



International
Centre for
Radio
Astronomy
Research

Stargirls+: Helping Girls+ Reach for the Stars

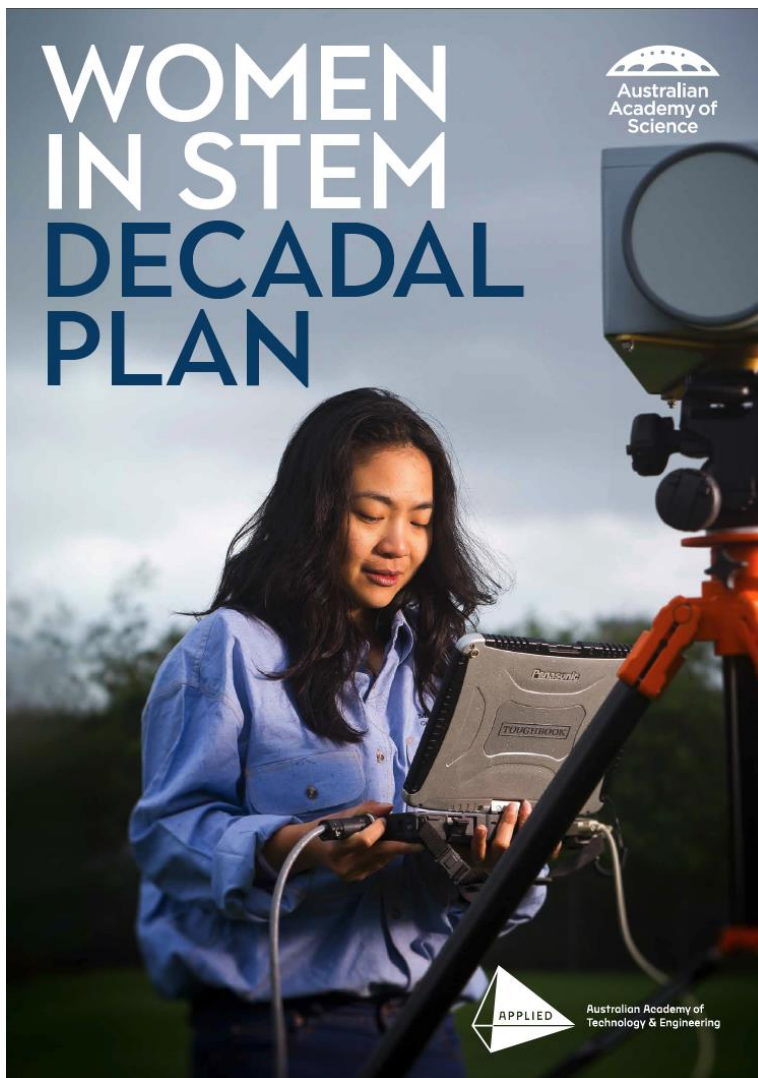
Presented by: Leah Kalimeris
(she/her)
Tim Young
(he/they)



