



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

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YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHEMISTRY

Children enthralled by science have the chance to shine and win thousands of dollars for their school as part of the Young Scientist of the Year Award.

Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr said Australia's young scientists held the key to our future.

"They are the people we will look to in years to come to ensure our quality of life, to help cure the sick, protect our communities and keep us secure," Senator Carr said.

"Capturing their imaginations while they are young is so important. Australian scientists punch well above their weight, but we need to encourage new generations of students to secure our position in the scientific world of the future.

"Even more importantly, we need to develop the next generation of science savvy citizens who may not pursue careers in this field, but who share the excitement of the possibilities of science and research.

This is the fifth year of the awards sponsored by the National Association of Testing Authorities.

Recognising that 2011 is the International Year of Chemistry, this year's awards theme is *Chemistry in our Lives*.

The NATA Young Scientist of the Year Award is open to three primary school age groups: seven and eight years, nine and 10 years, and 11 and 12 years. The winner's school in each age group will receive a \$3000 donation, with an additional cash prize of \$500 for each winning entrant.

The competition opens next month with invitations sent to about 8,000 public, private and Catholic primary schools. Entries must be received by 23 September and will be judged by a team of NATA scientists, with the winners announced in mid-October.

The National Association of Testing Authorities is responsible for accrediting technical operations – laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing and reference material producers. It accredits over 3,000 testing laboratories and other facilities across Australia.

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