 at Curtin University, aims to improve understanding of economic and social issues impacting Australians.



## Curtin University and Rio Tinto Iron Ore collaboration

There has been an exciting collaboration between Curtin University and Rio Tinto Iron Ore (RTIO) to design a series of professional development masterclasses for the RTIO Leadership Excellence Program for Superintendents.

Delivered by the RTIO Leadership Academy, the program aims to establish a consistent standard of leadership that fosters a physically and psychologically safe workplace.

The five one-day Curtin Executive Education masterclasses cover essential topics such as Project Management, Managerial Effectiveness, Leading Diversity, and Emotional Intelligence and Psychological Resilience.

## Mental awareness, respect and safety (MARS)

The recent launch of the MARS Landmark Study Report: Insights from the worker survey and interviews at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre was attended by more than 200 mining industry stakeholders and joined by a panel of mining industry leaders.

John Curtin Distinguished Professor Sharon Parker (CTWD) unpacked key insights and practical strategies that will help improve the health, safety and wellbeing of workers and others in the mining industry.

## Highschool outreach empowers students

The Faculty of Business and Law outreach team recently held their first-ever Business Innovation Bootcamp for high school students during the October school holidays. During the program students transformed their business ideas into tangible prototypes and presented them to the university community.

## Gender, violence and institutions

The Curtin Node for the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) hosted the first Seminar of their series: Gender, Violence and Institutions. FBL were delighted to host BCEC Adjunct Professor Lewis Davis, who presented his paper, Cultural Foundations of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Rights.

## Industry Engagement Scheme Research Project

Bridging the Tax Gap in Indonesia – **Stephanie Bruce, Dale Pinto** and **Jim McMillan**.





## Reduced inequalities

### Industry Yarning Circle



The Centre for Applied Ethics hosted an Industry Yarning Circle at Bentley Campus to commemorate the anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The event was successfully led by Associate Professor Tuguy Esgin, Dean of Indigenous Engagement in the Faculty of Business and Law, in collaboration with Professor Anthony J. Langlois, Stan Perron Dean of Applied Ethics; Nurul Huda Sanny Yap, Project Coordinator; Alice Pritchard-Davies, Head of Advancement; and Isabelle Monteleone, Advancement Officer.

There was a 'Welcome to Country' by Aunty Robyn Collard, supported by Tyrse Rioli on the didgeridoo. Guest speakers included Jody Nunn, CEO of Reconciliation WA; Tim Milsom, Executive Officer of the Noongar Chamber of Commerce; and Dr Veronica Goerke, Senior Advisor for Equity and Inclusion at Curtin University.

Participants engaged in transformative activities including a Yarning Circle that fostered creativity, listening, knowledge sharing and connection. The event was positively received by everyone, affirming our collective commitment to reconciliation conversations.

## Successful ARC Linkage outcomes

Enormous congratulations to colleagues who were successful in being awarded ARC Linkage grants recently.

John Curtin Distinguished Prof Rachel Ong ViforJ, Prof Steven Rowley, A/Prof Amity James (School of Accounting, Economics and Finance), A/Prof Emma Power, Sophia Petrov, John

Irvine and Michelle Blakeley have been awarded \$256,946 for their project looking at delivering housing solutions that meet older people's housing aspirations.

Dr Russel Kingshott, John Curtin Distinguished Prof Piyush Sharma, Prof Amy Tian, Dr Sandra Martain (School of Management and Marketing) and Henrietta Podgorska have been awarded \$105,665 for their project which will look at optimising cost-effective services to the aged CaLD community.

## Walk for reconciliation



The Walk for Reconciliation is the closing event in Reconciliation WA's National Reconciliation Week program.

This year a cohort of FBL staff attended the walk at Langley Park, Boorloo (Perth), which featured a Welcome to Country and key speakers before the commencement of the Walk, with multiple Smoking Ceremony fire pits for the walkers to pass through, before ending in solidarity at the Supreme Court Gardens.

## Curtin Tax Clinic funding report

The Curtin Tax Clinic's final report following the conclusion of grant funding provided by the National Indigenous Australians Agency outlined numerous successful outcomes.





