

**More information**

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## Scitech's 'Lab on Legs' Takes Strides in the Pilbara

Scitech's 'Lab on Legs' program will tour primary schools in Newman and Port Hedland from 14 - 23 November. Focused on the Western Australian curriculum area of Design and Digital Technologies, the program provides professional development for teachers and in-depth learning for gifted and talented students.

The program is made possible by Scitech's long running partnership with BHP who have a strong presence in the Pilbara area. It focuses on giving students a better understanding of the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) careers that would enable them to live in their own communities.

This intensive 1-day program demonstrates inspiring classroom techniques for teachers and creates relevant and immersive experiences for the students. It introduces the 'design process', which guides students through brainstorming, prototyping, testing and creating iterations that continually fine-tunes their ideas to success.

Using the Hummingbird™ robotics kits and a variety of craft materials, students will design and code an animatronic robot and investigate how sensors can be used to react to a stimulus.

Ms Deb Hancock, Chief Executive Officer Scitech, says "Scitech's 'Lab on Legs' program exposes young minds to the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of critical and creative thinking. It encourages students to think broadly and deeply, using skills such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation. These are incredibly valuable for students to learn at an early age to set them on a path of discovery that will successfully embrace a STEM career and the STEM-enabled future that is the focus of government, industry, educators and communities alike."

At each school, sixteen year 5 students who show a keen interest and ability in STEM, are invited to participate. The program runs over several sessions throughout the day, culminating in a showcase event for the students, the school and their families.

Participating schools are Newman Primary School, South Newman Primary School, St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School, Port Hedland Primary School, South Hedland Primary School and Baler Primary School.

This regional, touring version of 'Lab on Legs' was devised in 2015 through extensive community consultation with science specialist teachers and school principals in Port Hedland. Since that time, Scitech has travelled to schools in the Pilbara every year to deliver this unique program that inspires creative and critical thinking across multiple STEM disciplines.



**Celebrating  
Thirty Years**