

Annual Report 2025

Making STEM education
accessible for everyone





Committed Engagement

Committed industry partners worked with the CoRE Learning Foundation to address declining undergraduate earth science enrolments in Western Australia through engaging, future-focused STEM initiatives. Together, we delivered immersive learning experiences across WA classrooms using the CoRE Learning Model, CoRE Games, and the launch of the Pilbara CoRE Academy in 2025.

By working closely with educators, CoRE connected STEM learning to real mining career pathways, building students' skills, confidence, and awareness of opportunities in the and mining and energy sectors. Inclusive industry engagement, through shared insights, experiences, and success stories, played a key role in inspiring students. Through these meaningful partnerships, CoRE is helping reignite interest in STEM degrees while supporting a strong, sustainable future for WA's resources industry.

Impact

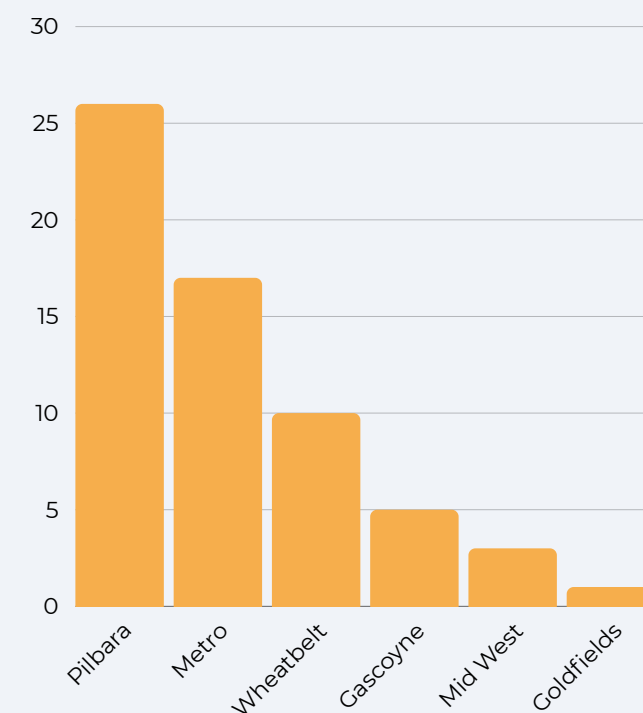
Western Australian CoRE Schools

Growth in 2025

In partnership with industry, CoRE aims to transform education across Western Australia, including the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Midwest, Wheatbelt, Goldfields, Southwest, and Metro regions through hands-on STEM learning that connects classroom education to real-world applications and future industry careers.

Classes in Regions

62 CoRE classes, including CoRE Explorers, in WA in 2025.



Students

591 primary & 742 secondary students engaged in CoRE Learning in 2025.

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FIELD TRIPS

21 real-world field trips with students and educators in 2025.

3 7



#therealclassroom



Impact

Western Australia

CoRE Schools

Growth in 2025

Industry partners supported CoRE to empower educators in Western Australian schools by equipping them with the tools, confidence, and industry context needed to deliver high-impact STEM learning. With teachers arriving from across Australia, CoRE helps make learning about WA's local resources engaging, relevant, and exciting for students.

New CoRE Schools

We had 1 new CoRE School: Calingiri Primary School. We had 1 new CoRE Explorer School: Bullsbrook College in 2025.



