



**Australian Government**

**Chief Scientist**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CHIEF SCIENTIST: NOMINATE NOW FOR SCIENCE PRIZES**

With two weeks until entries close, Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel has called on Australians to nominate outstanding teachers, scientists and innovators for the 2017 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science.

Dr Finkel said the prestigious prizes recognised achievement in Australian science, with a proud history dating back 17 years.

"The year 2000 was a time of growth for Australia," Dr Finkel said.

"While the Sydney Olympics showed our sporting achievements to the world, the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science recognised the world class capabilities of Australian scientists.

"It was the start of a grand tradition in Australian science, and has grown to also include the tremendous contributions of our science teachers and innovators.

"Today, people who were schoolchildren when these prizes commenced are teachers, scientists, and innovators in their own right. It's their turn to be recognised, and for their work to further inspire future generations.

"If you know an outstanding Australian science teacher, researcher or innovator, I urge you to nominate them for one of the 2017 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science."

Dr Finkel will chair the selection committee for five of the seven prizes.

The Prime Minister's Prizes for Science recognise the achievements and success of Australian scientists and innovators, as well as the critical role that science educators play in inspiring students. Each includes prize money ranging from \$50,000 up to \$250,000.

Nominations close at 5PM AEST, Wednesday 12 April 2017.

For further details about the prizes or to nominate, go to [www.business.gov.au/scienceprizes](http://www.business.gov.au/scienceprizes) or call 13 28 46.

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