25 years of empowering women in STEM

For 25 years – long before it was a hot topic on the political agenda – Women in Technology (WiT) has been advocating for gender equality on behalf of women studying or working in professions within information technology and other fields across Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Ms Lisa Cawthorne, General Manager of Women in Technology, says creating a supportive community environment that empowers women to thrive and progress as STEM professionals and leaders plays a crucial in helping to bridge this gap.

"We were the first organisation to bring women from all STEM disciplines, all ages and all career levels together in a single, inclusive community," says Lisa.

"We empower women to unlock their potential and create a thriving career within STEM by providing opportunities for women to experience a sense of belonging and build meaningful connections; to develop the mindset, confidence and essential skills needed to build a thriving career; and gain the recognition they deserve for their contributions towards advancing research, policy, social and economic development."

According to Australia's STEM Workforce Report 2020, published by the Office of the Chief Scientist, digital innovation is expected to deliver $315 billion in gross economic value to Australia between 2020-2030.

Yet in 2022 women are still significantly underrepresented in many STEM professions – especially within information technology – an inequity that urgently needs to be addressed if Australia is to take full advantage of future opportunities provided by STEM-driven industries and a more global, digital economy.

Ms Cawthorne says that creating an environment where women can thrive as STEM professionals and progress as leaders is a shared responsibility between organisations like WiT, the government, academia, industry, advocacy groups, individual workplaces and the wider community.

"It is crucial for WiT to continue joining forces with tech companies, start-ups, small businesses, government agencies, major universities, research enterprises, and large corporations," says Lisa.

"Collectively, we can work towards creating a fairer and more equitable society where all Australians have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from Australia's growing digital economy and thriving STEM industries. Because together, we are stronger."

As a member-based organisation with more than 8,000 members and affiliates and 48,500 supporters, WiT relies on the funding support from partners and sponsors to provide a supportive community environment for members and deliver the 40+ programs and events (including our flagship WiT Awards) that are critical to the organisation's purpose of unlocking the potential of women in technology and across the wide world of STEM.

WiT offers a range of partnership options that can be tailored to align with the needs of businesses and organisations of all sizes.

For more information about partnership opportunities with Women in Technology, please contact Lisa Cawthorne, General Manager of Women in Technology, via email: secretariat@wit.org.au or call 0430 219 091.

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About Women in Technology

As one of Australia's most respected and active member-based associations, Women in Technology (WiT) is dedicated to supporting, developing, recognising and promoting the achievements of women in science and technology through advocacy, networking, career development and mentoring. The prestigious WiT Awards is an annual celebration that formally recognises the outstanding achievements of women across STEM and the important contribution they make to research, policy, economic and social development in Queensland and Australia.

WiT was founded in 1997 when a small group of Queensland women came together to share their aspirations and find understanding and solutions for the challenges they faced as women pioneers in technology.

The grassroots network has since grown to be one of Australia's largest communities supporting women across all STEM fields – with more than 8,000 members and affiliates and 48,500 supporters in its network.

Our values

FUTURE FOCUSED
We embrace change and learning opportunities to advance the skills and careers of our community.

STRONGER TOGETHER
We leverage the power of our network to foster professional relationships and partnerships.

WE LIFT EACH OTHER UP
Incredible things happen when we support, guide and trust each other.

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE
We celebrate our success and achievements to inspire the next generation of leaders.

WE ARE THE CHANGE
We challenge the status quo by advocating for women in STEM with courage and respect.

To learn more about WiT visit: **wit.org.au**