



28 May 2019

STEM Strategy paves the way for brighter future for young Western Australians

Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) today welcomed the launch of the State Government's *Future Skills, Future Jobs Strategy* as an important milestone in preparing and educating young Western Australia's for the world's technological future.

CEWA Executive Director Dr Debra Sayce said the interdisciplinary approach of teaching STEM was a key focus for CEWA's 162 schools, many of which had developed practices and policies to improve student learning and experiences from Kindergarten to Year 12.

"The launch of this STEM strategy recognises the work being done across the whole education sector and sets out measures for cross sectoral collaboration in research, teaching methods and STEM models of innovation and success," she said.

"CEWA is pleased to partner with the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation in progressing the strategy further and has adopted the State Government goal of having 85 per cent of our Year 12 students completing two or more STEM courses and/or STEM related vocational, education and training (VET) requirements.

"We are progressing towards this goal but have some way to go. It is so important that as a whole education sector we work together to ensure a brighter future for our young people."

Dr Sayce said some examples of STEM innovation in CEWA schools included participation in the WA Governor's STEM Awards, 'Little Scientists' program, Engineers Australia Game Changers Awards, CEWA STEM Project and Showcase. Individual examples among many others include:

- Hammond Park Catholic Primary School - STEAM Enrichment program designed for Years 2-5
- Iona Presentation College, Mosman Park - Makerspace and Robotics Program
- Holy Cross College, Ellenbrook Big Ideas Interdisciplinary Program for Year 7-9
- Mazenod College, Lesmurdie Specialist Science Program.

"CEWA is committed to ensuring our schools and students keep pace with the changing technology in our world to provide our students with opportunities for current and contemporary learnings and to expand their horizons," she said.

ENDS

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