



Engineers Australia 2025 Federal Election Asks

Engineering is the essential link between thinking and doing, between ideas and implementation. **Engineers Australia calls on the Australian Government to adopt the following four solutions** to strengthen the national engineering workforce.

01 Engineering surge

The Australian Government should secure Australia's future through a boost to our national engineering capability. A national engineering surge could be informed by engaging Engineers Australia to deliver rapid-response report with five key actions to dismantle existing obstacles and **strengthen the engineering pipeline** from school through to skilled migration.

02 Graduate target

The Australian Government should set a target for **60,000 additional engineering graduates over the next decade**. Setting a target would catalyse universities, industry and governments to collaborate on strengthening this essential professional pipeline.

03 Engineers in government

The Australian Government should establish additional senior engineering roles in the Australian Public Service, including a **National Chief Engineer**. This would ensure access for public decision-makers to critical technical and systems advice to inform procurement, programs and policy – addressing cost overruns, risk and resilience, and ensuring the best, integrated, sustainable outcomes for Australians.

04 Diversity in STEM

The Australian Government should respond in full to the **2024 Pathways to Diversity in STEM report**, implementing its recommendations for stable and sustainable action to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM.

About Engineers Australia

As Australia's national body for engineering, we are the voice and champion of our 130,000-plus members. We provide them with the resources, connections and opportunities necessary to grow to do ethical, competent and high-value work in our communities. A mission-based, not-for-profit professional association, Engineers Australia is constituted by Royal Charter to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.

Engineers Australia maintains national professional standards, benchmarked against international norms. As Australia's signatory to the International Engineering Alliance, this includes accreditation of undergraduate university engineering programs.

01 Engineering surge

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- Australia faces critical engineering workforce challenges, including skill shortages, mobility barriers, and declining STEM participation.
- Without action, these issues will impede economic growth, infrastructure, and emerging industries.
- Evidence-based solutions are needed to strengthen the engineering pipeline from school to skilled migration.
- Engineers Australia's expertise ensures practical, high-impact actions for swift implementation.
- Collaboration across industry, education, and government will drive workforce sustainability and national prosperity.



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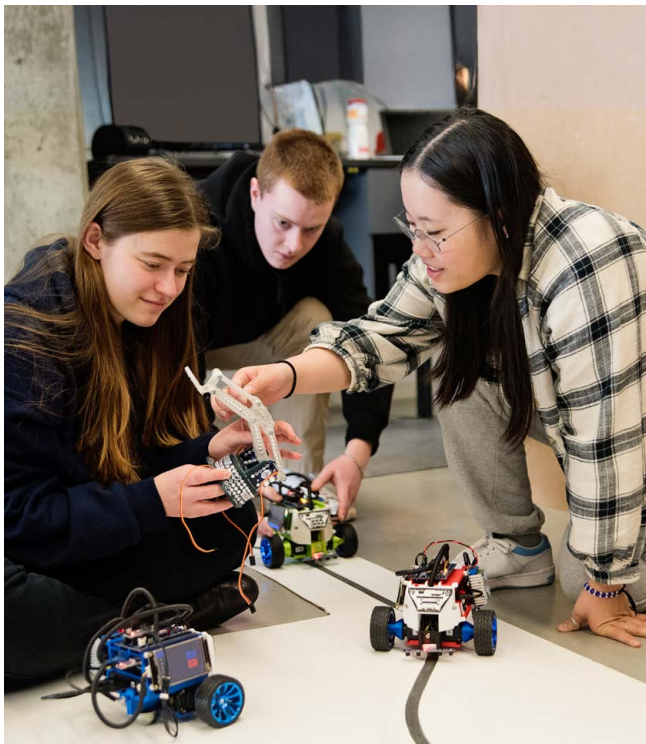
- Australia's rising demand for engineers due to economic growth, infrastructure, and emerging industries makes reliance on migration unsustainable.
- Strengthening domestic pathways, improving retention, and aligning education with industry needs are key.
- A national target of 60,000 additional graduates by 2035 will drive collaboration between government, universities, and industry.
- Engineers Australia's research supports this target, aligning with Universities Accord reforms to enhance access and industry connections.

03

Engineers in government

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- A National Chief Engineer would provide strategic oversight for major projects and infrastructure.
- Aligning with the Thodey Review, an engineering profession stream in the APS would embed technical expertise and strengthen procurement and policy scrutiny, cutting inefficiencies and boosting public confidence.
- A 10 per cent reduction in project overruns could save billions for reinvestment in essential services.



04

Diversity in STEM

The Australian Government should respond in full to the **2024 Pathways to Diversity in STEM report**, implementing its recommendations for stable and sustainable action to increase diversity and inclusion in STEM.

- Systemic, sustainable action is needed to improve diversity and inclusion in STEM to meet future skills demands.
- The 2024 Pathways to Diversity in STEM report outlines 11 recommendations on leadership, workplace safety, lifelong learning, and valuing diverse knowledge.
- Despite a 2025 commitment, progress has been slow, and immediate action is needed to future-proof Australia's STEM workforce.
- A diverse engineering workforce drives innovation and better outcomes for communities.

Read our *Engineering Tomorrow* report with research, data, and evidence supporting these recommendations.



A snapshot of engineering in Australia



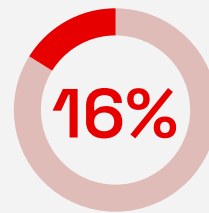
Australia has

545,000

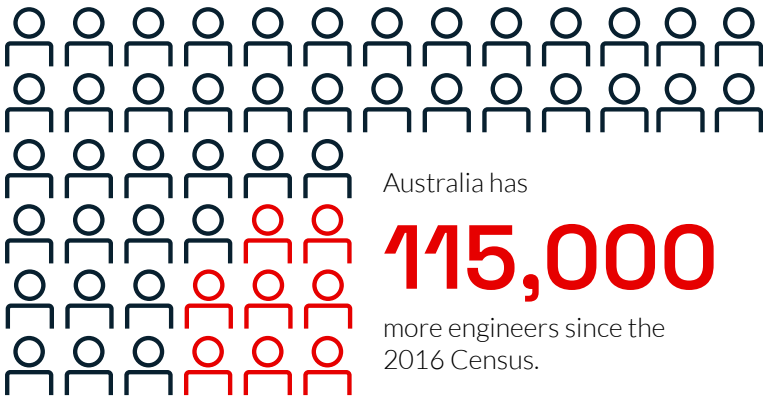
engineers with about 80% in the workforce.



of engineers (243,000) work in engineering occupations.



of engineers are women (around 87,000), with 75% of them born overseas.



60%

of Australia's engineers were born overseas.



The OECD reports a decline in Australian students' performance in mathematics since 2003 and in science since 2012.



Higher education commencements in engineering study in Australia, for domestic students have plateaued since 2014.



STEM

Demand in science, technology, engineering and mathematics occupations are predicted to **increase by over 12% in coming years.**

Increasing subject uptake and raising awareness of engineering is crucial to boosting domestic supply.

A strong engineering workforce is vital for Australia's prosperity, driving GDP growth, improving productivity, fostering innovation, and creating jobs.