



Background Information

Introduction

National Science Week is one of the world's oldest and largest science festivals.

In August each year, over 3 million Australians participate in 2,500+ events around Australia to celebrate, explore and investigate science. It's a chance for scientists, and other people who use STEM in their work and play- from local Landcare groups to bouldering clubs to universities- to share what they are passionate about with the wider Australian community. It's also a chance for all Australians, whether they consider themselves to be science super-fans or not, to see how science touches their everyday lives, and how they can have a say in its future.

National Science Week is proudly supported by the Australian Government in a variety of ways, including the provision of up to \$500 000 for the National Science Week Grants Program. Other partners include Questacon, CSIRO, the ABC and the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA).

Founded in 1997, National Science Week continues to expand and attract a wide audience from children to adults, and science amateurs to professionals.

Quick facts

- In 2026, National Science Week will run from 15 to 23 August.
- Around 90% of events are free to attend each year.
- Events are held in every state and territory. In 2025, 44% of events were held outside of major Australian cities.
- 90+ online events are typically held each year, which are accessible from anywhere in Australia.
- In 2025, 14% of all Australian households participated in National Science Week. This equates to around 3 million people aged 5 years and older. Over one-third of Australian households with children participate in Science Week.
- National Science Week isn't just for people who are already science super-fans. According to research conducted by Omnipoll, 66% of adult participants in 2024 and 2025 do NOT consider themselves to be highly engaged with science.
- National Science Week is a ground-up event. Anyone can hold an event, as long as it relates to science or STEM, is accessible by Australians, and is held in August (preferably 15 to 23 August 2026).



national science week 2026

- Events are developed and run by thousands of committed volunteers across the country.
- You can find an event near you at www.scienceweek.net.au.
- The National Science Week website (<https://www.scienceweek.net.au/get-involved/hold-an-event/>) features a wide range of resources to help event holder run successful events.
- People and organisations who want to celebrate Science Week but don't feel confident to create a bespoke event can make use of a wide range of [DIY Science activities](#) and/or register to hold a [Brain Break morning tea](#) (complete with simple science activities and trivia), [a pub trivia night](#) with adults-only science questions, or a [SCINEMA film screening](#), which showcases the best Australian and international science films in 2026. All these programs are free to access on the National Science Week website.
- National Science Week is a program of [Inspiring Australia](#), a national strategy for getting Australians engaged with the sciences. The strategy was developed with the science sector to provide national leadership, so that partnerships and collaborations could be formed to build on the myriad of science engagement activities across the country. In each state and territory there are local chapters of the national Inspiring Australia Network, led by an Inspiring Australia Manager, to help coordinate local networks and provide year-round science engagement opportunities.

Purposes of National Science Week:

- draw the nation's attention towards the sciences
- spark broad interest and engagement in the sciences
- provide an opportunity for all Australians, including those historically underrepresented in the sciences, to participate in science events and activities
- foster partnerships between the community, research organisations and industry
- trial new and innovative science communication activities.