Over the course of 12 months this funding enabled the CTC to assist 798 clients by lodging 1,443 tax returns which resulted in tax refunds totalling \$460,569. In addition to this, the team provided numerous educational seminars and workshops to boost the financial literacy of participants based in metropolitan, regional and remote areas in WA, while also assisting with other tax-related matters such as setting up myGov and consolidating superannuation accounts.

## Curtin scholarships celebration event

The recent event celebrating the recipients of Curtin Scholarships was attended by approximately 200 donors, scholarship recipients and Curtin colleagues to network and hear first-hand the transformational power a scholarship can provide.

FBL students Lilia Pearce and Caleb Shipp were recipients of the John Curtin Undergraduate Scholarship, Ebony Whitney received the Julia Gillard Women in Leadership Scholarship, and Christine Scrutton was the recipient of the Capital Partners Scholarship in Financial Planning.

## Enactus team victorious in national competition

Enormous congratulations to the team of five FBL students who took out first place at the 2024 ENACTUS Nationals in the Early-Stage Projects. The Early-Stage round is for projects in their infancy which operates as a validation opportunity for participants.

Team members Regina Ndossi, Nandini Joshi, Tasmin Cilliers, Harry Bidewell and Abbey Higgins created a program called 'SkillUp' to empower and educate individuals about financial literacy in low SES or rural communities globally.

## Curtin's Community Pantry

As a faculty we committed to a donation drive for the Curtin Community Pantry and were thrilled at the overall generosity as we collected an impressive array of essential food and supplies. CCP has been a crucial resource for many Curtin students.

## Bank West Curtin Economics Centre reports

Bank West Curtin Economics Centre recently published their 2024 reports:

- [Gender Equity Insights 2024: The changing nature of part-time work in Australia - BCEC](#)
- [Employment and disability in Australia: Improving employment outcomes for people with disability – BCEC](#)

## Industry Engagement Scheme Research Project

Building Research Networks of Accessible/Universal Design: Meeting the Challenges of Innovative Technologies – Luke Butcher, Nik Thompson and Isaac Cheah.







## Responsible production and consumption

### Leaders as Changemakers



In this video, hear from Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Sonia Dickinson and Thomas Griebel, General Manager, Faculty of Business and Law as they discuss the pledges made during their recent Carbon Literacy Training.

### Students as Changemakers

Read how Curtin students are engaging with the Carbon Literacy Program: [Carbon Literacy Program 2024 - News at Curtin | Curtin University, Perth, Australia](#)

### Sustainable Supply Chains

Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management and Logistics, Liz Jackson, recently received a front cover and four-page write up on broken links in mining supply chains in the Australian Mining Review, as well as presenting at the 2024 End Food Waste Summit.

### SDG collaborative research projects:

- Fast-Track The Transition to Plant-Based Meat - The Roles of Effective Communication – Patrick Duong, Billy Sung and Sean Lee. SDG 12
- Real world impact: The Effects of a Student-led Project on Changing Plastic Consumption Behaviours at Curtin – Bridget Tombleson, Katharina Wolf, Tanya Muscat and Robyn Ouschan. SDG 12



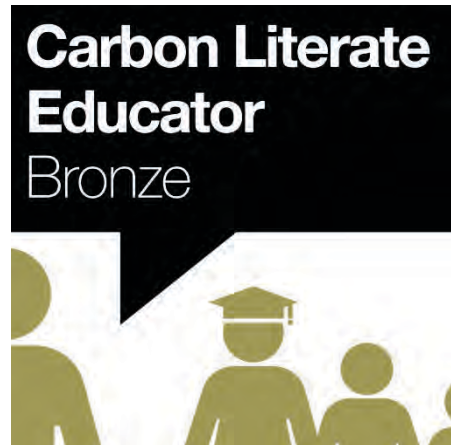


## Climate action

### Carbon literacy bronze accreditation

We are thrilled to announce that we have been accredited as a Bronze Carbon Literate Educator by the UN-recognised Carbon Literacy Project. This prestigious accreditation recognises our commitment to embed climate education and action, through Carbon Literacy, into our educational institution and ethos, and facilitate a cultural shift toward a zero-carbon society.

