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## **STEM Digital Technology Pilot – embedding skills for the future**

**Primary school students across South Australia will be learning new skills in automation and data science in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pilot program launched in six Catholic schools this month.**

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) has partnered with Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) to introduce the **STEM Digital Technology Pilot** to the following schools in collaboration with industry partners, BHP, Nyrstar, Hillgrove Resources, Fortescue and SIMEC Mining:

- St Barbara's Parish School, Roxby Downs
- St Mark's College, Port Pirie
- St Francis de Sales College, Mt Barker
- Caritas College, Port Augusta
- Samaritan College, Whyalla
- St Aloysius College, Adelaide

The pilot will engage students in fun, hands-on challenges demonstrating real-world application of fundamental digital technology skills in industries including the resources sector, defence, robotics, information technology and more. It was designed to align with the Australian Curriculum and will be rolled out to students from Reception to Year 6.

The program is based on the highly successful 'Digital Technologies Program' implemented by The Chamber of Minerals and Energy Western Australia (CMEWA) in over 70 schools in regional WA. A co-designed initiative between curriculum experts Grok Academy, and industry subject matter experts from the mining and energy sector, each challenge aligns with Australian Curriculum outcomes for students.

The content of the WA program has since been adapted and tailored to align with South Australian schools. The development and implementation of the STEM Digital Technology Pilot is fully funded by SACOME and industry partners and includes the provision of challenge kits and access to an online learning platform for schools and teachers.

The pilot aims to empower educators to teach STEM skills, increase student interest in technology-based career pathways, and support the future skilled-talent pipeline crucially needed for the South Australian resources sector and other essential industries.

The teaching of STEM in schools is vital to ensuring SA keeps pace with technological change to advance its economy and prosperity. SACOME continue to call on the State Government to partner with us on this initiative.

### **Quotes**

#### **Attributable to Rebecca Knol, CEO SACOME**

“SACOME is delighted to partner with Catholic Education South Australia to bring the STEM Digital Technology Pilot to schools across the State. Empowering our youth with STEM education is an investment in their future, and our State. It ensures a pipeline of talent today, for industries and skills needed for tomorrow.

We are looking forward to sharing feedback from educators and students with the South Australian Government, in the hope that they will join us in funding this program more broadly.”

#### **Attributable to Louise Murphy, Education Advisor Transition and Pathways, Catholic Education South Australia (CESA)**

“The STEM Digital Technology Pilot is an exciting learning opportunity for students because it links STEM learning with future careers, which helps students see the relevance of the learning they do at school.

Career exploration embedded within school STEM Digital Technology lessons allows students to know about a broad range of STEM careers in South Australia they can aspire to. Showing students how STEM learning at school links to real jobs in demand in South Australia will encourage more young people to pursue STEM careers.”

#### **Attributable to Damian Smith, Principal, Caritas College, Port Augusta**

“At Caritas College, we are excited to be part of the STEM Digital Technology Pilot. We recognise the importance of equipping and empowering our students with knowledge and skills in coding.

By participating in the pilot, our students will benefit from lots of hands-on learning experiences that foster creativity, critical thinking, problem solving skills and build knowledge of STEM careers.

Teachers are well supported through professional learning and have access to new and innovative resources to deliver high quality teaching and learning in digital technologies.

The STEM Digital Technology Pilot aligns with our College's commitment to providing a well-balanced curriculum and giving students the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in an ever changing world.

We are grateful for being able to partner with SACOME, Fortescue and Catholic Education SA to engage students effectively and facilitate meaningful learning experiences that prepare them for the digital age."

**Attributable to Rebecca Fahey, Principal, St Barbara's Parish School, Roxby Downs**

"St Barbara's is excited to be participating in the STEM Digital Technology Pilot, we believe that this is a wonderful opportunity to engage students in learning that is connected to industry and will provide learning deeply connected to future career pathways.

We want our students to explore careers, including the careers available in our region with employers like BHP. The Pilot provides access to high quality teaching and learning through the Grok platform which is important in supporting teachers to deliver a Digital Technologies program that engages and enhances learning opportunities for students."

**Attributable to Paige Aldenhoven, Manager – Human Resources, Nyrstar**

"Nyrstar has a proud history of investing in Port Pirie's next generation and this technology pilot is another example. These children may well be an engineer, chemist, or metallurgist with us one day and we are pleased to have a part to play in their journey."

**Attributable to Lachlan Wallace, CEO & Managing Director, Hillgrove Resources**

"For Hillgrove Resources, the STEM Digital Technology Pilot represents an investment in the future of our operation. One of our core values is working in partnership with local Adelaide Hills communities to achieve sustainable benefits for all and we are proud to contribute towards bringing engaging STEM learning to the children of St Francis de Sales College in Mt Barker."

**Attributable to Greg Swain, Manager Exploration, Fortescue**

"Fortescue is pleased to support SACOME's STEM Digital Pilot initiative, aligning with Caritas College in Port Augusta. Supporting regional schools and communities is important to ensure everyone has equal opportunities to achieve excellence, and that the industry is continuously nurturing a diverse talent pool. The resources sector is a pillar of South Australia's economy and will continue to provide an array of employment opportunities. We need to ensure that the next generation of young students feel inspired and enthusiastic about choosing a STEM career path."

**Attributable to Bianca Standing, Head of Organisational Development, SIMEC Mining**

“The STEM Digital Technology Pilot is pivotal for students in both inspiring interest and building foundational capability in STEM through engaging experiential learning from primary through to secondary school. We see this program as essential to help support our industries ongoing and future capability requirements.”

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**About SACOME**

The [South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy](https://www.sacome.org.au) is the leading industry association representing companies with interests and connections to the South Australian resources and energy sector.