

# WONDER OF SCIENCE



The **Wonder of Science** program builds passion and enthusiasm for science and technology in Queensland's young people.

It aims to build substantial growth in the number and quality of future science and engineering professionals in Australia; and promotes a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) culture.

**Wonder of Science** focuses on students in Years 5-9 and includes schools in regional, rural and Indigenous communities across Queensland.

"It has been estimated that 75% of the fastest growing occupations require STEM skills and knowledge. Yet this Australian Industry Group research report reveals a disturbing picture in this area. Young people in schools and universities are not acquiring the STEM skills we need for our future prosperity. International studies such as the Trends in Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) also highlights stagnation in Australia's performance."

Australian Industry Group (2013)  
Lifting our Science, Technology,  
Engineering and Mathematics  
STEM Skills.

## Wonder of Science includes:

- Investigative science projects aligned to the Australian Curriculum
- Regional student conferences for project presentations
- Visits to schools by Young Science Ambassadors (YSAs)
- A dedicated website featuring: Ask a Scientist, Sensational Science Stories, a Teacher Site and program information.



There has been extraordinary enthusiasm for **Wonder of Science** from both teachers and students. Teachers report that the program has produced a range of positive results for students including increased knowledge and understanding of:

- Science and technology
- Scientific inquiry
- The role of science and technology in society.

**Wonder of Science** is supported by companies and organisations in Queensland who want to give back to the communities they work in.

The investments of these organisations in **Wonder of Science** is tangible contribution to the future of Queensland and its communities.

## Evaluation of the **Wonder of Science** program shows:

- It is positively engaging students in regional and rural Queensland in STEM education
- It is positively influencing student attitudes towards STEM studies in Years 11 and 12
- Students learn more and are developing higher-order cognitive skills through engagement with the challenge tasks
- Students develop deeper understanding of potential STEM career pathways through access to the Young Science Ambassadors
- The opportunity for Young Science Ambassadors to work with students and communities is valuable for all – it is improving access to scientists for regional and rural Queenslanders and has a positive effect on career development for the Ambassadors.

## For more information:

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[www.wonderofscience.com.au](http://www.wonderofscience.com.au)