



JASMA Miraikan Virtual Tour of Questacon 16.00-17.30 Thursday 18 March 2021

Questacon is Australia's largest interactive science centre. Through science exhibitions, science theatre and performances, travelling programs and online content, Questacon is a national leader in popularising science and technology, raising awareness of the role of science and technology in shaping the future, and improving scientific literacy Australia-wide.

Questacon's vision is for a better future for all Australians through engagement with science, technology and innovation. We aim to excite and motivate people through inspirational learning experiences delivered in the national capital and across regional Australia.

1. Established year / Brief history of the museum

Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre, located in Canberra, hosts more than 200 interactive exhibits and delivers a range of activities, events and programs relating to science and technology. Questacon strives to promote greater understanding and awareness of science and technology within the community.

Questacon started in 1977 as a volunteer-led organisation based at the Ainslie Primary School, Canberra. On 23 November 1988, Questacon was opened as a joint Japan Australia Bicentennial Project. The Government and business community of Japan contributed AU\$10 million funding. The then Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Noboru Takeshita, visited Questacon in July 1988 (upon the completion of the building but prior to the official launch). As former Prime Minister, he visited Questacon for the 10th anniversary in November 1998.

During the years since, there has been an active program of cooperation between Questacon and various Japanese Government agencies and organisations, including cooperation agreements with the National Museum of Nature and Science and with the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan).

2. Gross floor space of exhibition / Storage (for each)

Questacon has three facilities: The National Science Centre in Parkes, The Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre in Deakin, and a storage facility in Fyshwick, Canberra.

*Max capacity based on 2m² per person.

The data below only relates to the National Science Centre in Parkes.

Parkes	Total m ²	Max capacity	Parkes	Total m ²	Max capacity*
Foyer			Galleries		
Main Entrance	126	63	G8	210	105
Info Desk Area	175	87	G7	350	175
Ceremonial Entrance	38	19	G6 (Water Play, Construction, Active Play, Bakery and Quiet Space)	180	90
Shop/Members External	44	22	G6 Lobby	50	25
Shop	80	40	G6 Space Lab	50	25
Ticketing	26	13	G6 Locker Area	35	17
Café (public space)	69	34	G5 Tinker Space	315	157
Café foyer table area	178	89	Blue Door Room	115	57
Café Kitchen	60	30	Gallery 4	365	182
Main Entrance	126	63	Studio (not including office space)	70	35
Info Desk Area	175	87	Studio office area	25	12
Foyer Total	1097	548	G7 Mezzanine Level	150	75
			Gallery 3	490	245
			Gallery 2	490	245
Goods lift	12	6	Gallery 1	490	245
Members Lounge	66	33	Lounge 2.03 Fishtank	26	13
Japan Theatre Seats and Stage	155	77	Lounge 2.06 Cloud Chamber	26	13
			Drum Ramp	365	182
			Earthquake Lab	16	8
Foyer Ramp (Ground to Elbow)	100	50	Public Toilets		
Ramp Elbow	45	22	Info Desk Public Toilets Male	14	6
			Info Desk Public Toilets Female	14	6
External			Theatre Public Toilets Male	14	7
Science Terrace	490	245	Theatre Public Toilets Female	16	8
Ceremonial Science Court	270	135	First Aid Room	8	4
			Gallery 7 Public Toilet	8	4
			Gallery 7 Public Toilet	8	4
			G6 Amenities	27	13
			G7 Mezzanine Level Public Toilets Female	10	5
			G7 Mezzanine Level Public Toilets Male	10	5
			G7 Mezzanine Level Public Accessible	6	3
			Gallery 3 Public Toilets Male	10	5
			Gallery 3 Public Toilets Female	10	5

			Gallery 3 Public Toilets Baby Change	6	3
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The data below only relates to the Ian Potter Foundation Technology Learning Centre, Deakin.

Deakin (public spaces)	Level	Total m ²	Max capacity*
Foyer	Ground Floor	117	59
Makerspace 1		111	56
Makerspace 2		132	66
Neat kit room		41	20
Tange Room		41	21
Reception Desk		9	5
Toilets Female		12	6
Toilets Male		12	6
Total Program Space and Foyer		475	237

Deakin (staff spaces)	Level	Total m ²	Max Capacity*
Workshop Basement	Basement	263	131
Workshop Electronics	Ground Floor	141	70
Workshop Main	Ground Floor	341	170
Production Admin	Ground Floor	95	47
Total Workshop		840	419
Office Space East	Level 1	253	126
Office Space West	Level 1	305	152
Office	Level 1	16	8
Office	Level 1	16	8
Office	Level 1	16	8
Office	Level 1	16	8

3. Outline of collections and exhibitions

Please refer to the attached visitor guide.

