



Media Release

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Young inventors power up their ideas at Questacon

26 young Australian inventors are set to unleash their creativity and imagination at Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre this week for the second National *Questacon Invention Convention*.

Delivered with the support of IP Australia, the National *Questacon Invention Convention* is a five-day programme developed by Questacon for secondary students providing them with the skills to turn their ideas into a reality.

This year's theme, 'Food, Water, Shelter,' will see participants develop and build prototypes of their ideas under the guidance of specialist innovation professionals.

"The National *Questacon Invention Convention* will provide participants an opportunity to see a wide range of career pathways available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), showing them the value and diversity that a STEM career pathway can provide, Questacon's Head of Innovation: Smart Skills, Tamara Niznik said.

"Participants will leave armed with a portfolio of their endeavours, established networks and the communication skills needed to pitch their ideas into the future," Ms Niznik said.

Three of last year's delegates will be returning to act as Ambassadors during the week, mentoring and supporting this year's cohort and further developing their own skill set.

The National *Questacon Invention Convention* delegates will hear from successful young Australian innovators and work with a team of facilitators to learn new skills and recognise their own potential to develop their own ideas.

IP Australia's General Manager People and Communications Paula Adamson said, "We are proud to support the National *Questacon Invention Convention*. "The week-long programme will inspire and encourage participants to develop creative thinking and innovation skills critical to Australia's future."

"It is great to see more young women participating in STEM programmes such as the National *Invention Convention*, with almost 40 per cent of delegates this year being female."

The National *Questacon Invention Convention* runs from 16–20 January 2017 and will conclude with a showcase and gala dinner.

The National *Questacon Invention Convention* is proudly supported by IP Australia and is part of the \$14.5 million *Questacon Smart Skills Initiative*, funded by the Australian Government in partnership with The Ian Potter Foundation.

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