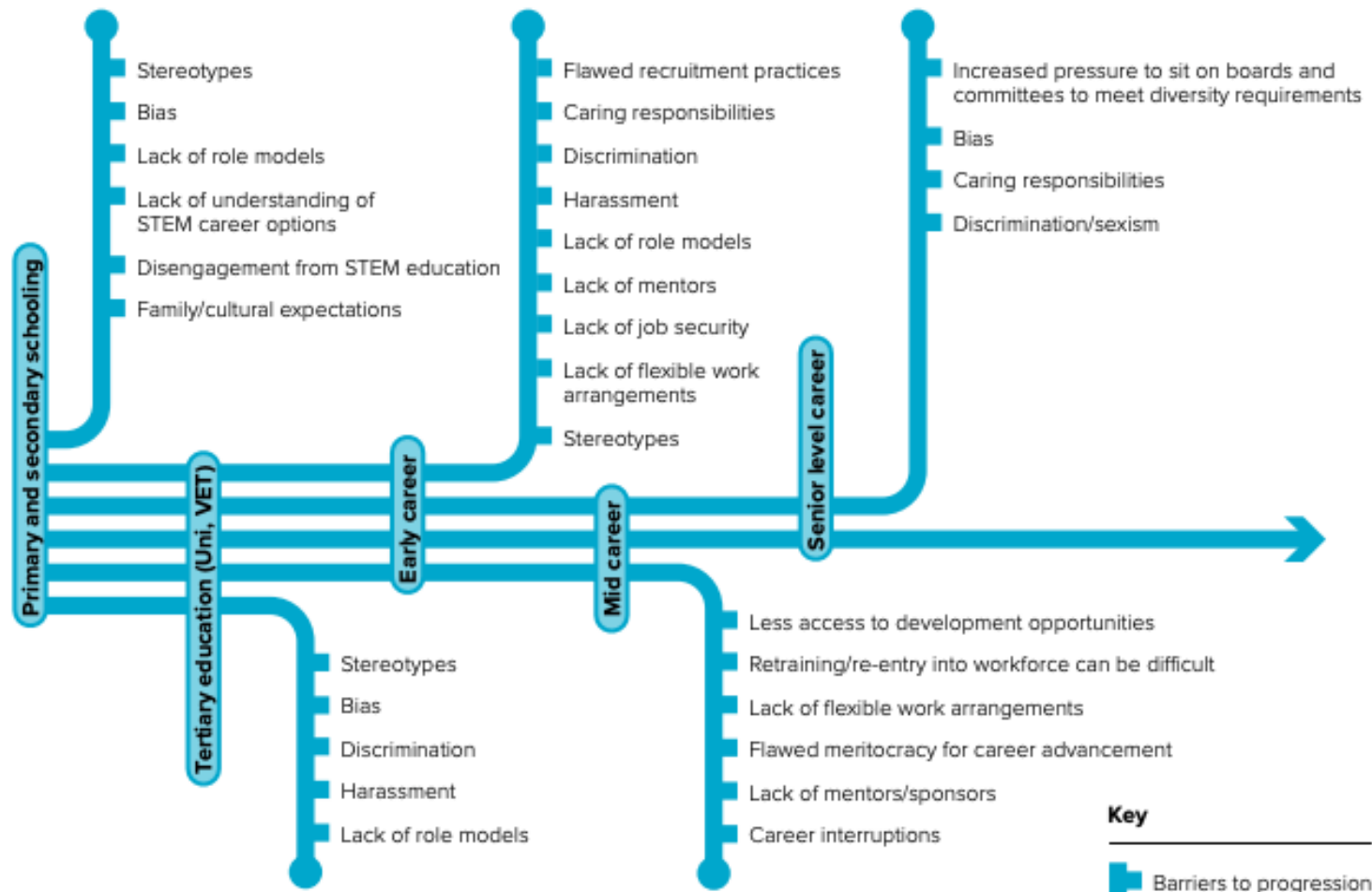
ICRAR is a joint venture between Curtin University and The University of Western Australia and receives support from the Western Australian and Australian Governments.



