



Australian Government



Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

MEDIA RELEASE

7 January 2008

Learn all about nuclear science - free school holiday tours -

Looking for something to do during the holiday period? Join in a free tour and check out Australia's only nuclear reactor – OPAL.

School children and their parents are invited to come on a school holiday tour of the reactor and other exciting science facilities at ANSTO¹ in Lucas Heights, on New Illawarra Road, southern Sydney.

Come and find out how radiation works and how radioactive waste is safely managed. Learn about climate change research using nuclear techniques to determine rainfall patterns and greenhouse gas levels going back many hundreds of thousands of years.

See the OPAL reactor which is used to produce nuclear medicines and to irradiate products such as silicon used in electronic equipment. The neutrons it produces are also used for research into structures (eg aeroplanes and turbines), obesity and plastics.

Learn about many other applications of nuclear science including:

- Reducing the need for pesticides by controlling fruit fly larvae population
- Irradiation of rubber tyres to increase toughness
- Using radioisotopes to detect when bottles of beer and other food and drink containers are filled to the correct level
- Smoke detectors which are powered by tiny low-powered radioisotopes
- Tracing air and water pollution and identifying its sources
- Determining the age of artefacts such as Ned Kelly's armour and old bones

ANSTO manages a 70 hectare campus at Lucas Heights and with 1000 staff is Australia's centre of nuclear excellence and innovation. As the primary supplier of nuclear medicines, ANSTO makes over half a million doses every year.

TOUR DETAILS:

- **Tours are free to the public and must be pre-booked by calling 02 9717 3111.**
- **The two-hour tours run every Tuesday and Thursday at 10am.**
- **A nearby cafeteria is available for refreshments afterwards.**
- **Closed footwear must be worn, no high heels.**
- **Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.**
- **Free parking on-site.**

For more information and to arrange interviews please call Andrew Humpherson, GM Public Affairs on (02) 9717 9041 or 0419 241 587

¹ Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation