

MyScience: Great Teaching and Inspired Learning in Science and Technology Through Community of Practice Partnerships

Current research shows that Australian science students are not achieving as well as those in other developed countries, and that we have fewer students choosing to study science in Years 11 and 12. As a result, Australia now has a national shortage of science-related professionals.

To address these issues, our research aims to run a 10-week 'MyScience' program in primary schools that is designed to increase their interest, enjoyment, and knowledge of science by working with their class teacher, high school science teachers and students, and professional scientists from the local community. High school teachers, students, and professional scientists serve as mentors to the primary students.

Research data is collected from all participants (via surveys and one-on-one interviews) and used to understand if *MyScience* is effective in addressing some of the current issues with science education in schools.

The purpose of this project is to test the effectiveness of the *MyScience* program, in enhancing the scientific knowledge, skills, and understandings of primary children and the impact of the program on mentors. The *MyScience* Research Project offers opportunities for participating teachers, students and mentors to be part of an exciting and innovative study that aims to understand ways to improve science education in primary and secondary schools.

MyScience endeavours to support the Science and Technology syllabus in primary schools through the establishment of a sustainable model of collaboration between schools, industry/business, and universities to stimulate interest and enhance capacities of primary teachers and students in conducting authentic scientific investigations.

Teacher expertise and confidence are advanced through purposeful and continuous professional learning, provided by expert facilitators. Primary students are mentored through face-to-face sessions by practicing scientists, local secondary science teachers, and secondary science students.



Project Title: *MyScience: Great Teaching and Inspired Learning in Science and Technology Through Community of Practice Partnerships*

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