# MEDIA RELEASE

**22 June 2021**

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## Scitech's Aboriginal Education Program Returns to the Kimberley

Four teams of Scitech presenters have travelled over 3,000km to the Kimberley region to present the unique Aboriginal Education Program (AEP) to 30 remote community schools from 14 June – 27 August 2021.

The arrival of Scitech's distinctive red 4WD sparked excitement as students and teachers eagerly awaited the resumption of these popular workshops specifically designed to cater to the learning style and needs of Aboriginal students.

With support from a long-standing partnership with Rio Tinto, Scitech visits every regional and remote community school over a three-year cycle to help boost accessibility to STEM opportunities and understanding. In 2020, the Kimberley AEP tour was postponed due to COVID-19, resulting in a 4-year absence which Scitech was keen to make up as soon as community visitation restrictions were lifted.

Students in years K – 12 will take part in workshops ranging from 45-minutes to several hours, while teachers and Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers will upskill their Digital Technologies curriculum skills with professional learning sessions.

With a focus on Physical Sciences, curriculum-linked workshops were delivered with a cultural lens and built on student's understanding of the effects of light, sound, focus, motion and electricity they encounter every day.

Paul Stone, Scitech's Chief Executive Officer, said Scitech's Statewide team were grateful to be able to resume these unique workshops that inspire curiosity in STEM across the farthest reaches of WA.

"Our aim is to work in collaboration with students, teachers and their families to increase awareness of the importance and relevance of STEM for Aboriginal students, involving the wider community to do so. We also understand that our teachers are one of our best resources, and so we work with them directly to build their capacity as educators to teach STEM subjects," Mr Stone said.

Rio Tinto Chief Executive, Iron Ore, Simon Trott said innovation would play a significant role in the future of the mining sector.

"Rio Tinto is proud to partner with Scitech to support a program that exposes students in remote schools to STEM-based learning."

Hands-on activities include examining light using sun-sensitive paper and other UV reactive materials as well as exploring the relationship between forces, speed and distance using wooden cars and elastic bands. Older students learn about electricity by building simple circuits and testing the conductivity of different materials.

For teachers and Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers, Digital Technologies Professional Learning sessions will demonstrate inspiring hands-on activities and resources to assist in

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delivering the Digital Technologies curriculum to students living and learning in remote communities.

In-between remote community and regional tours, schools can hire DIY Science Kits during the school term. These kits are self-contained classroom science resources that provide teachers with the equipment and information they need to run engaging and relevant hands-on science lessons.