



Sam Zheng

FIAA, Co-founder and Director 477 Studio, 2026 Actuary of the Year

[LinkedIn](#) | [Email](#)

Nominated by (alphabetical order)

Louis Lee
Jon Shen
Sunny Zhou

Nominee Statement

I'm standing for Council because AI is changing what actuaries do, and I have spent the last 10 years building it.

My path hasn't been a traditional one. I started as a pricing actuary at Suncorp and Zurich, moved into data science at Quantum, then co-founded two AI companies: Hyper Anna (Series A led by Sequoia, acquired by Alteryx) and Curious Thing (backed by Westpac's Reinventure, sold to MaxContact in 2025).

Today I run 477 Studio, helping organisations become AI-native, and I'm a Venture Partner at Antler Australia and an angel investor. This year the Institute named me the 2026 Actuary of the Year.

I know what AI can and can't do as a builder, and I see every week how different organisations are using it and what changes for them. That is what the Institute's strategy, Reach and Impact in the Age of AI, needs at the table. AI brings our profession real uncertainty and real opportunity. The profession trained me and I want to play my part in helping it make the most of it. I'm committing to the full three-year term.

Service to the Institute

- Presenter, Young Actuaries Conference, 2026
- Presenter, AI Con Sydney, 2024
- Presenter, Managing the Hot Topics in Risk, with Rade Musulin and Ying Gu, Actuaries Institute, 2024
- Panellist, Actuaries Institute Podcast - Enhancing Businesses with Large Language Models and ChatGPT, 2023
- Contributor, Driven by Data: Insights from an actuarial entrepreneur podcast, 2022
- Speaker, Data Forum plenary - Natural Language Processing, Conversational AI and the Data Driven Future, 2019