



**April 2009: Update of the National  
Primary Industry Centre of Science Education (PICSE)**



The Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) has been established as a national model of collaboration between the Federal Government, universities, regional primary industries, national R&D Corporations, national agribusiness, regional research institutes, local community organisations, schools and State Government Departments. This integrated strategy delivers science class activities, teachers' professional development, teaching resources, student camps and student industry placement programs, all building strong and sustainable relationships with local scientists in primary industries, hence attracting students into tertiary science and increasing the number of skilled professionals in science-based primary industries.

During 2007, DEST contracted the School of Agricultural Science to develop a Business Case for PICSE, as well as to support an interim phase to continue delivery of the Model through the University of Tasmania, University of Western Australia and Flinders University, and to expand delivery of the Model through the Universities of New England, Southern Queensland and the Sunshine Coast. The Business Case, including a report on the success of rolling out the Russell Model to five States, was presented to DEST for assessment in September 2007. Activity Centres based at UNE, USQ and USC have funded a part time PICSE Science Education Officer (SEO) and have run a limited, but successful PICSE program during 2008. Activity Centres at UTAS and UWA have delivered a full PICSE supported by GRDC, with the Riverland Horticultural Council (RHC)/Flinders Activity Centre has delivered a full PICSE program supported by HAL.

During 2008, negotiations with the Federal Government and other university and industry partners are continuing, to establish a funding framework. In June 2008, following advice from the Minister's office, an EOI was submitted to DEEWR under the "Diversity and Structural Reform Fund". In September 2008, UTAS was invited to submit an application for funding which would enable PICSE to develop its current six Activity Centres over the next 3 years.

In December 2008, PICSE was successful in gaining a \$3.6m grant for the next 3 years, to be matched by industry and RDCs, as well as the university sector. Currently there PICSE Activity Centres at UWA (Grains), Flinders (Marine/Aquaculture), Riverland (Horticulture), UTAS (Ag Sc/Dairy), UNE (Rural Sc/Cotton/Grains), USQ (NRM/Cotton/Grains) and USC (Food processing /Aquaculture), consisting of a cash investment of \$700,000 pa.

**Current and Potential Investors in PICSE National**

<b>RDC</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Agribusiness</b>	<b>Others</b>
GRDC	DEEWR	Landmark	RIMFIRE
Dairy Australia	DAFF	Bayer	Toowoomba NRM
HAL	DIISR	NuFarm	Roma NRM
Chicken/Poultry/Eggs	Q'ld Depts of DPIF & Education	Syngenta	Rockhampton NRM
Sugar		CropLife	CIRM (Q'ld)
RIRDC	<b>Universities</b>	NAB	VETNetwork (National)
AWI	UTAS	Monsanto	RHC (SA)
Cotton	UWA	AAAC	
Seafood / Fisheries	Flinders Uni	Dow	
Forestry – Wood products	UNE	Wrightsons Seeds	
Pork	USQ	Pacific Seeds	
LWA	USC		
GWRDC			

Recently, negotiations between PICSE and RIMFIRE have formulated a PPP is to secure and increase the supply of high quality personnel entering the food and fibre sector. This is based on ensuring that the needs of students and employers, industry and government, plus the wider community are met.

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