

Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention From Idea to Enterprise

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The *Invention Convention* is part of the *Questacon Smart Moves* national travelling program that raises awareness about science and technology innovation in regional and rural Australia. *Smart Moves* is funded by an Australian Government initiative and is coordinated and administered by Questacon.

The *Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention* is an intensive week-long program that brings together innovative and entrepreneurial young Australian secondary students for an all-expenses paid trip to Canberra. It is an opportunity for like-minded young people to network with established entrepreneurs, to develop entrepreneurial skills to further develop their ideas.

The first *Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention* was held in Canberra in 2003. It involved 15 delegates and 10 mentors from around Australia. The annual *Invention Convention* now involves 30 delegates.

The *Invention Convention* is run over five days and includes seminars on networking, resources, marketing, exporting, money management, business skills, entrepreneurship and intellectual property. People with backgrounds in innovation and entrepreneurship participate to help mentor delegates.

The *Invention Convention* has produced some successful young business people. One delegate from the 2008 convention, Rachel Latimer, won The Young Inventors' Bright Spark Award 2008 on ABC1's *The New Inventors* for her innovative girth tightening device for horse saddles called 'Easy Girth'.

Over 165 young innovative Australians have participated in the *Invention Convention* since 2003. The *Invention Convention* is open to all Australian secondary students aged 14–18.

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