

Generation STEM STEM Community Partnerships program

Key monitoring and evaluation insights 2025



STEM Community Partnerships Program (STEM CPP) is part of the Generation STEM initiative, funded by the NSW Government and delivered by CSIRO, to attract, support and retain NSW students in STEM and school into further education and employment.

STEM CPP comprises a range of activities across the school year including the #WithSTEMYouCan Career Expo, industry site visits, STEM mentor incursions, TAFE Tasters and term-long, locally-relevant STEM projects which culminate in showcase events across New South Wales.

The findings summarised here and on the following page are based on survey and interview data collected during program activities held in 2025. Participants included educators, high school students, and industry mentors and partners.



STEM education is at its best when students can see how it connects to the real world.

The 2025 STEM Community Partnerships Program findings show that authentic, community-focused experiences are helping young people across NSW see STEM not just as a school subject, but as a powerful tool for solving problems, contributing to their communities, and shaping their futures.



Key findings

More than 3,000 students participated in STEM CPP activities in 2025. The evaluation found that the program's greatest impact is not simply increasing interest in STEM. Instead, it is **helping students better understand why STEM matters, where it can take them, and how it applies to their everyday lives.**

A particularly encouraging finding is the program's strong equity potential. **Students from low socio-economic backgrounds experienced the largest gains in recognising the value of STEM**, demonstrating the power of relevant, real-world learning experiences. However, the evaluation also highlights an important challenge: **many of the students who could benefit most from the program remain underrepresented in participation.**

Teachers and industry partners continue to be critical to STEM CPP's success. Educators reported stronger teaching practices and improved student engagement, while industry partners highlighted the value of connecting with schools and communities. The evidence suggests that **even greater impact could be achieved through deeper, longer-term partnerships and increased support for schools facing curriculum and time constraints.**



Looking ahead

Overall, the findings indicate that STEM CPP helped students build confidence, develop essential future skills, and explore STEM pathways they may not have previously considered.

The evaluation suggests that the success of the program model is dependent on maintaining authentic learning experiences, expanding access to underrepresented communities, and strengthening school and industry partnerships.

Generation STEM is managed by CSIRO and made possible by the NSW Government's \$25 million endowment to the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF).



SCIENCE AND
INDUSTRY
ENDOWMENT
FUND





Other key STEM CPP insights include:



86% of students said STEM **showcase events** increased their interest in STEM.



83% of students said they **know more about potential STEM careers**.



80% of students reported **greater STEM interest** after completing investigation-based community projects.



97% of students reported **increased confidence in their problem-solving abilities**.



Students showed a significant increase in **recognising STEM's usefulness in everyday life**.

Teachers observed significant **improvements in students' communication (84%), creative problem-solving (72%) and teamwork (64%)**.



Low socio-economic status students experienced the largest gains in understanding STEM's relevance.



Over 90% of industry partners felt supported and able to contribute meaningfully to the program.



86% of students reported **greater awareness of STEM education pathways**.



57% of students **expect to work in STEM-central careers by age 30**, highlighting strong STEM aspirations.

[Read the full 2025 insights report \(PDF\)](#)

Find out more at csiro.au/generationSTEM

Email generationSTEM@csiro.au

CSIRO is Australia's national science agency, delivering solutions for a productive, sustainable and secure future.

CSIRO. Improving the life of every Australian.

Contact us 1300 363 400 | csiro.au/contact | csiro.au