

## Media Release

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### Canberra Tourism Award win for Questacon

Last night Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre was awarded the 2014 Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Award in the Tourist Attraction category.

Questacon's iconic science centre in the Parliamentary Zone is one of Canberra's leading tourist attractions, welcoming over 400 000 visitors annually from across Australia.

"This Award recognises Questacon's contribution to tourism in the region. We work hard to provide a unique experience for visitors to Canberra and locals alike—hands-on discovery coupled with exceptional customer service," said Questacon Director, Professor Graham Durant.

"We also continually look for new experiences to offer our visitors, from new or visiting exhibitions, rotating displays and demonstration programme in *Q Lab* or new activities to mark significant happenings in science, such as the 2014 International Year of Crystallography. Our return visitors often remark on how there is always something new to see or do," said Professor Durant.

In accepting the Award, Professor Durant acknowledged Questacon's industry partners: the National Capital Attractions Association, National Capital Educational Tourism Project, and 3infun partners, Cockington Green Gardens and the Australian Institute of Sport.

"This Award is a wonderful way to conclude Questacon's 25th anniversary year as Australia's National Science and Technology Centre," said Professor Durant.

Each year Questacon reaches more than three million people of all ages through a range of inspirational experiences delivered from two facilities in Canberra. Questacon's programmes combine interactive entertainment and education to spark an interest in science and technology.

The National Science and Technology Centre features over 200 exhibits in eight themed galleries. Visitors can free-fall down a six metre slide, experience an earthquake, freeze their shadow or challenge a robot to a game of air hockey.

The Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre (IPTLC) is Questacon's second campus in Deakin ACT. At the IPTLC, visitors can explore the stories of Australian inventiveness in the *Enterprising Australians* exhibition. The IPTLC is also the hub for long-running national programmes and travelling exhibitions that take Questacon's unique, interactive experiences to the rest of the country.

The annual Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Awards aim to showcase the best of the region's tourist industry organisations and promotes, encourages and rewards tourism excellence.

Questacon will represent the Canberra and Capital Region at the 2014 Australian Tourism Awards in Adelaide on 10 April 2015.

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