

Science Meets Parliament 2024
Report from Simon Egerton, Latrobe University

I thoroughly enjoyed the diverse range of attendees at the event, some of the people I met with included researchers in ancient DNA analysis, material science, astronomy, and professionals from Australia's nuclear research centre. One of the highlights of the event was receiving a straightforward and practical guide on how to effectively engage with politicians. The advice was clear: be direct, state your request upfront, and then elaborate on your research and project. This approach was both refreshing and insightful.

The experience of walking through Parliament House and having the opportunity to meet a senator was inspiring. It provided a rare chance to communicate the real-world impact of our research to someone who understands the potential national impact and can support our aims and objectives. Additionally, the breakout sessions were highly valuable, offering a platform for networking and exchanging innovative research ideas. Although these sessions sometimes overlapped with member visits, they were still extremely beneficial.

Overall, I would highly recommend this event as an excellent venue for networking and for testing new research ideas with direct access to key decision-makers in government. The opportunity to interact with such a multidisciplinary group of scientists across all career stages and to discuss our work with policymakers was both unique, reflective, and valuable.