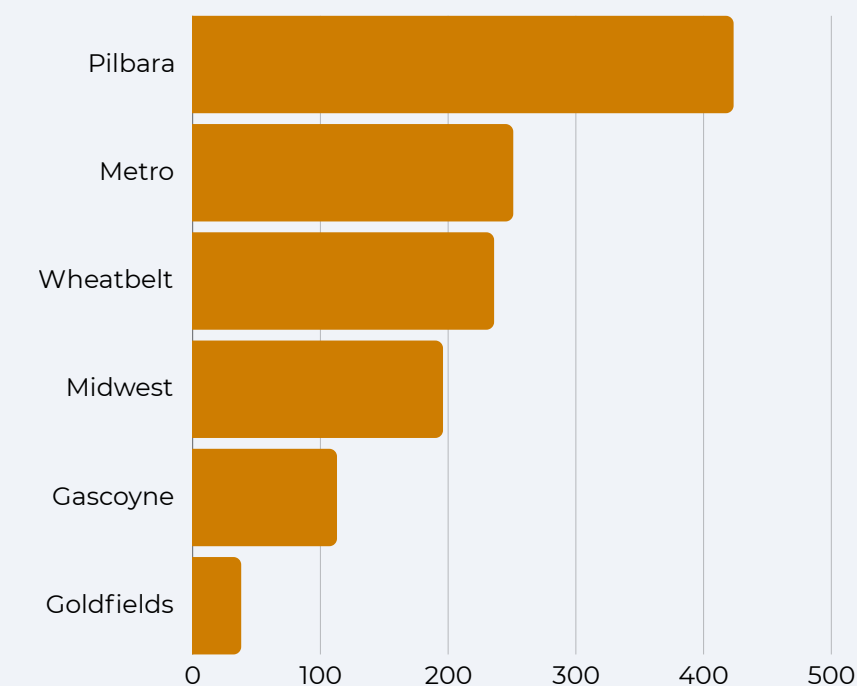
CoRE Educators

56 Educators are currently teaching CoRE Learning across in WA



EDUCATOR PD

1255.75 hours were dedicated to educator professional development in 2025.



Impact

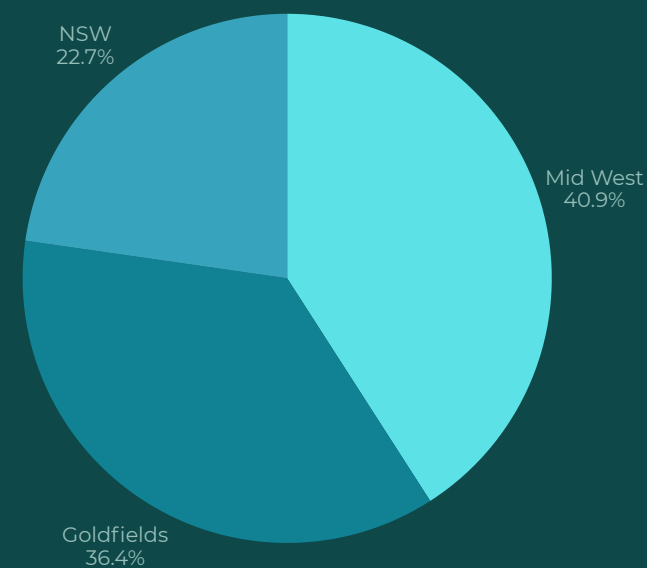
National CoRE Games

Growth in 2025

Industry partners supported CoRE in delivering CoRE Games, an immersive, hands-on STEM program built around teamwork and problem-solving through two purpose-designed video games: Old as Dirt (OaD) and Resource! Respond! Rescue! (RRR-Minecraft). These games explore the past, present, and future of mining, land, and communities, using competitive, logical, and strategic gameplay to inspire students and educators alike.

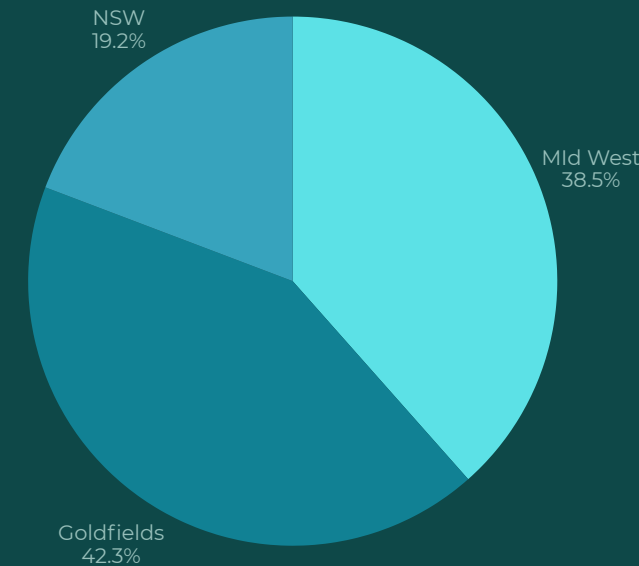
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School visits by Region



