

Prime Minister's Prize for Science 2025

Acceptance Speech

Lidia Morawska

Queensland University of Technology

Prime Minister,

This is the most significant prize I have ever received, and I am extremely proud, grateful and honoured to have been selected. My achievements were compared with those from all sciences; many considered more exciting than the invisible air we breathe.

A nuclear physicist by training, I have dedicated my life to the science of air and the impact of its quality on human health and the environment. The complexity of this interdisciplinary field of science never ceases to fascinate me and inspire me to explore further.

But beyond scientific fascination, what motivates me every day is the utility of this knowledge to directly serve people. We all live on planet Earth. We each have but one life to live. Helping to keep this planet habitable, with a clean atmosphere, and filling our indoor spaces with air free of pollution, is the foremost purpose and aim of my scientific work.

Ex scientia omnia – all things from knowledge. My dream is that the science we generate is the basis for the decisions that shape our society and enhance the way it functions.

I fully recognise that everything I accomplished was possible because of the generous support I received. Thank you to my university, Queensland University of Technology; to the Australian Research Council; to my Australian and overseas colleagues across disciplines, and to my students for being part of this incredible journey. And above all, thanks to my family, represented here by my daughters, Alina and Eliza, and granddaughters, Ava and Penelope: what would life be without you!

Thank you!

3 November 2025