Women in STEM & the Leaky Pipeline



CAREER PROGRESSION PIPELINE

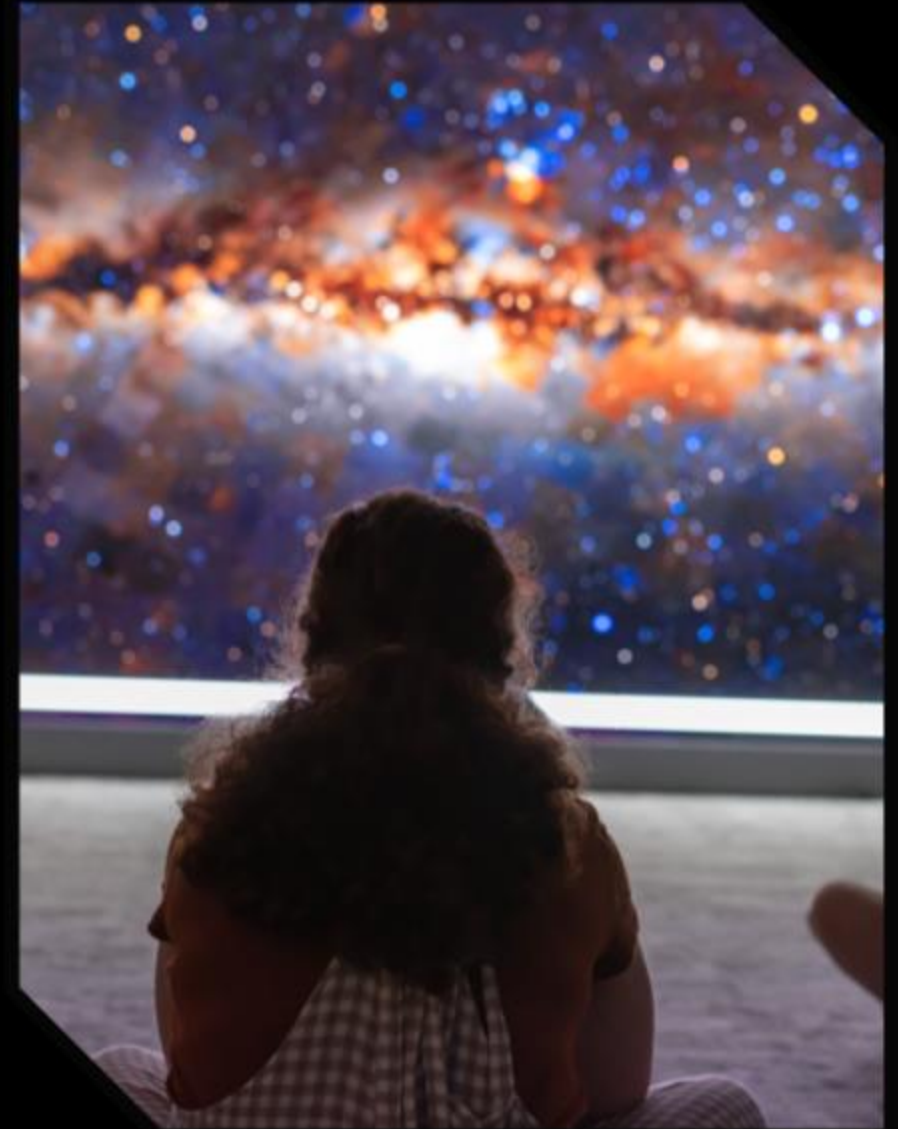




Stargirls+ STEM Camp – An ICRAR Initiative

Key objectives of the program:

- Provide opportunities for young women & non-binary students to practice STEM.
- Present role models of women at different career stages in a STEM field.
- Encourage more women & non-binary students into further STEM education and careers.
- Raise the profiles of the SKA, astronomical research, and related career paths in WA.