GALLERY 1

Australia in Space

Space technology and innovation on Earth, orbit and beyond.

GALLERY 2

Fundamental

Explore classic science in a new way.

GALLERY 3



Awesome Earth

Feel the force of an earthquake, let lightning spark your imagination and wonder at the grandeur of the universe.

GALLERY 4

Q Lab

Observe, question and experiment. Watch live demonstrations with Questacon science communicators.

GALLERY 5



MEZZANINE

The Shed

Roll up your sleeves and play with science in The Shed. Experience exciting exhibits and watch Questacon's Excited Particles perform some spectacular science.

GALLERY 8



Mars

From Martians to The Martian, why does Mars capture our collective imagination more than any other planet?

4. Annual total visits

Prior to COVID Questacon welcomed over 520,000 visitors to our science centre each year.

5. Governing body

N/A. Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre and its programs are a specialist division administered within the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. For this reason Questacon is not a legislated agency.

Members of the Questacon Advisory Council are appointed by the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology to provide advice and advocacy to help Questacon fulfill its mandate. The Chair of the Questacon Advisory Council is appointed by the Prime Minister of Australia upon the advice of the Minister.

6. Annual Budget

AU \$25 million (breakdown of \$12.5 million provided by government and a further \$12.5 million provided by operating revenue, partners and sponsors. This includes admission fees, program fees, exhibition hire fees and development services, shop revenue and sponsorships)

7. Number of employees

162 full time equivalent (FTE) staff, 260 staff in total (includes casual, part time and contracted workers) and 65 volunteers.

Museum content – Questacon will speak about this during the event. It is difficult to answer these questions on paper.

- The flow of making new exhibit room/temporary exhibition
- The valued things while making new exhibits, especially for the concepts
- The methods to create new early childhood program
- The Valued things for create new early childhood program
- The methods to create and evaluate science shows
- The flow of evaluation, verification and updating/improvement of exhibits

Initiatives for social issues

1. Your effort for SDGs

As part of the world science centre sector and as a leader in the Australian science and cultural sector, Questacon is committed to supporting awareness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Questacon's goals in relation to the SDG's are to:

- a. Create pathways to future skills and build connections within communities
- b. Increase awareness of the importance of SDGs
- c. Align our programs, exhibits and business practice with the SDGs
- d. Empower youth to turn awareness into action and to demonstrate leadership now in addressing the challenges they will inherit as adults.

Questacon engaged local graffiti artists Ian Dudley and Anna Trundle to create a mural reflecting the SDGs at the Centre in Parkes. More than 500,000 people walk past the mural every year.

Two annual events endorsed by the United Nations which Questacon celebrates to create awareness of the SDGs are 10 November, International Day of Science Centres and Science Museums, and 24 October, United Nations Day.

Questacon has a four year partnership with INPEX Ichthys Pty Ltd (2019-2023) to increase energy literacy and inspire global change through programs for young people and teachers in Australia and Japan. The partnership's focus is to increase energy literacy and promote awareness of UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy. The partnership enables Questacon to deliver a Young Person's Energy Dialogue between students in Australia and Japan and a Questacon Science Circus Tour of Japan (c. 2022-23).

2. Your effort for disaster/disaster prevention

Questacon provides support for bushfire affected communities across Australia.

The 2014 Questacon Science Circus Tour engaged 14,700 students and families during its delivery in April and May 2014. Over 5-weeks the travelling exhibition and science presentations toured tsunami-recovering communities in the Tōhoku region of north-eastern Japan. Delivered in partnership with Japan's National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan) and supported by Scitech

Discovery Centre (Perth), the tour introduced the successful Questacon Science Circus outreach model of science communication to Japan. The tour was funded by the Department of Industry and sponsored through a grant provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian-Japan Foundation.

The tour promoted and raised the international profile of science communication. In legacy of the Australia-Japan relationship. The 30 portable hands-on science exhibits displayed on tour were gifted to participating science centres and schools upon completion of the tour in Minamisanriku, Morioka, Kuji and Misawa.

3. Your effort for COVID-19

Please refer to the corporate strategy below.

Collaboration with local communities and other organization

•Matters carried out in collaboration with educational institutions, government agencies, businesses, or local communities for the revitalization of the region. We would like to ask for both ACT area and the other area inside Australia.

