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IRU – Innovation in Action Series

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) is Australia's Innovation Network. As a dynamic group of top 100 universities in the world under 50 years old, partnerships and innovation with industry play a core role in our identity, vision and growth.

With universities all around Australia and 71% of our research classed at world standard or above, IRU's innovative partnerships with industry impact individuals, businesses and communities throughout Australia and the world.

Since their inception, IRU members have engaged in partnership with industry to drive their research agenda. Today almost 25% of the group's research income stems from industry. In addition, IRU universities together account for a 12% share of industry-led Cooperative Research Centre income annually.

Over the next 4 days, IRU will highlight examples of the real world impact of its universities' research conducted in partnership with industry. Apart from the monetary benefits, aspects of this research have social and environmental benefits.

The Dandelion Project – Employment for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

La Trobe University has partnered with the **Department of Human Services (DHS) and Hewlett Packard (HP)** to maximise opportunities for meaningful work for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

In a world first, Professor Cheryl Dissanayake from La Trobe University's Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC) has undertaken a research partnership with HP Australia to seek to understand how having a job impacts the lives of those with ASD. The findings will help to shape optimal future work opportunities, creating job opportunities for people with ASD.

Professor Dissanayake says people with ASD have unique skills and abilities, such as good attention to detail and interest in patterns that deserve to be recognised. As they tend not to do well at interviews, the research focuses on creating a new form of job entry and training and workplace supports.

Grain production in Western Australia – Tsingtao Brewery and Murdoch University

Tsingtao brewery in China has partnered with Murdoch University Professors Cheng Dao Li at Murdoch University to develop new strains of barley to enhance both flavour and shelf life. Tsingtao brewery is a group of 70 breweries across China, employing around 50,000 people and producing 20% of all beer produced in China. Forty percent of the barley used by Tsingtao to brew the beer comes from strains of barley created by Murdoch University Researchers. Murdoch University, through Professor Yonglin Ren, also works with bulk grain storage and transportation companies such as CBH and InterGrain on environmentally friendly non-toxic post-harvest grain protection methods. Recently two joint Australia-China research Centres have been opened.

Further details on the [IRU Collaboration with Industry](#) is available [here](#).

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For comment contact IRU Marketing and Media Advisor, Jo Smith M: 0403 222 528

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