What the program involves



Hands on skill workshops



Accessing research grade telescopes



Learning to use a telescope



Talks with leading astronomers



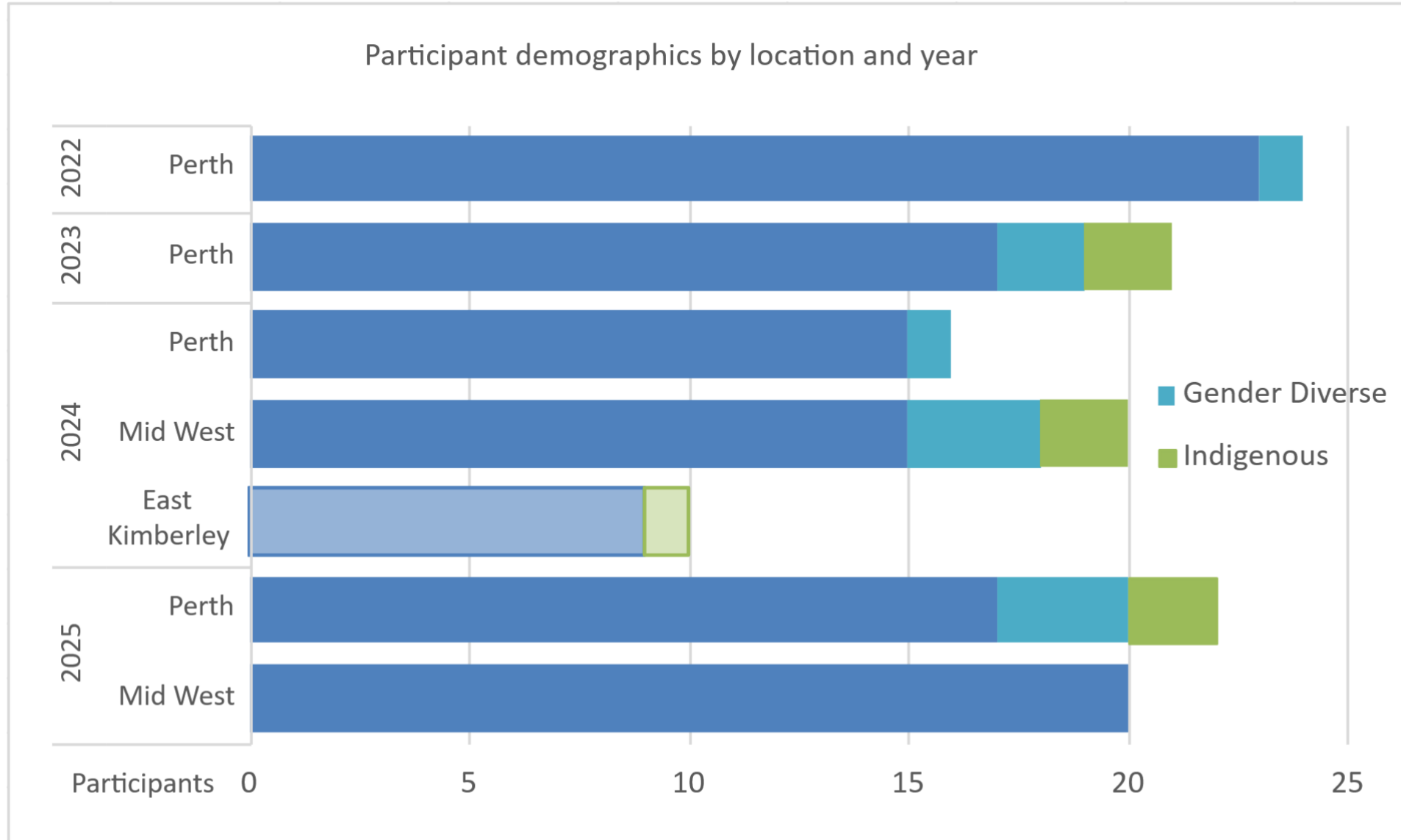
Family stargazing night



Visiting Pawsey

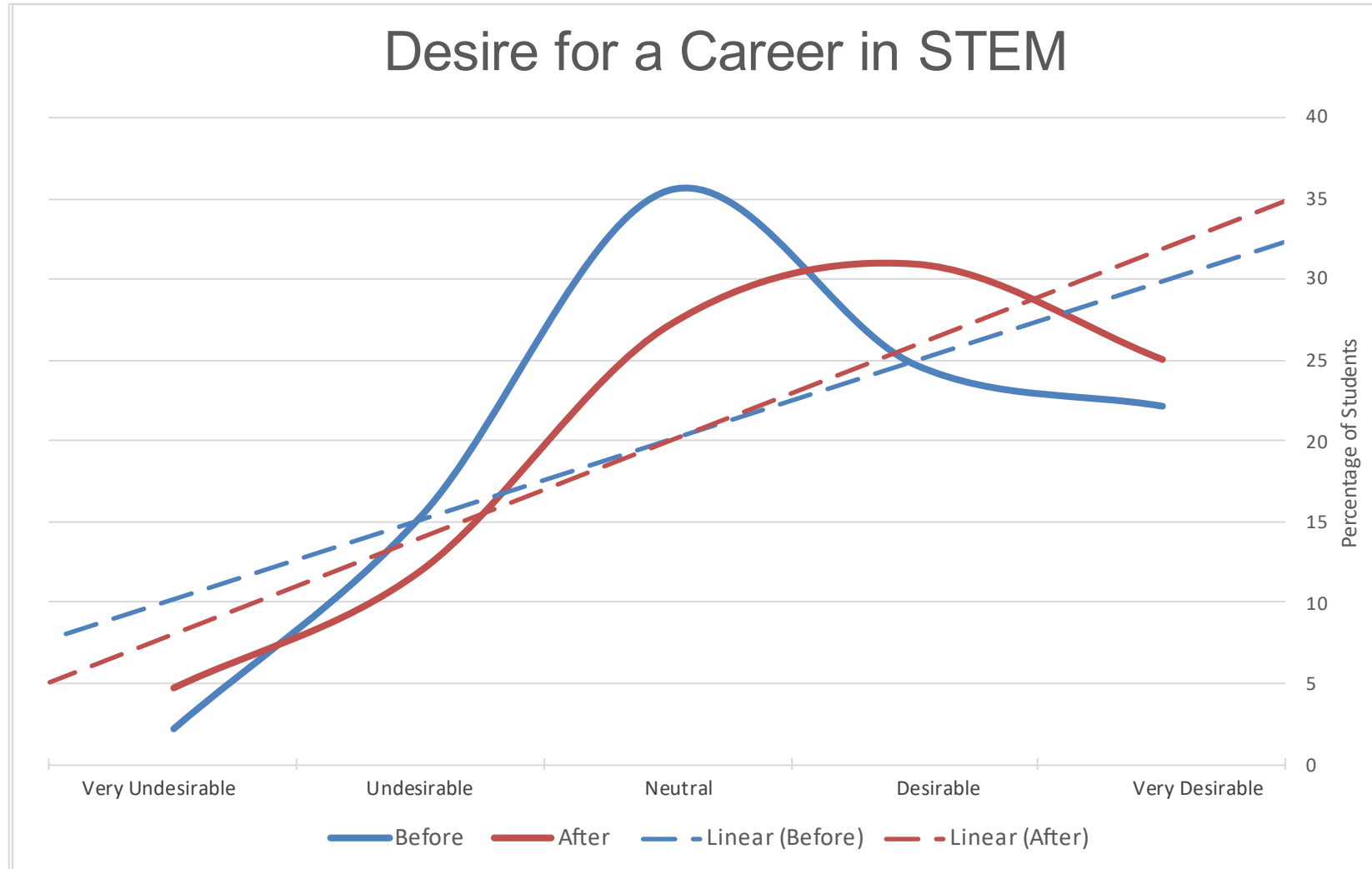


Stargirls+ by the numbers



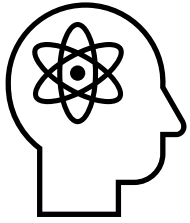


Impact on career aspiration





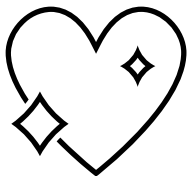
Impact on overall change



31% Increase in scientific literacy



44% Increase in university intention



80% Increase in confidence



Stargirls+ lasting impressions



What left the greatest impact?

- Talks from professionals
- Speed networking session
- SPIRIT sessions
- Watching 'Beyond the Milky Way'
- Meeting like-minded students





"I enjoyed listening to everyone's ups and downs,
when choosing a career in STEM, such as their
pathways, stories and experiences."

"Hearing from all these amazing women and them proving that we can **change the perception around girls in STEM.**"





"I loved the educational talks – especially when presenters loved what they talking about. When people love talking about their specialty, it makes it more engaging and welcoming. **It makes me want to join this community.**"



"Being able to meet like minded people
my age and people who care about
making the future of science accessible"



Case Study

- Among first Work Experience cohort (model that would influence Stargirls+ design)
