MEDIA RELEASE for 2020 Students

**Year 11 students are invited to apply now for NYSF 2021 Year 12 Program**

Applications are now open and will close 20 July 2020

Would you like to create a hologram or see the brain of a sea jelly? How about a flight in a VR simulator, hear first-hand stories of researching whales in Antarctica, examine a human eye under a microscope or get a behind the scenes tour of the best Australian STEM research institutions? These are just some of the exciting realities for participants of the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) Year 12 Program.

The National Youth Science Forum aims to expose students heading into Year 12 to new careers across the STEM landscape that may been previously unknown and encouraging them to continue their studies in these areas. The program aims to inspire our future STEM professionals and connect them with experts in a range of fields and peers that have similar interests

 **(Insert your name here)** attended Session **(A or B)** of the NYSF 2020 Year 12 Program and had this to say about their experience:

**(Please talk about your own NYSF student experience here such as**

**My favourite STEM visits of the NSYF program was…**

**My STEM highlight of the NSYF program was…**

**I think Year 11’s should apply for NYSF 2021 Program because... )**

At the Launch of the NYSF 2020 Year 12 Program, Minister for Industry, Science and Technology the Hon Karen Andrews MP, congratulated students on their selection to the program and encouraged them to have fun and make the most of their experience.

“Australia needs young people who are passionate about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) studies and careers,” Minister Andrews said.

 “We know around 75 per cent of the jobs of the future will require STEM skills, that’s why it’s so important we make sure our young people continue their STEM education and encourage them into future STEM jobs.”

NYSF Chief Executive Officer, Dr Melanie Bagg, believes the NYSF exposes students to areas of science, STEM careers and STEM facilities they perhaps don’t know exist and introduces them to real STEM professionals.

“This is our 37th year, I believe this is testament to the quality of the program, and to the benefits and networks it provides to the young people who choose to apply to participate.

 “Many of our alumni report that the program took them on a completely different career and study journey than what they anticipated.” Melanie said.

“For others, attending the Year 12 program confirms and consolidates the choices that they have already made, and provides them with valuable tools to assist them into the future.”

The NYSF has been operating for 37 years and has seen over 12,000 participants complete the program. Upon returning home, the NYSF 2020 students were asked to rate their time at the program they gave the NYSF experience a 9.5 rating out of 10.

In January 2021 up to 600 places will be available for passionate science students from around Australia - 400 in two sessions in Canberra at the Australian National University and another 200 at a third session in Brisbane at the University Queensland.

Students attending the program are drawn from diverse backgrounds from all over Australia. Selections are carried out by Rotary Australia (our founding partner), providing access to the program for students from remote and regional areas around the country. In 2020, 38% of students were from remote and regional areas and 65% of participants were female.

Students who are currently studying in Year 11 are eligible to apply via the NYSF [website](https://www.nysf.edu.au/). The application process will take a couple of weeks so don’t leave it until the last minute to apply. Applications close 20 July 2020. Scholarships and funding may be available.