

2025 Actuaries Institute President Highlights the Power of Collective Solutions

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Actuaries Institute 2025 President Win-Li Toh said at a time when society was witnessing increasing division, extreme views and polarising opinions, actuaries stood out as trusted advisers who were skilled at collaborating with businesses and governments to 'connect the dots', find solutions, and help manage risk.

Actuaries across Australia are being encouraged by Ms Toh to tap into their powers of collaboration to find solutions to societal problems ranging from generational inequality to cyber risks.

"Collaboration creates so many exciting prospects for us as actuaries," said Ms Toh, who is a Principal at Taylor Fry with more than 25 years' experience as an actuary in Australia and internationally. Ms Toh is a pre-eminent expert on cyber risk, authoring two Actuaries Institute papers on cyber risk and the role of insurance. In recognition of her contribution to the industry, Ms Toh is also the recipient of the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance (ANZIIF) Insurance Leader of the Year 2023 award and the Insurance Business Global Insurance top 100 award in 2024.

"We 'speak' a shared, evidence-based language that can bring people with different skills and viewpoints together. And we can do more of it in the future if we truly understand the powers we have."

Ms Toh said by pulling together different data sets and perspectives from many sources, actuaries were tackling "wicked" – or seemingly impossible – problems in a range of non-traditional fields such as data science, artificial intelligence, health, climate change and government services.

Ms Toh also said she believed actuaries needed to have "just enough humility" so they could be objective, independent and focused on the evidence as well as recognise the benefits of drawing on the expertise of others including cyber experts, First Nations leaders and climate scientists.

"Yet while holding onto this humility, we also need to stand up, look out and speak up," she said. "To be confident about our unique skill sets; knowing we're ready to join the dots and help shape solutions to wicked problems for our clients and our communities."

Actuaries Institute CEO Elayne Grace said, "The Actuaries Institute is incredibly fortunate to have Win-Li Toh as our President in 2025.

"Win-Li is recognised locally and internationally as a leading expert in general insurance, cyber risk, and self-insurance.

"In today's complex environment, actuaries can be pivotal in analysing and transforming uncertainty into actionable insights that create value across industries, government and society."

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About the Actuaries Institute and the Profession

As the peak professional body in Australia, the Actuaries Institute represents the profession to government, business and the community, and serves the public interest by using data for good.

Actuaries use data for good by harnessing the evidence to navigate into the future and make a positive impact. They think deeply about the issue at hand, whether it's advising on commercial strategy, influencing policy, or designing new products. Actuaries are adept at balancing interests of stakeholders, clients, and communities. They're called upon to give insight on complex problems, they'll look at the full picture. Actuaries analyse the data and model scenarios to form robust and outcome-centred advice.