

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Engagement with schools

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-73

Has the Chief scientist undertaken any speaking engagements at Australian Schools (Primary and Secondary) since his appointment?

- How many?
- Which schools?
- When were the speeches made and what was the nature of the event?

ANSWER

Details of school visits by the Chief Scientist is located at [Attachment A](#).

ATTACHMENT A

Details of Primary and Secondary School visits by the Chief Scientist in 2016

Date	School	Event
7/03/2016	Banksia Beach Primary School -Bribie Island (with Assistant Minister Wyatt Roy MP)	Release of the STEM Program Index book (media release at Attachment B).
21/03/2016	Victoria University Secondary College Deer Park - Melbourne (Speech at 500th STELR School Celebration)	5 Minute speech on 500 th STELR school, 2 minute speeches also from ATSE and Orica.
21/04/2016	Melbourne Grammar School - Melbourne (Speech at AGM)	The future of education New world of Teaching and Learning Campaign launch.
18/07/2016	Exmouth High School – Perth (Visit + speak to staff about science)	School development day - the importance of STEM
2/09/2016	Bialik College - Victoria (Speech)	Skills to pivot – tomorrow’s careers Celebrating Science breakfast.
6/10/2016	Scotch College - Victoria (Speech at Official Opening of the Science Centre). Minister Frydenberg also in attendance.	The legal path to science Launch of Sir Zelman Cowen Centre for Science.



Wyatt Roy MP

Federal Member for Longman
Assistant Minister for Innovation

MEDIA RELEASE

Showcasing a new guide for young innovators in schools

Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel and Assistant Minister for Innovation Wyatt Roy have joined Bribie Island students to promote a new one-stop guide to more than 250 digital technology, entrepreneurial, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) programmes.

The resource highlights the growing range of workshops, competitions and activities – from early childhood to high school – provided by government and non-government organisations, businesses, universities and other agencies.

Mr Roy said school principals could now download the SPI (STEM Programme Index) 2016 from www.chiefscientist.gov.au.

“It’s an invaluable collection of programmes delivered in-class, online, after school or during holidays,” Mr Roy said at Banksia Beach State School.

“From Club Kidpreneur, developing financial literacy and business acumen for primary schoolers, to First Robotics Competition where high school students create robots to perform against international teams, the guide is the perfect kick-starter to innovation in and outside the classroom.

“All of the programmes are designed to help fast-track our young people to the jobs of the future.” Dr Finkel said the guide contained a wealth of information and opportunities.

“We need to challenge our students to excel in STEM subjects. To do this we must challenge ourselves to engage, excite and inspire,” he said.

“This index is a measure of our commitment to a future for all Australians.”

Mr Roy said that in a rapidly-changing world, many new and now non-existent jobs would emerge.

“It’s a time of tremendous excitement and opportunity,” he said.

“We owe it to our young people, the future drivers of prosperity, to embed the skills they need not just to survive but to thrive in our transitioning economy.

“That means a cultural shift to embracing innovation and entrepreneurialism right from the early years and positioning our classrooms at the cutting edge of STEM.”

Mr Roy said SPI 2016 was produced by the Office of the Chief Scientist with help from the Australian Industry Group, as part of the *STEM Skills Partnerships* programme.

“I urge all local principals and school leaders to get involved in these great opportunities as we prepare, encourage and motivate our students of today to be the innovators of tomorrow,” Mr Roy said.

Media contact, Matt Fynes-Clinton (for Mr Roy), 0421 059 438