



MEDIA STATEMENT

Verity Firth MP

Minister for Women

Minister for Science and Medical Research

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)

Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water

EMBARGOED until 5.00am on Thursday, 18 October 2007

CSI-STYLE CRIME SCENE HELPS EXPOSE THE MYSTERY OF SCIENCE

A CSI-style 'crime scene' will be among the highlights of Science EXPOsed 2007 starting today in Sydney.

Minister for Science and Medical Research Verity Firth said Science EXPOsed is a free two-day event for Year 8 and 9 students aimed at encouraging more students to pursue science-based careers.

"Science EXPOsed introduces students to the many possible careers science has to offer as well as showing that science is fun, cool, inspiring and can change the world," said Ms Firth.

"More than 1,500 students from as far afield as the Hunter Valley and Illawarra will be attending Science EXPOsed events at Parliament House, Hyde Park Barracks and The Mint in Macquarie Street.

"It is essential that we build a society in which the impact and potential of science is understood and appreciated by young people.

"To do this our education system needs to capture the excitement of science and make it relevant to all students, particularly for groups under-represented in the sciences such as girls."

Ms Firth has announced a new \$360,000 package of measures aimed at promoting the importance and value of science to businesses, students and the broader community:

- A Science Seminar Series to increase understanding and awareness of the contribution science can make to business, the environmental and health innovation;
- A new annual 'NSW Scientist of the Year' awards to recognise outstanding local scientists undertaking research that addresses state-significant challenges;

- NSW Young Science Ambassador Scholarships – a partnership between the NSW Government and the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) to assist NYSF students with a travel program to attend and present at overseas youth scientific forums;
- The Science Conference Sponsorship Program – to provide direct support for major science and medical research-related conference, symposiums, networks and workshops, in line with Government priorities.

Ms Firth said Science EXPOsed will involve over 20 interactive exhibits, workshops, science shows, panel discussions and competitions for students, including:

- Students will have the opportunity to solve a mock crime using DNA, forensic science and the NSW Police's LiveScan technology to scan fingerprints as well as animation and photogrammetry to recreate and navigate the scene;
- The Questacon Liquid Nitrogen Show will look at the wonders of cryogenics with multi-media presentations and science demonstrations;
- MadLab will be a unique and exciting hands-on electronics workshop where students learn to solder electronic components onto specially-designed circuit boards and take home their own working electronic circuits;
- Students will see demonstrations of how nanotechnology can change the way familiar objects behave and engage in a lively debate on the subject with James O'Loghlin from ABC TV's New Inventors program;
- Jonica Newby from ABC TV's Catalyst program will host a 'Secrets of Science Panel' which will see forensic scientists, marine biologists and researchers discuss why they chose to study science and how it has led them into such diverse and exciting fields.
- Twelve teams of NSW MPs and high school students from their electorates will summon their creativity, innovation and teamwork to solve a 'great engineering challenge on road safety' within a two-hour deadline.

Organisations providing input include the NSW Police Forensics Services Group, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Protech Research, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Johnson & Johnson Research.

Science EXPOsed is an initiative of the NSW Government's Office for Science and Medical Research in partnership with the Education Department and Powerhouse Museum.

Full Science EXPOsed program is at: www.osmr.nsw.gov.au/scienceexposed.

Media Contact: Jeff Singleton 0410 476 890