



**SENATOR THE HON ARTHUR SINODINOS AO
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE
SENATOR FOR NSW**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Grants help more Australians celebrate National Science Week

Pop-up science festivals, an astronomical observatory on wheels, and Future Earth innovations are among 39 projects sharing in \$500,000 in National Science Week grants.

I want to congratulate the successful grant recipients for their efforts to inspire people about science, technology and innovation.

National Science Week gives people in metropolitan, regional and remote areas opportunities to meet scientists, discuss hot topics and celebrate the contribution of Australian science to society, culture and economy.

This year's celebration of National Science Week from 12 - 20 August marks two decades of successfully showcasing science to the Australian community and the world, a remarkable achievement.

This longevity not only shows that people are fascinated by science in our everyday lives, but also proves that anyone can participate in science activities, regardless of their background, age or location.

It's also pleasing that a number of activities funded in the grant rounds emphasise inclusivity, including a suite of Indigenous science initiatives and others highlighting female role models and encouraging girls to participate in science.

This year's program will also include science workshops designed for people with intellectual disabilities, sessions for people with different cultural and language backgrounds, coding skills workshops for youth on the autism spectrum, and DIY science film nights for even the remotest locations.

Science Week activities are run right across the country to help to inspire Australia's next generation of scientists and innovators and increase community awareness of science in everyday life.

National Science Week has become one of Australia's largest festivals. Last year a staggering 1.3 million people participated in over 1800 events and activities, including local science festivals, music and comedy shows, expert panel discussions, interactive hands-on displays, open days and online activities.

National Science Week will run from 12-20 August. More details on the week, including a full list of grant recipients, are available at www.scienceweek.net.au

Media Contact: Nat Openshaw 0409 049 128