



## STEM funding measures

The Australian Government will invest \$7.01 million to extend six science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives, to support better educational outcomes for children and students.

### How will this initiative work?

The programs and initiatives that the funding extension will support are:

- \$1.15 million – **CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools Program** creates partnerships between teachers and STEM professionals to provide engaging and relevant learning experiences for students. It aims to improve students' enthusiasm for STEM learning, knowledge of STEM applications and encourage pathways towards careers in STEM.
- \$1.46 million – **Let's Count** is an early mathematics program aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework for children aged three to five. It supports educators and parents to develop the mathematics skills of children by noticing, exploring, and talking about mathematics using everyday activities.
- \$0.65 million – **Little Scientists** helps early learning educators build their skills and confidence in understanding STEM ideas and concepts, so they can lead fun and inquiry-based learning activities, using everyday materials with preschool children.
- \$0.70 million – **Curious Minds Program** runs a STEM summer camp, provides six months of mentoring and a winter program for female students in Years 8, 9 and 10, empowering girls to pursue STEM subjects in Years 11 and 12 and pursue STEM careers.
- \$0.90 million – **National Lending Library** enables teachers and schools to borrow, for free, a selection of digital technologies educational equipment, as well as lesson plans for different age groups, aligned with the Australian Curriculum.
- \$2.15 million – **Australian Academy of Science** for the delivery of three programs:
  - *Primary Connections* provides online teaching resources and professional learning to enhance primary school teachers' confidence and capability for teaching science
  - *Science by Doing* provides freely accessible science professional learning and online resources for teachers of students in Years 7 to 10, and
  - *reSolve* provides online mathematics resources and professional learning for teachers of students from Foundation to Year 10.

## Why is it important?

High-quality STEM education is critical for Australia's current and future productivity. Young Australians engaged in STEM learning and subjects in schools will support a pipeline of students who are developing STEM skills for the future.

Australia continues to require more STEM skilled workers as society transitions to a digital and technologically enabled world.

To ensure Australians are fully equipped with the skills, knowledge and capabilities to take advantage of the jobs of the future, the Australian Government continues to work with state and territory government and non-government education authorities and school communities to strengthen STEM education in the early years and schools, as well as fostering pathways and transitions to tertiary STEM learning.

## Who will benefit?

The Australian Government supports STEM education in the early years and at school to build skills and confidence, and to ensure Australia has a pipeline of STEM-skilled workers to take advantage of future opportunities. Students from all backgrounds should have the same opportunities to excel at school, including in STEM subjects, where many jobs of the future will lie.

## How much will it cost?

The Australian Government will invest \$7.01 million in six STEM initiatives.