

Biographical note:

Dr Susannah Elliott FTSE
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Science Media Centre

Susannah has a PhD in cell and developmental biology from Macquarie University, a Graduate Diploma in Journalism from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and an honorary doctorate in science communication from the University of Adelaide. In 2023 she was elected as a fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).



With over 25 years of experience, Susannah has dedicated her career to bridging the gap between science and the media. Her journey began as a research scientist, studying the fascinating soil creatures known as slime moulds at Macquarie University and Stanford University. Following her PhD, she transitioned to science communication, leading the UTS Centre for Science Communication in the 1990s. During this time she helped launch significant initiatives such as the Horizons of Science forums and the popular outreach programs, Science in the Bush and Science in the Pub, in collaboration with the Australian Science Communicators.

In 2000, Susannah took her expertise to Stockholm as the Director of Communications for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), a global research organisation focused on environmental change. She returned to Australia in 2005 to co-found the Australian Science Media Centre in Adelaide, where she has played a pivotal role in promoting scientific evidence in the media.

In 2010-11 she chaired the Expert Working Group on Science and the Media for the Federal government, producing a report, *Science and the Media: From Ideas to Action*, and in February 2011 was appointed to the national Climate Commission until May 2012. In 2020-2021 she chaired the Expert Working Group on Communication for the Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Taskforce set up by the South Australian Government in the wake of the 2019/20 bushfires.

She is a member of the Inspiring South Australia Steering Committee, a judge on the Eureka and Walkley science journalism awards and gives speeches and media interviews on science and the media.

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