



STEM funding measures

The Australian Government will invest \$5.9 million to extend five science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives, to support better educational outcomes for children and students.

How will it work?

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

- \$1.5 million – **Let's Count** is an early mathematics program delivered by The Smith Family that's 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.
- \$1.2 million – **CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools** Program which supports partnerships between schools and industry, giving school teachers and students insights into contemporary experiences and advancements in STEM.
- \$1.8 million – **Australian Academy of Science** for the delivery of school maths and science programs, *Primary Connections*, *Science by Doing*, and *reSolve*, that boost the confidence of teachers to deliver STEM education.
- \$0.7 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.
- \$0.7 million – **Curious Minds Program** provides summer and winter camps accompanied by mentoring, over a period of eight months, for high potential female students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Curious Minds prioritises participation by female students who have had limited opportunities to access such enrichment activities previously.

Why is it important?

Sovereign STEM skills are essential to develop the products and services that underpin national resilience, economic competitiveness, national security and social wellbeing.

Without strong domestic STEM skills, Australia risks falling behind technologically and relying on overseas expertise for critical future needs, putting Australia's competitiveness and sovereignty at risk.

STEM education in early years and primary and secondary schools is the foundation of the STEM skills pipeline.

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 current and future opportunities.

Schools and teachers nationally will benefit from continued support, helping to ensure that students from all backgrounds have the same opportunities to excel at school, including in STEM subjects that many current and future jobs depend on.

How much will it cost?

The Australian Government will invest a further \$5.9 million in 2026-27 for these STEM initiatives.