

16 April 2018

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

Parliamentary Inquiry into Canberra's National Institutions

We are pleased that the Committee is providing the opportunity to make public submissions about Canberra's National Institutions.

The Ian Potter Foundation is pleased to provide the following submission about our association with Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre; an institution we regard as an outstanding Australian Institution based in Canberra.

The Ian Potter Foundation is one of Australia's leading philanthropic foundations, and we support and promote excellence and innovation across Australia to facilitate positive social change, and develop Australia's creativity and capacity as a nation.

Our philanthropic activities involve a range of methodologies and approaches, including supporting significant charitable institutions in the promotion and delivery of outstanding and innovative programs.

One such program supported by The Ian Potter Foundation is Questacon's Smart Skills Outreach Program, which includes the Questacon Invention Convention, Student Workshops, Teacher Workshops, Holiday Workshops, Enterprising Australians and Maker Project Workshops. Such activities seek to invigorate our brightest young minds to explore, discover and consider some significant issues, and to do so in a manner that stimulates them to remain engaged with science, technology and learning.

Questacon's online presence is of the highest quality (refer <https://www.questacon.edu.au/>) and their use of technology to deliver programs remotely from a central broadcast facility at The Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre at Deakin in Canberra is first rate.

Questacon's Smart Skills Outreach programs travel to all corners of our vast nation. Questacon's innovative strategy of engaging directly with students, with teachers and more broadly with school communities ensures young people regard inquiry, discovery and learning as a normal part of everyday life.



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Chief Executive Officer

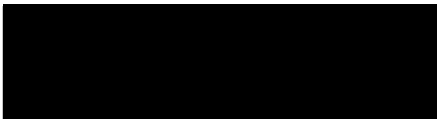
Craig Connelly

Questacon have secured private sector funding support from Shell Australia, we are confident that Questacon management are well advanced with plans to extend such relationships with existing and prospective private sector partners to sustain the work of the Smart Skills Outreach program beyond the period of our 5-year, \$7.8m funding commitment.

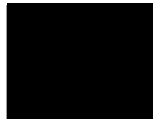
It is clear to us, through our various contacts with Questacon management, our exposure to numerous programs run at Questacon, our appraisal of our specific grant and of the team responsible for executing on Questacon's Smart Skills programs, that Questacon's operations are run in a professional manner by an experienced and cohesive management team.

We regard our \$7.8m 5-year grant as an exemplar grant, and have already arranged meetings to explore ways in which Questacon and The Ian Potter Foundation might work together in the future on innovative programs that align with our areas of interest and which are regarded as strategically important by the management at Questacon.

Yours Sincerely



Charles Goode
Chairman



Craig Connelly
Chief Executive Officer