Others

1. Questacon's 2021-2030 corporate strategy

Questacon's strategic statement describes how Questacon will evolve Questacon during 2020-2021 and in the years ahead. Post-COVID recovery principal tasks for 2020-2021 are:

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2. Re-imagine new product offerings for a COVID-constrained operation
3. Re-introduce school visits to Questacon
4. Re-establish Questacon's national presence
5. Re-think Questacon's digital engagement strategy
6. Re-build revenue streams, sponsorships and philanthropic support
7. Re-set Questacon operational model following financial and property reviews
8. Respond to domestic tourism led economic recovery in the national capital
9. Re-affirm Questacon's role as Australia's National Science and Technology Centre
10. Remain focussed on delivering NPP commitments
11. Reflect on resilience
12. Rebound strongly in 2021-2022

Questacon will need to develop a new operational model to reflect a world where the community has to learn to live with a risk of COVID transmission. Questacon will capitalise on its national science communication expertise and sector partnerships to address government priorities in STEM engagement, gender equity, careers in STEM, artificial intelligence, cyber security, energy literacy, developing an Australian space industry, helping STEM teachers include engineering in the classroom and supporting regional communities.

Please refer to Questacon's annual reviews for additional information and data at

<https://www.questacon.edu.au/business/annual-review>

Other notable Questacon activities with Japan

In March 2002 Questacon hosted the 3rd World Science Centre Congress attended by 440 representatives from 39 countries to explore global collaborative and knowledge sharing opportunities through the conduit of science communication.

In December 2002 Questacon hosted a special visit by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako. Many Questacon staff and visitors, including local school children, met Their Imperial Highnesses as they toured Questacon's galleries.

In 2007 and again in 2012 Questacon Director, Professor Graham Durant, on behalf of the Association of Science and Technology Centres, conducted a peer consultation and review of the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Miraikan.

In March 2009, Questacon hosted the Japan-Australia Robot Festival attended by over 2000 visitors. The event was organised by the NHK Enterprises in Japan and supported by the Japan Australia Business Co-operation Committee, Japan Airlines and the Embassy of Japan in Australia. Teams of students from Kitakyushu National College of Technology, Oita National College of Technology and Okinawa National College of Technology presented robots that they designed and entered in Japan's ROBOCON event. The winning robots were gifted to Questacon at a special ceremony on 16 March. In conjunction with the Robot Festival, a workshop was held

<p>at Questacon with two Canberra primary school classes participating to construct a simple robot.</p>
<p>In 2007 Questacon won an ICOM (international Council of Museums) award for international relations through science communication collaboration in recognition of this cooperation with Japanese museums.</p>
<p>In March 2014, during its 25th anniversary, Questacon hosted a delegation of the Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation) for a celebratory dinner to recognise the Australia-Japan relationship and honour the contribution of the Japanese Government and Keidanren in the founding of Questacon.</p>
<p>In April-May 2014 and October-November 2018 (and again in 2023) Questacon toured Japan delivering a free public science and technology exhibition and science shows for the people of Japan to promote and raise the international profile of science communication. The month long tours of Tohoku (2014) and Kansai (2018) recognised Japan’s investment in Australia and Questacon, and contributed significant cultural-exchange activities to the Australia-Japan relationship. Upon the conclusion of both tours Questacon gifted exhibits to partnering regional science centres in legacy of the Australia-Japan relationship. The 2014 Science Circus Tour of Japan stands as a case study of best-practice international science diplomacy. The tours supported the Government’s <i>Australia in the Asian Century Strategy</i> relating to engaging with Japan. The tours were funded by the Department of Industry and sponsored through grants provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australia-Japan Foundation.</p> <p>In July 2014 Mrs Margie Abbott, wife of the Prime Minister of Australia, accompanied by Mrs Aki Abe, wife of the Prime Minister of Japan, visited Questacon to experience a selection of science demonstration developed for Questacon’s tour of Japan.</p>
<p>Questacon’s four year partnership with INPEX Ichthys Pty Ltd (2019-2023) aims to increase energy literacy and inspire global change through programs for young people and teachers in Australia and Japan. The partnership’s focus is to increase energy literacy and promote awareness of UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy. The partnership is delivering energy programs to support Australian students residing in WA and NT, and includes an Australia-Japan-Indonesia Youth Energy Dialogue Forum in 2022 and Questacon Tour of Japan in 2023. Other deliverables include a Your Energy Show, touring exhibition and STEM Futures Teacher development workshops.</p>
<p>Questacon’s MoU (2010-2020 & 2018-2022) with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) allows the public display of Hayabusa1 and Hayabusa2 exhibits in Australia. Questacon and the Embassy of Japan, Canberra have displayed the exhibits at strategic events to promote Hayabusa2 mission to Australia audiences. The Hayabusa exhibits may be displayed in Adelaide at the Australian Space Discovery Centre in 2021 in partnership with the Australian Space Agency.</p>