## What is *MyScience*?

MyScience is a primary school science and technology program, providing support through the establishment of a sustainable model of collaboration between schools, industry/business and university sectors. It aims to stimulate interest and enhance capabilities of primary science teachers and students in conducting authentic scientific investigations.

MyScience is a foremost initiative to bring together a range of key aspects of exemplary primary science and technology education into a profoundly integrated program. Drawing on and generating extensive research, the critical elements comprising *MyScience* are:

- collaborative professional learning for primary teachers
- clear achievement criteria
- promoting and supporting scientific investigation amongst students
- mentoring of students by practising scientists/experts
- acknowledgement and recognition of achievements.
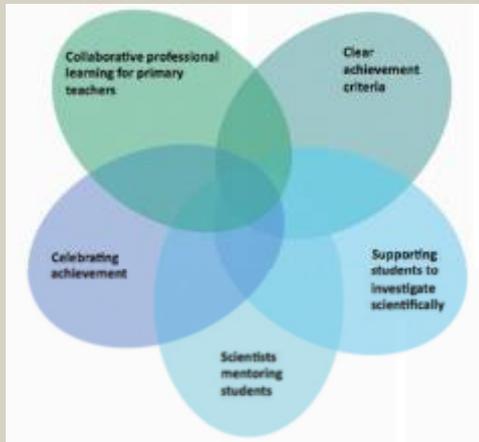
Other keystone elements that have supported the program are:

- an empowering structure and support for primary teachers to effectively teach science and technology
- purposeful and hands-on investigating for teachers and students
- student interest and ownership, building from guidance to freedom to select their own areas for investigating
- using science as a context for the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy

For more information please send us an email:
http://www.myscience.com.au/home/contact-us/

MyScience Phases of Teaching and Learning

Phase	Description
Orientation Phase	School awareness & commitment
Introductory Professional Learning Phase	New knowledge & skills for teachers
Teacher Preparation Phase	Reflection & consolidation
Teaching Phase 1 High Direction	↑
Teaching Phase 2 Mentored Exploration	New knowledge & skills for students
Teaching Phase 3 Independence	↓
Presentation and Celebration Phase	Acknowledgement

Founding Members in 2006:

Current Sponsor:
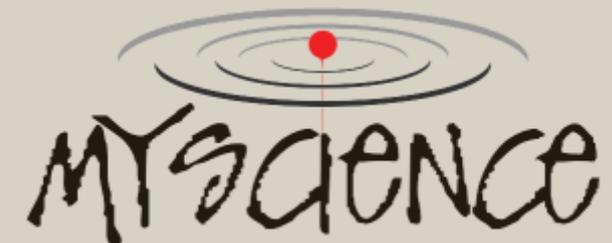
An innovative science and technology learning program for primary schools

www.myscience.com.au

NESA Registered Professional Development for Teachers

For Proficient Teachers

Completing *MyScience* will contribute 11 hours of NESA Registered PD addressing 2.1.2, 2.6.2, 3.3.2, 6.2.2 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

The *MyScience* program begins with teacher professional development in authentic scientific investigation including aspects of experimental design, data collection and analysis, and scientific reporting.

After participating in *MyScience*, primary teachers reported that...

- they are more aware of the outcomes, content and concepts associated with Working Scientifically
- they prefer to learn about the theory behind scientific concepts
- they are more confident assessing student learning using ICT
- they are happy to facilitate learning with students in science and technology rather than be the expert
- group work is the most effective way for students to learn the skill of Working Scientifically
- a school display is the best way to showcase students' work in science and technology
- they believe that student discussion while working is a necessary part of learning in science and technology
- they feel more confident about teaching their students how to Work Scientifically.

MyScience Professional Learning is conducted through Macquarie University's Department of Educational Studies, which is a NESA endorsed provider of Registered Teacher Professional Development for maintenance of accreditation at Proficient Level.

Supporting Students through Hands-on Investigations

As a result of participating in *MyScience*, primary students:

- experience increased success in conducting and presenting valid and reliable scientific investigations in authentic and personally interesting contexts
- demonstrate increased interest in and understanding of science and technology
- gain an improved understanding of the work of scientists and/or how an understanding of science and technology are useful for life and for many careers.

Student comments:

'I enjoyed being part of the MyScience program because.'

"I got to meet scientists from uni and it was fun."

"It is fun to do the experiments and watch what happens."

"Knowing some science is useful because understanding can help you figure things out. Recognising science is useful because we can do experiments relating to what we have seen. MyScience helped me with both of these things."

Support from Scientist Mentors

Teachers are supported by Mentor Scientists from a range of sectors such as business, industry, university, and local high schools, to assist in building their personal knowledge and understanding of science concepts underpinning students' topics. By sharing their expertise, scientists, engineers, high school science teachers and others, are able to inspire student interest in science and technology and enhance appreciation of its presence in everyday life. The collaborative work between teachers and students makes it possible to tailor support to meet students' interests, knowledge and abilities. Through group discussions, they facilitate students' understanding of the scientific nature of tasks, especially in areas such as fair testing, critical thinking, scientific method and teamwork. This highlights the strengths of students' ideas, enabling students to be more confident in their ideas for investigations as well as assisting them to explore areas for development.

"Nothing inspires students into the field of Science more than doing their own experimentation. If they get the opportunity to get involved in an original investigation then they will be hooked for life."

Scientist Mentor

"The mentors were excellent. They showed the children in my room many ways to report their results and helped them to solve problems that came up during the project"

Primary Teacher

Learning scaffold

Cows Moo Softly

Change ONE thing
Measure something
Keep everything else the **S**ame