

2010: Celebrating 25 years of science advocacy in Australia

Inspiring Australia report essential to engaging tomorrow's young scientists

A new national approach to communicating science will unite the sector and strengthen Australia's prized and highly regarded scientists and scientific heritage.

Welcoming today's release of *Inspiring Australia – a national strategy for engagement with the sciences* the President of FASTS, Dr Cathy Foley, said the landmark report came at a critical time.

"The climate change debate in Australia has elevated science into everyday conversation from the kitchen table right through to the boardroom," said Dr Foley.

"It has given prominence to the importance of evidence-based outcomes that are backed-up by tested and proven research which is subject to peer review. It is work that often involves a lifetime of dedication and perseverance but it's integral to Australia's future as a knowledge-rich country.

"As scientists we must challenge and nurture enquiring young minds by demonstrating science and science-related areas to be relevant, viable and rewarding careers. By doing so we will also reassure parents their son or daughter's career decision is meaningful and important to the future of our country.

"We know that collaboration delivers distinct advantages which is why the *Inspiring Australia* report provides us with a great opportunity to grow Australia's international standing and recognition. This is a great roadmap for the future and FASTS looks forward to working with the government to deliver on the report's recommendations," Dr Foley said.

Founded in 1985 FASTS is the peak body in science and technology and has three formal objectives to:

- encourage scientific dialogue between government, the science and technology community, and industry;
- promote public understanding of science; and
- foster close relations between the societies.

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