



science and engineering
challenge

Media Information

The Science and Engineering Challenge is an outreach program founded by the University of Newcastle in the year 2000.

Since then it has grown to involve over **100 Rotary clubs** and **30 Universities**, reaching almost **700 schools** and **25,000 people nationwide every year**.

The Challenge addresses the skills shortage in science and engineering by inspiring young people to study mathematics, physics and chemistry in senior high school. It provides students with an exhilarating day where they compete with other school groups in engaging and demanding science and engineering-based activities. The Challenge also gives students an appreciation of what it would be like to work as a scientist or engineer.



STUDENT FEEDBACK
"It gave me an insight to the world of engineering."
"It made science fun!"

TEACHER FEEDBACK
"I have not seen this level of engagement in any other competition!"
"Students get a sense of their scientific skills being valued."

How is the Challenge organised?

The Challenge is a cooperative venture between the University of Newcastle, Rotary Clubs, local communities and local businesses, governments, professional groups, and other universities. The Challenge is currently conducted in over 60 regions across Australia, including every state and territory. The competition is divided into three levels: regional, state and national. Typically eight schools per day compete in a Challenge with each school providing a team of 32 students. These teams are divided into eight groups that compete in one or two activities during the day.

The activities

The fun and hands-on activities involve principles of science, engineering and technology. The concept is to immediately engage students in the activity with a minimum of introduction and theory. Students explore scientific principles for themselves rather than being guided to a predetermined answer. Activities include building a hovercraft, wiring a virtual city, designing a suspension buggy and constructing a catapult.

For more information (or photographs) please contact us on the details below.



90% Found the Challenge **rewarding***



94% Found the Challenge **relevant to their potential careers***

40% Influenced by the Challenge to study **MATHEMATICS****

39% Influenced by the Challenge to study **CHEMISTRY****

58% Influenced by the Challenge to study **PHYSICS****

*Data taken from our surveys of past student participants.

**Students who participated in the Challenge and went on to study Science or Maths in Year 11.