



MEDIA RELEASE

Impact of COVID-19 and revised arrangements for 2020 National Science Week School Grants

Following today's [announcement](#) from the *Inspiring Australia* Science Engagement Programme, the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA), is pleased to confirm that the School Grants Program will officially go ahead as a part of this year's National Science Week.

In consideration of the impact of COVID-19 and the limited ability of schools to undertake normal science week activities, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, who fund the program, have agreed to a modified format in direct response to medical advice regarding social distancing requirements.

In place of our traditional competitive financial grants selection process, applicants to the school grants program are now eligible for an activity card-based system to use across Science Week to support and encourage student engagement.

Based on ASTA's highly successful SPECTRA model (SPECTRA = Science Program Exciting Children Through Research Activities), cards are produced for four different educational groups from Early Years through to Year 10, with curriculum-based topics relating to this year's Deep Blue theme. All the activities are designed to be completed either at school or at home (where students are still undertaking home-based learning).

ASTA will issue each participating school with a Science Week bundle, including SPECTRA cards, certificates and badges. Using the cards, students may carry out a range of practical and observational activities, research, experiments and projects. The in-built assessment component can be easily administered by teachers and/or parents, and when the required number of activities have been completed to their satisfaction, they will award the student a National Science Week certificate and badge.

As in previous years, ASTA will conduct a national competition to select prize-winning students through images submitted of their work. Three winning students per state/territory, in addition to their schools, will each receive a \$100 prize.

For further information on the new National Science Week School Grants Program, please refer to the [National Science Week](#) page on the ASTA website.

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