- Established ongoing relationship with ICRAR
- Returned to ICRAR for Masters
- Won Astronomical Society of Australia (ASA) prize for Best Masters Dissertation
- PhD candidate at Australian National University (ANU)
- Awarded 2024 Hubble Postdoctoral Fellowship



Longitudinal analysis

Surveys & one-on-one interviews:

- “...had never heard about diversity programs”
- “I didn’t think someone like me could go to university”
- “[surprised at] how many career pathways there were”





What the results are telling us



Positives

- Program has value
- Done at a critical juncture of their career path
- Long term effect on confidence



What the results are telling us



What more can be done?

- Students need ongoing contact to maintain support
- How do we ensure scaffolding can exist throughout their career journey?



What can we all do?

Alumni programs – bringing the students back together

Needs to be more than a “disconnected program”

What can you do – get involved!





To everyone who has helped us out over the years

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Nicole Thomas
Renu Sharma
Rob Howes
Robin Cook
Ruby Wright
Ryan Bunney
Sabine Bellstedt

Sarah Bruzzese
Sarah Pearce
Shane Walsh
Shivani Bhandari
Simon Ellingsen
Stephen Moggach
Susmita Sett
Tom Cox
Venus Chico

Plus:

CSIRO
Girls+ in Engineering
Pawsey Supercomputing
Research Centre
SKA Observatory
UWA Data Institute
White Spark

You have changed the lives of our Stargirls+ students.

♥ **THANK YOU!** ♥