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## **Media Release**

6 December 2016

## **Game-changing STEM exhibitions launch at Questacon**

Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre and Supporting Partner Samsung Electronics Australia today launched the *Mathamazing* and *Byte Wise* exhibitions.

Through 38 hands-on exhibits, *Mathamazing* and *Byte Wise* explore probability, statistics, logic and problem solving, using everyday objects to inspire curiosity and confidence to build greater understanding of mathematical concepts.

"At Questacon, we are constantly looking at new ways of engaging students in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to inspire future generations of Australians."

*"Mathamazing* and *Byte Wise* provides visitors with an opportunity to explore how maths is used practically in their everyday lives. It is vital that young Australians are engaged with mathematics and computational thinking to keep Australia at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation," said acting Questacon Director, Kate Driver.

Charlotte Caslick, Australian Olympic gold medallist and Australian Rugby Sevens player, was on hand to assist with the launch. Charlotte featured in the recent Creators Wanted campaign, a joint campaign delivered by Samsung and Questacon.

Creators Wanted featured captivating video content of technology and ideas not yet invented – the self-returning football, the dress that changes colour and the 3D printed dessert. The aim of the campaign was to show students how STEM skills are becoming increasingly relevant across all industries and future career paths.

Charlotte and Questacon technologists worked through a series of ideas with young people in the audience on ideas for a prototype of a self-returning rugby ball. Students were challenged to think about the possibilities and develop innovative solutions to make this idea a reality.

"As athletes we look for every opportunity to improve our performance. The problem-solving and practical skills gained from engaging in STEM subjects at school can assist us in taking our game to the next level," said Charlotte.

"Samsung is thrilled to support *Mathamazing* and *Byte Wise*. We're working with Questacon because we are committed to help address the declining level of STEM skills across Australia," said Tess Ariotti, Samsung Corporate Social Responsibility Manager.

"We're seeing with Creators Wanted how much interest there can be in STEM skills once young people see the relevance to everyday life and their future careers. *Mathamazing* and *Byte Wise* build on this with fun, interactive exhibits."

After returning from successful international tours to Brunei and Thailand engaging with more than 1.5 million people, *Mathamazing* and *Byte Wise* will be open at Questacon until 1 March 2017. More information about the exhibitions is available at <u>www.questacon.edu.au</u>

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