

The National Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE)

Goal:

PICSE focuses upon connecting secondary science teachers and tertiary bound science students, with science based primary industries and career paths.

Target Audience:

PICSE supports science teachers in their classrooms and works with school students, who have the ability for studying science at university level.

Staffing the Project:

Assoc Prof David Russell (UTAS) and fifteen other Science Education Officers, all science teachers well respected by peers, with an understanding of research and industry, deliver the program at eight Activity Centres across the nation.



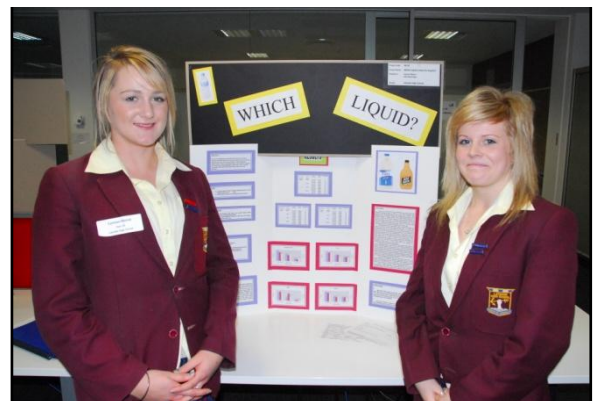
The Strategy; an Integrated Program for Schools:

The program has an annual cycle consisting of six phases, all of which are independently evaluated by QualData.

- Science Education Officers deliver an illustrated **presentation to Year 11/12 science classes**, illustrating cutting edge research and the importance of science to primary industry.
- Two-day program of **professional development** for teachers, exposing current research and highlighting the relevance of classroom science to industry.
- Selected Year 9-10 students participate in several **five-day camps** which illustrate the career and research opportunities for university science students in the primary industry sector.
- Year 11/12 students are placed with an individual industry for five days in January, under an **Industry Placement Scholarship** program.



- Selected teachers work with industry scientists and university researchers to provide an annual **national science teaching resource**.
- PICSE Science Education Officers work with teachers to prepare their students for an annual **Science Investigation Awards** presentation day, in which members of the scientific and local communities judge the students' investigations.



PICSE Partners:

- Dept of Education, Employment and Work Relations
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Horticulture Australia Limited
- Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation
- Dairy Australia Limited
- GrowSmart Training (Riverland, SA)
- Cotton Cooperative Research Centre
- National Centre for Groundwater Research & Training
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- Dow AgroSciences ,
- University of Tasmania (lead organisation)
- University of Western Australia
- University of New England (NSW)
- Flinders University (SA)
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Sunshine Coast (Q'ld)
- Charles Sturt University (NSW)
- Local Industries at all Activity Centres

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Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations