



THE HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence
NICK CHAMPION MP
Federal Member for Wakefield

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA INDUSTRY SCHOOLS PATHWAY PROGRAM

The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the Federal Member for Wakefield, Nick Champion MP, today announced further details of the Government's \$61 million defence industry skills package.

Of particular interest for South Australia is the Advanced Technology Industry Schools Pathway Program.

"This \$5.9 million initiative will provide high school students in South Australia with greater awareness of careers in the local advanced technology industry in the defence sector, and how to shape their studies to pursue such a career," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

This will be achieved by developing and delivering a school curriculum for years 9-12 for schools in South Australia which will provide the maths, science and technical studies students will need in order to pursue advanced technology industry careers in the defence sector.

Schools participating in the program will offer the right studies and training for students to be able to work towards those careers, and defence industry in South Australia will be able to engage with participating schools to provide awareness and work experience opportunities to interested students.

"The initiative aims to increase the pool of young people in South Australia interested and able to join local defence industry, and build upon the strong defence industry skills base that exists in the region," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

This project will be run by the South Australian Government, who will have responsibility and accountability for the development, implementation and performance of the initiative. It will build upon similar programs successfully developed in Queensland, and be developed in consultation with local stakeholders including schools, higher education providers and defence industry.

While Defence will work closely with the South Australian Government and provide project funding of \$5.9 million, developing and implementing the Program will be a local responsibility.

Commencing 2009, Advanced Technology Industry Pathways Partnerships will be established, with lead schools identified in three 'Trade Schools for the Future' clusters and the engagement of the Australian Sciences and Maths School, the Flinders University Centre for 21st century Science, the Defence Teaming Centre and Registered Training Organisations.

Development of industry endorsed vocational curriculum, higher education pathways and career development for students in years 10-12 will proceed throughout 2009 and 2010.

Commencing October 2009 enhanced teaching approaches to maths and science for students in years 6-9 will see 18 project schools participate in the development of an applied Maths and Science curriculum relevant to Advanced Technology.

Curriculum developments will be complemented with a series of training and development programs for teachers of students in years 6-12, focusing on applied maths and science for younger students.

By 2013 it is anticipated that up to 1000 year 11 and 12 students will be participating in the program, accessing the tailored curriculum, partaking in peer mentoring and work placement sourcing apprenticeships and cadetships.

Defence will contribute directly to the project, including:

- \$2 million to support schools with teacher release to develop and deliver the program;
- over \$1 million to provide direct assistance to students assisting young people to access post-secondary education components of the program, together with peer mentoring, work placement, recognition events; and
- \$600,000 to facilitate industry engagement in the program, including development and delivery of subjects and training programs.

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