



## Overview

Questacon's vision is a better future for all Australians through engagement with science, technology and innovation. To realise this vision, Questacon provides engaging and exciting experiences that inspire interest, highlight relevance and promote positive associations with science and technology.

Questacon is a leader in presenting world class creative, interactive science exhibitions and programs. Questacon develops and delivers around Australia hands-on exhibits, science shows and demonstrations presented by young scientists, trained science communicators and actors.

Questacon's approach is based on the proven educational value of hands-on activities supported by face-to-face science demonstrations. The informal learning environment at Questacon complements more structured learning in schools.



Each year Questacon reaches over three million people, delivering over six million hours of inspiration through a diverse range of experiences, including:

- within the iconic Centre in Canberra
- travelling exhibitions that tour to regional and metropolitan galleries and museums across Australia

- in-school visits and public exhibitions in regional and remote Australia by touring outreach programs
- educational videoconferences and an interactive website
- *Inspiring Australia* or *National Science Week* community events.



The Questacon Centre opened in 1988 and is located prominently beside Lake Burley Griffin and other national cultural institutions in the Parliamentary Zone in the Australian capital, Canberra. Eight themed exhibition galleries provide more than 200 hands-on, interactive experiences, with trained staff and volunteer explainers stationed throughout. Daily science shows, which provide further interpretation and exploration of the science behind the exhibits in the galleries, are performed at the Centre by the in-house performance troupe, *The Questacon Excited Particles*.

Questacon actively seeks to make its programs and exhibitions accessible to communities across Australia. Four outreach programs target a range of audiences, and have been developed to support national education priorities in Indigenous education, early childhood, primary science and teacher support. Questacon is internationally acknowledged as a world leader in delivering outreach programs to regional, remote and Indigenous communities.

Questacon's travelling exhibition program also reaches Australians in regional and metropolitan communities. Exhibitions are developed either by Questacon's exhibition team or in conjunction with partner organisations. The exhibitions travel Australia and the world after spending a period of time at Questacon in Canberra.

Questacon's interactive videoconferencing program delivers workshops and special events featuring local and international scientific experts directly into classrooms across the nation. Questacon's digital communication capability utilises the purpose-built Schmidt Digital Studio and high-definition videoconference technology to deliver our unique brand of interactive science programs to more people more often, and is also accessible via online streaming.



Questacon also engages Australians with science through the Australian Government's \$21 million *Inspiring Australia* program. Questacon coordinates several key program initiatives throughout the calendar year, including *National Science Week* and the *Prime Minister's Prizes for Science*.



In early 2013, Questacon opened a second site in Canberra, the Questacon Technology Learning Centre (QTLC).

The QTLC gives young people new opportunities to engage with technology through interactive learning experiences. These experiences stimulate an interest and awareness of the way things are made and help develop and transfer skills. These activities and experiences have been designed for secondary students and community groups and a small exhibition space is also open to the public.

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The National Science and Technology Centre