



## THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

### Factsheet

*The Prime Minister's Prizes for Science are Australia's most prestigious and highly regarded awards for outstanding achievements in scientific research, research-based innovation and excellence in science teaching.*

#### What does it offer?

The Prime Minister's Prizes for Science recognise the achievements and success of Australian scientists and innovators to both Australia and internationally, as well as the critical role science educators play in inspiring and encouraging students to take an interest in science and consider science as a career.

Through the [Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Programme](#), the prizes will award \$750,000 each year from 2016-17 to 2019-20 across five prizes for science and innovation (the Science Prizes) and two prizes for science teaching (the Science Teaching Prizes).

Prize recipients receive a medallion, lapel pin, award certificate and prize money as well as recognition for their achievements.

#### Science Prizes

- **Prime Minister's Prize for Science** is awarded for a significant advancement of knowledge through science. The prize of \$250,000 is awarded to an individual, or a team of up to four people.
- **Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation** is awarded for the innovative translation of scientific knowledge into a commercially available product, service or process that has had substantial economic, social and where relevant environmental benefits. The prize of \$250,000 is awarded to an individual, or a team of up to four people.
- **Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year and the Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year** each recognise an exceptional achievement in science that benefits, or has the potential to benefit, human welfare or society. Each prize of \$50,000 is awarded to an individual who has realised the nominated research achievement within 10 years (full time or full-time equivalent (FTE)) of completing their highest relevant tertiary qualification.

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- **Prize for New Innovators** recognises an exceptional early achievement in the commercialisation of scientific research that has had substantial economic, social and where relevant environmental benefits. The prize of \$50,000 is awarded to an individual who has commercialised their research outcomes within 10 years (full time or FTE) of completing their highest relevant tertiary qualification.

#### Science Teaching Prizes

- **Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools**
- **Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools.**

Each of these prizes is awarded to a teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to science education. Nominees must be full time staff members at a primary or secondary school and be active in teaching science in the classroom at the time of their nomination.

Recipients of the Science Teaching Prizes share the \$50,000 prize money with their school to fund a project that enhances science learning.

## How does it work?

A nomination must be proposed by someone (a nominator) with knowledge of the nominee's achievements and endorsed by two supporters. Nominators for the Science Prizes must also provide the details of three independent referees, two of whom must be based overseas.

## Who can be nominated?

Nominees must

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- not be self-nominated
- not be nominated in more than one category per year.

Further eligibility criteria for each prize, including criteria for nominees, nominators and supporters can be found in the [Science Prizes Programme Guidelines](#) or the [Science Teaching Prizes Programme Guidelines](#).

## Who cannot be nominated?

Previous recipients of the Prime Minister's Prize for Science or the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation are not eligible to be considered for another award.

Previous recipients of any other Science Prize may only be nominated for the Prime Minister's Prize for Science or the Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation.

Previous recipients of either Science Teaching Prize are not eligible to be considered for a Science Teaching Prize again.

## How are nominations assessed?

Nominations are assessed through a two-stage process.

At stage 1, the nominator must submit a 1000 word summary of nominee's achievement against the selection criteria for the chosen prize. The selection criteria for each prize can be found in the [Science Prizes Programme Guidelines](#) or the [Science Teaching Prizes Programme Guidelines](#).

We will assess nominations against the eligibility criteria and if the nomination is eligible, it will be forwarded to an independent committee for assessment against the selection criteria.

If the nomination is short-listed, the nominator will be invited to participate in stage 2 where they must provide a more detailed submission and statements from two supporters. For the Science Prizes, the committee will also contact the proposed independent referees.

The committee will assess stage 2 submissions and recommend prize recipients.

## What will nominees need to do if successful?

Prize recipients will be notified in writing, and invited to receive their awards at the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science awards dinner. The recipients are publicly announced at the awards dinner.

The prize money is deposited into the recipients' accounts shortly after the awards dinner. For the Science Teaching Prizes, the schools will be required to execute a grant agreement with the Commonwealth prior to receiving their share of the prize money.

Prize recipients may be requested to assist in publicly promoting the teaching and learning of science. Recipients should be prepared to undertake a small number of public engagements.

## How do I submit a nomination?

You should read the [Science Prizes Programme Guidelines](#) or the [Science Teaching Prizes Programme Guidelines](#) before you apply.

To apply nominators must

- complete the online nomination form
- address all eligibility and selection criteria
- provide all the necessary attachments
- submit your nomination by the advertised closing date.

## Where can I find more information?

Visit [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) or call **13 28 46**.