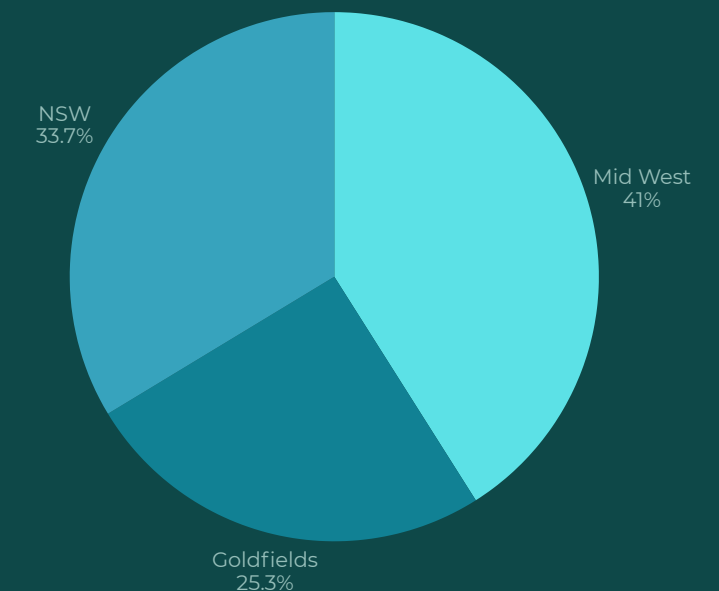
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Educators by Region



707

Students by Region



1 Gamification Zone

The Gamification Zone at IMARC brought together industry professionals and Year 9 students, inviting them to play side by side and experience how game-based learning brings earth science and mining concepts to life. Sponsored by Newmont, the zone showcased hands-on gameplay that connected STEM learning to real-world industry challenges and future careers. It sparked strong engagement and conversation, demonstrating the power of gamification to inspire the next generation of resources talent.



Activities

Resources Challenge

In 2025, CoRE delivered two Resources Challenge events that were high-energy, hands-on experiences that immersed students in real-world mining scenarios. Primary students in Years 5 and 6 stepped into the role of “miners for a day,” working in teams to design underground mines, transport ore, and manage stockpiles in a simulated mining operation. They were supported by senior CoRE students who acted as “Mine Managers,” building leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Industry volunteers played a key role as judges, along with a CoRE alumni who spoke to students providing real-world insights and feedback while reinforcing authentic connections to the resources sector. The Resources Challenge connected STEM learning to clear career pathways, inspired younger students, strengthened peer leadership, and fostered community engagement.

CoRE Showcases

In 2025, CoRE delivered four Showcase events where students presented their project-based learning to peers, parents, educators, and the wider community. Industry representatives were actively involved, serving as reviewers who critiqued student projects, provided constructive feedback, and shared real-world insights from the resources sector.

The Showcases demonstrated how students applied STEM knowledge to authentic challenges, highlighting the impact of CoRE’s immersive learning model in preparing young people for future pathways and careers in the resources industry.





Events

ConASTA

At CONASTA in 2025, the CoRE Learning Foundation delivered an immersive field experience for education leaders focused on strengthening Earth science teaching through real-world connections. Using WA's geological landscapes at the Pinnacles Desert and Lake Thetis as living classrooms, CoRE demonstrated how real-world learning can deepen understanding, storytelling, and student engagement.

The experience highlighted how connecting curriculum, country, and industry equips educators to teach STEM with relevance and impact, reinforcing the importance of project-based learning in building future-focused educational pathways.

IMARC Senior NextGen Day

The NextGen Senior Day at IMARC gave students direct exposure to the realities and opportunities of the resources sector through hands-on, industry-led experiences. While the Gamification Zone sparked engagement and introduced key earth science concepts through game-based learning, the centrepiece of the day was the industry roundtables. Here, Year 9 students worked alongside industry professionals to design solutions to current and future mining challenges, applying STEM thinking, creativity, and problem-solving in a real-world context.

