

ECU attends Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Symposium in Brisbane

On 5 and 6 September 2017, six members of ECU's Athena SWAN Self-Assessment Team (SAT) attended the 2017 SAGE Symposium in support of the Athena SWAN Charter Pilot in Australia - hosted by the Science in Australia Gender Equity initiative (SAGE). Participating organisations in the first tranche (there are three streams in the Pilot program) are currently moving into the final stages of drafting applications for a Bronze Level Award accreditation submission (due March 2018).

The agenda packed two day event is a highlight in the SAGE calendar and focused on practical solutions for implementing change in the STEMM sector as well as fostering gender equality best practices which transforms organisational wide culture.

CEO's, Vice-Chancellors, Directors and experts joined forces for a series of presentations and panel discussions, identifying mechanisms that address barriers for women and gender diverse people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and/or people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Day 2 of the event commenced with a National Networking Breakfast where universities, research institutes and organisations shared their ideas for on the ground for action including how best to measure successes moving forward.

Changing culture from within, value in equality, empowerment for all and collective action were just a few of the themes discussed in both national and international contexts. Gender Equity Action 'Café' settings were used to stimulate further dialogue between individuals and members of [Pride in Diversity](#), the [Congress for ATSI Nurses and Midwives](#) and [Beyond...](#) discussed building inclusive environments in the STEMM workplace.

In supporting the application work involved with achieving the Bronze Award accreditation, Sarah Dickinson-Hyams, Head of Equality Charters in the UK (where Athena SWAN has an extensive history), led a constructive workshop on 'thinking like a panellist'. ECU's Dr Carolyn McIntyre was also invited by SAGE as part of the event to attend a 'super STEM communicator' workshop led by [Science and Technology Australia](#).



Picture (L-R): Some of the attending members from the ECU Athena SWAN SAT at the 2017 SAGE Symposium - Susan Stewart, Dr Kwado Adusei-Asante, Chris Gunson, Dr Carolyn McIntyre and Dr Lyndall Adams.