There are now 100,000 Carbon Literate people worldwide, and both staff and students from the Curtin Faculty of Business and Law are among them!



Two Carbon Literacy training programs have been held this year and we were proud to see representation from Curtin MBA Programs, the Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics, the Curtin Institute of Energy Transition and students from various disciplines.

This cohort is crucial role in embedding Carbon Literacy principles and sustainable development into our curriculum, ensuring future leaders are equipped to drive change.

### ESG evolutions: How to respond and change

The Curtin Centre for Applied Ethics hosted a series of industry events ESG Evolutions: How to Respond and Change, providing industry professionals and academics an opportunity to network and be part of the conversations needed to stay ahead of the curve in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. The events include a strong line-up of panellists from across Australia.

- ✓ Navigating New Climate Reporting Standards: This panel event illuminated the latest in ESG reporting, empowering organisations to navigate the new reporting standards.
- ✓ The Human Side of the Energy Transition: Exploring the social opportunities and risks associated with the transition to clean renewable energy and a low carbon future.
- ✓ Governance - WA & The Future of Critical Minerals: Getting Governance Right: The final session delved into the evolving ESG landscape in Western Australia.



## Greenwashing and climate action

Research Assistant Keegan Roberson appeared in this SBS article [The 'dark arts' tactic that could be a major threat to Australia's climate goals](#) where he was quoted on the topic of 'greenwashing' a term that refers to the gap between promises made and actions taken by companies on environmental and climate goals.

## Cleaning up the community

The Sustainable Collective at Curtin (SCC) facilitated a clean-up at Cottesloe Beach. The SCC is a club open to Curtin University students and associates from all faculties and at all knowledge levels. Their goal is to foster a sustainable Curtin community, encourage curiosity around sustainability, and promote access to sustainable ways of living.

## Addressing weather extremes in southeast Asia

An International Symposium on Addressing Weather Extremes in Southeast Asian cities was in May at Curtin University. The purpose of the event was to facilitate a knowledge sharing platform and showcase key findings of a two-year project on "Are city climate plans adequate for mitigating weather extremes? An investigation of Southeast Asian Cities." – funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) initiative.

## Vietnam and Australia commit to climate change

Curtin University, through the Curtin Institute of Technology, Curtin Faculty of Business and Law and Curtin Executive Education is proud to be part of Australia supporting Vietnam to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. It has provided support through the Vietnam Australia Centre to host a series of short courses aimed at exchanging expertise and strengthening greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory capacity. [This video shares some of the highlights of the recent program.](#)

## ABDC award for transformative action and innovative approaches to climate change

Robyn Ouschan and Abhijeet Singh are part of the ABDC/PRME Working Group, alongside representatives from seven other Australian and New Zealand universities.

The Working Group received the 'ABDC Award for Transformative Action and Innovative Approaches to Climate Change'. This award recognises the group's innovative delivery of the Carbon Literacy Program (accredited by the UK's Carbon Literacy Trust) to academic and professional staff across Australia and New Zealand, with over 100 participants certified as Carbon Literate in 2023-24.







## Peace, justice and strong institutions

### Australia Africa University Network Africa Forum 2024

We were delighted to host Professor Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences at the University of Pretoria.

The visit marked an exciting step forward in strengthening the partnership between the two institutions.



Discussions centred on fostering collaboration in key areas such as joint research, scholarship opportunities, student mobility, and staff exchange programs. We look forward to a future filled with new opportunities and deeper collaboration between our universities.

The FBL research team were part of a wider collaboration awarded a grant by Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) grant to assist in developing transformational learning experiences via virtual study tours for our students who can't attend in person tours because of financial limits, family commitments or work.

### Australian Student Equity Symposium

The Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success brought together university leaders, policymakers, student representatives, equity practitioners, media, and other experts in the sector for the inaugural Access, Achievement, Accord 2024: The Australian Student Equity Symposium.

Attendees engaged in insightful discussions and collaborative sessions that addressed the critical issue of equity in higher education. The exchange of innovative ideas and best practices has set the stage for implementing the recommendations of the Australian Universities Accord.



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