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Winners of the 2025 Queensland Women in STEM Prize announced

Queensland's dedication to driving innovation and fostering diversity in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) was celebrated last night as the winners of the 2025 Queensland Women in STEM Prize were announced.

Now in its tenth year, the annual prize celebrates exceptional women across Queensland whose leadership and innovation in STEM is breaking barriers and shaping a more inclusive and impactful future.

Presented by Queensland Museum, in partnership with the Queensland Government through the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation and the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership and Multiculturalism, the prize highlights the vital contributions of women to Queensland's STEM landscape and aims to inspire the next generation of changemakers.

With a total prize pool of \$30,000, the awards not only acknowledge the remarkable contributions of each recipient but also provide meaningful support for their ongoing work.

The 2025 winners and highly commended recipients exemplify the spirit of innovation and resilience, inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders and reinforcing Queensland's reputation as a hub for scientific and technological advancement.

This year's awards recognised excellence across three categories:

First Nations STEM Award – Dr Bridie Mulholland

A proud Jingili woman and cellular bone and cancer biologist, Dr Mulholland is leading reforms to embed First Nations perspectives in health sciences and medicine. Her work champions culturally safe, strengths-based education, research, and governance, advancing data sovereignty and representation across biomedical research.

Breaking Barriers Award – Dr Nathalie Bock

Biomedical engineer and Deputy Director of the Max Planck Queensland Centre, Dr Bock pioneers research combining materials science and cancer biology to improve outcomes for people with incurable cancer. She leads QUT's Bone & Tumour Bioengineering Research Group, developing human-like tissue models to drive personalised medicine and biotech innovation.

Judges' Award – Associate Professor Joy Wolfram

A global leader in nanomedicine, Associate Professor Wolfram advances next-generation therapeutics with strong clinical and public impact. A passionate educator and diversity advocate, she has transformed STEM teaching and created outreach initiatives like the Nanomedicine Workshop to inspire underrepresented groups.

To see the full list of award finalists, highly commended and winning recipients, visit www.museum.qld.gov.au/about/queensland-women-in-stem-prize

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Queensland Museum CEO Dr Jim Thompson praised the winners for their groundbreaking achievements.

"These awards are a testament to the incredible talent and dedication of Queensland women in STEM," Dr Thompson said.

"Their work is not only advancing knowledge but also inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators. Queensland Museum is proud to celebrate their contributions."

Minister for Education and the Arts, John-Paul Langbroek, congratulated the nominees for their excellence and leadership in the educational fields of STEM.

"The contributions made by this year's winners and finalists reflect the importance of education, curiosity and creative invention in building a strong future for Queensland," Minister Langbroek said.

"The Crisafulli Government is proud to support Queensland Museum in delivering these awards, which recognise and celebrate the women who are trail blazers in their fields, inspiring the state's next generation of knowledge leaders and addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow."

Minister for Women and Women's Economic Security, as well as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Fiona Simpson said the awards highlight the depth of talent across Queensland.

"The achievements of our winners and highly commended finalists are testament to the vital role women play in shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for Queensland," Minister Simpson said.

"These awards send a clear message that women are forging their own path and success in traditionally male-dominated industries, and it's great to see a specific category recognising the achievements of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

"The Crisafulli Government is committed to supporting these women's leadership and celebrating their impact across all sectors of our society."

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, Andrew Powell said science and innovation were the driving forces behind economic growth, powering sovereign capability in key industries such as defence, biofuels, and biomedical.

"Queensland is well-positioned to remain at the forefront of research, development, and innovation, paving the way for a brighter future," Minister Powell said.

"Congratulations to the outstanding winners of this prize, whose contributions are shaping Queensland's progress and strengthening our position as a leader in innovation."

Queensland Chief Scientist, Professor Kerrie Wilson, said Queensland is proud to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of women in STEM.

"These outstanding recipients are not only leaders in their fields, but they are also role models who inspire future generations to see themselves in the STEM workforce and to make a difference through science and technology," Professor Wilson said.

"Their leadership is addressing complex and important issues, from climate science to health and technology, and we are proud to recognise their achievements and amplify their impact."

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