

Australia's Chief Scientist said we must connect the science community and industry.

Australia's chief scientist Dr Cathy Foley said Australia must strengthen the relationship between scientists and industry to aid COVID-19 recovery.

The Prime Minister instructed Dr Foley earlier in the year to "drive collaboration between industry, and the science and research community" to support COVID-19 recovery.

Dr Foley said COVID-19 vaccine development was an example of what occurs when the foundations are in place.

"The pandemic was an international disaster story and a scientific success story," said Dr Foley.

Dr Foley outlined four foundations to build connections: digital capability, STEM education, diversity in the research community, and open access to research.

Dr Sonja Flott from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research, agreed with Dr Foley.

"The rate COVID-19 vaccines have been produced is incredible," Dr Flott said.

Dr Sonja Flott leads three cancer research teams who work alongside pharmaceutical companies to create clinical outcomes.

Cancer research commercialisation at the institute can take more than ten years.

COVID-19 vaccines were developed in less than a year.

Australia is on the cusp of realising some incredible technologies, according to Dr Foley.

She said a drug used to treat COVID-19 was discovered and Artificial Intelligence (AI) took it to market within months.

“Greater adoption of AI could add as much as \$315 billion to the Australian economy by 2030,” said Dr Foley.

Dr Foley said when she began her research career, a scientist’s job was to “publish a paper”.

“Back then, commercialisation wasn’t the mindset,” she said.

Dr Flott said “commercialising research” is important to ensure science makes an impact on society.

“This is how we make sure we don’t find ourselves in the position of inventing something great, then standing on the dock,” said Dr Foley.

Yesterday’s National Press Club Address marked 21 years of Science Meets Parliament, a government funded event allowing scientists to make their case to Parliament.

The event changed how politicians perceived scientific research over the past twenty years.

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Reflection:

The angle of my hard news story is targeted towards readers of the Australian Edition of *The Guardian*. Dr Cathy Foley's National Press Club Speech discusses technical aspects of the scientific research community. Dr Sonja Flott and the Walter and Eliza Institute of Research are not commonly known in Australia. Therefore, my article is targeted towards a publication audience who are interested in reading high-brow news pieces. I believe my article is currently newsworthy as the speech occurred yesterday in Canberra, therefore time and location are relevant to Australian readers. I chose to reference recovery from COVID-19 in the Lede, as most readers would have an invested interest in how our nation is going to recover from a global pandemic.

The function of hard news is to convey facts and information quickly and clearly. In the story I used short and direct sentences that are easy for readers to understand. I found it difficult to remain in active voice, but I resolved this issue by frequently proofreading as I wrote. The story is written in past tense as the event occurred yesterday. I kept the 'inverted pyramid structure' in mind as I wrote, and the most important information is included at the beginning of the story. I reported as objectively as possible, allowing readers to formulate their own opinion after reading the story.

A hard news source should have a representative voice that provides a different and relevant perspective to the story. I found securing an interview with a relevant organisation to be difficult. I contacted many different companies before I found Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research. I called their Media and Communications Manager, Sam, who referred my details to the researchers. As the due date for the assignment was closely approaching I called Sam every day for a week until I received an interview with Dr Sonja Flott. Unfortunately, I had to settle for a phone interview. The interview went relatively smoothly and

I clearly identified myself and what I was using the information for. However, the phonenumber was difficult to hear, and the recording did not work. Luckily, I took notes so I was able to use two quotes for my hard news story.

The temptation to 'make up' quotes was high after I failed to record my interview properly. I decided making up quotes is unfair to Dr Sonja Flott, my news source, and does not adhere to journalistic theory. To avoid misinformation, I only utilised quotes that I had noted down in my interview. I attributed all information to Dr Foley and Dr Flott, to ensure I was not claiming to be writing a confirmed fact. In order to provide more balance in my story, I should have found a hard news source with a different or opposing opinion. For example, a member of government, instead of a fellow research scientist. Balance is important when writing a story objectively as it ensures that both sides have been represented equally.