News Release

Minister Jack Snelling

Minister for Health and Ageing Minister for Mental Health & Substance Abuse Minister for Multicultural Affairs Minister for Defence Industries Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Minister Jennifer Rankine



Minister for Education and Child Development

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SA world champs set to dominate F1inschools national final

Local schools will take on their interstate counterparts at this week's F1inSchools Technology Challenge National Final at the Avalon Air show in Victoria.

Brighton Secondary School will defend its world champion title and, along with students from Adelaide High School, will be up against more than 20 teams from around the nation.

The Minister for Education and Child Development Jennifer Rankine wished the teams well in the competition.

"This is an outstanding example of how schools can generate an interest in science, technology, engineering and maths," Ms Rankine said.

The competition – which involves groups of students designing and manufacturing a miniature car out of balsa wood using CAD/CAM design tools – is being held until 1 March.

"It's great to see students taking part in a competition where they can apply their ingenuity in an atmosphere of teamwork and problem solving – while having a good time," Ms Rankine said.

Minister for Defence Industries Jack Snelling said South Australia's presence at the air show was significant.

"It provides an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate the State's defence credentials to high level national and international defence and industry visitors," Mr Snelling said.

"Defence is the cornerstone of our advanced manufacturing future, with around 27,000 South Australians already employed in this growing sector.

Innovative programs such as F1inSchools are excellent ways to encourage students to pursue careers, such as those on offer in our high-tech defence sector," Mr Snelling said.

The competition is the largest second school technology program in the world, involving more than nine million students from 17,000 schools in 31 countries.

Australian schools have a strong history of success in F1inSchools.

In addition to Brighton High School's win in last year's World Final held in Abu Dhabi, Australian teams also placed 4th and 5th outright and won a multitude of other awards. The 2012 World Champions, Brighton Secondary School's Cold Fusion team will be on hand at Avalon to cheer on Brighton's new team, Alternate Racing: Rhys Williams, Martin Oakley, Peter Baker-Hutton, Emily Squires and Elanour Pope.

Adelaide High School's team Pink Quattro: Daniel Sutherland, Max Allison, Damneet Sambhy and Jack Bird, were granted a wild card entry to the national finals after taking out five of the eight awards on offer in the state finals in September.

National winners will represent Australia at the World Final in Austin Texas in November.