

**More information**

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## Scitech's Aboriginal Education Program Tours the Goldfields

During the months of August and September, Scitech toured the Aboriginal Education Program (AEP) to remote community primary and secondary schools in the Goldfields.

This includes the Tjuntjuntjara Remote Community School where Principal Charlie Klein, has been [announced as finalist](#) for the 2018 \$US1 million Global Teacher Prize.

The Tjuntjuntjara Remote Community School and 70 just like it across Western Australia, are visited by Scitech every three years, and have access to hire an AEP DIY Science Kit each school term. These kits are a fully self-contained classroom science resource that provide teachers with all the equipment and information needed to run engaging and relevant hands-on science lessons in-between tours.

Kalieu Selby, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Scitech said, "We are immensely proud of the work we do with remote Aboriginal communities, providing science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) learning opportunities to all Western Australians. Awakening interest in STEM at an early age is an incredibly important step towards developing a highly skilled future workforce and it is imperative that we aim to create equity of access throughout the state. Diversity of culture, gender, environment, location and approach to ideas are in fact at the heart of a strong and dynamic STEM-enabled future for Western Australia."

With a focus on the physical sciences curriculum, students learnt about heat, light, electricity and forces through a series of engaging hand-on activities and experiments. Highlights were UV bracelets that change colour in the sun, designing and building circuits, 'hunting' bush tucker with lasers and mirrors to learn how light behaves, using a tuning fork to see sound and investigating why the sky is blue using an aquarium and a flashlight.

Professional development sessions were delivered to teachers and Aboriginal education officers to understand how to use resources, develop know-how and encourage confidence to deliver science in the classroom. They were given the opportunity to design and conduct their own experiments, with AlkaSeltzer Rockets creating a lot of excitement.

Two teams of three Scitech presenters travelled 6,695km to the farthest reaches of the Goldfields, conducting the most remote tour Scitech delivers in Western Australia. Starting in Warburton and finishing in Tjuntjuntjara, they visited 16 schools, delivering 46 student workshops and 15 professional development sessions for teachers and education officers.

Schools visited were Ngaanyatjarra Lands School (Warburton, Jameson, Blackstone, Wingellina, Warakurna, Tjurkurla and Warakurna Campuses), Wiluna Remote Community School, Leonora District High School, Mount Margaret Remote Community School, Laverton School (Cosmo Newbery, Mulga Queen and Laverton Campuses), Menzies Community School, CAPS Kurrawang Primary School and Tjuntjuntjara.

Scitech's innovative Aboriginal Education Program has been developed with a cultural awareness of the peoples and landscapes of Western Australia's regional and remote Aboriginal communities. Workshops are specifically designed to cater to the learning style and needs of Aboriginal students, while encouraging the involvement of the wider community.

This initiative is made possible through Scitech's partnerships with BHP, Rio Tinto, GE and Chevron.



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