New Initiatives

Pilbara CoRE Academy

In 2025, the Pilbara CoRE Academy launched its Year 11 and 12 program at Tom Price Senior High School, a decisive step in building a sustainable, regionally based STEM workforce pipeline. Enabled by seed funding from Curtin University's Trailblazer Program, including a Curtin-led hackathon delivered at Tom Price SHS, the model rapidly transitioned from concept to implementation. A three-year partnership with Rio Tinto has secured the Academy's continued growth, building on the foundational investment of our legacy partner, Chevron, whose early support made this expansion possible.

As the senior capstone of a connected feeder-school ecosystem across the Pilbara (320 students total), the Academy aligns primary, secondary, and post-secondary pathways into a coherent education-to-employment model. Through collaboration with the Pilbara Universities Centre, students will be supported in transitioning confidently into university, TAFE, apprenticeships, and local employment. Site visits to Rio Tinto operations and direct engagement with industry professionals have ensured that learning is not theoretical, it is contextualised, applied, and visibly connected to real careers.

Strong backing from local government, the Department of Education, industry partners, and parents underscores the Academy's regional relevance. In its inaugural year, the Pilbara CoRE Academy has demonstrated that coordinated, long-term investment in the CoRE Learning Model delivers measurable impact, strengthening workforce readiness, retaining local talent, and positioning the Pilbara as a leader in real-world STEM education.



Sustaining Industry

Since 2019, CoRE's proven and scalable model has supported more than 150 alumni into roles across Western Australia's resources industry, helping to build a strong, future-ready STEM talent pipeline in partnership with industry.

One of those alumni, Lee-an Lu, credits CoRE's emphasis on real-world learning and hands-on experience as the foundation of her career journey. Through CoRE, she connected classroom theory with industry practice, gaining the skills, confidence, and insight needed to transition seamlessly into the professional workforce.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

CoRE takes pride in the diversity, equity, and inclusion embedded within its Learning Model, with its alumni community providing a clear measure of impact. The demographic profile of CoRE Alumni reflects this commitment, with 50% female participation, demonstrating leadership in advancing gender diversity in STEM. In addition, 30% of alumni identify as English as a Second Language (ESL), highlighting CoRE's reach across diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Notably, 10% of CoRE Alumni identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, underscoring CoRE's success in supporting participation in STEM and resources-related careers among underrepresented communities.

This focus on inclusion is strengthened through strategic industry partnerships that keep learning relevant and aligned to real workforce opportunities, helping build a diverse, future-ready STEM talent pipeline that reflects Western Australia's communities.



Testimonials



"We learnt about mineral properties. It was challenging to get the whole team to work together, so we solved it by using our facts to find the answer. We could improve our research skills and game time."- Caitlin O'Neil Year 5

"It was a fun collaborative way to learn new things and learn about the Earth...It was all really fun, especially because the person teaching us was very enthusiastic."- Morife Adeyemi Year 5



"Over the three years I spent in the CoRE Program, my interests in science and the environment were supported by passionate teachers, hands-on learning, and countless opportunities. Working within business units allowed me to connect with classmates and create an amazing final project.

My favourite field trip was to Shark Bay and Exmouth in 2023. Seeing fossils of coral way above sea level and connecting that to our learning of paleoclimates helped everything click in my mind.

CoRE helped me develop time management and leadership skills and inspired me to pursue environmental science and geology at university. I am forever thankful for the teachers who supported me and the skills the program has equipped me with."- Grace Pring, 2025 alumni



"I had my Year 9 class at 11:40am... I was shattered. As I walked into my class a student said, 'Can we do CoRE today?'... They jumped into their Business Units. Not a single student asked me, 'What are we meant to be doing?' Instead, I was shown Pangea and moving continents... a plan for the book they are writing... their website... I didn't direct any of them to do anything... In 13 years of teaching in private and public schools, I have never, ever experienced a lesson like that. They created the lesson I couldn't have even planned if I tried."

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