

Deadly in Generation STEM Insights 2024

Evaluation report highlights

‘There is a bright spirit that burns in all of us’

Deadly in Generation STEM 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.

The Deadly in Generation STEM program is currently delivered in two NSW regions: Kamilaroi Country (Moree – Narrabri) and Dharawal Country (Illawarra – Shoalhaven) and surrounding areas.

The findings here are based on data collected during STEM camps in 2024, comprising of student surveys and interviews with camp participants, who were students, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, Indigenous camp leaders, and CSIRO program staff.

What did participants say they valued about these camps?



Multi-generational learning

Students deeply valued learning from Elders and Knowledge Holders, gaining insights that went beyond the classroom.



Cultural connection

The camps offered opportunities for genuine cultural engagement, supporting wellbeing through traditional practices unlike opportunities available through their schools.



On Country education

Being on Country enhanced understanding, strengthened identity, and fostered personal growth.

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).



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Student voices from camps

'If you want to connect with your culture, and you don't have much of a chance to do that in school, coming on this camp is a must because I've learnt so much that I never would've learnt, even with [my school] who try their best, but they'll never beat having an Elder talk to me straight up.'

'I feel like it's able to link me to a career path I'm interested in, as well as revive my connections to culture. I feel like I can actually contribute to both society and myself with culture.'

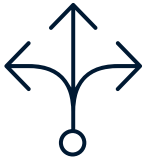


Emerging key outcomes



Identity formation and personal growth

Safe, culturally grounded environments encouraged young people to step out of their comfort zones and thrive.



Career inspiration

Engagement with STEM professionals and Indigenous role models unlocked potential career opportunities and study pathways based on curiosity and strengths.



Community building

Relationships formed during camps continued beyond the experience, supporting long-term learning and connection.

Challenges



Program delivery

Coordinating busy itineraries and securing returning camp leaders was a challenge.



Sustainable leadership

Engaging young Aboriginal STEM professionals as camp leaders is vital. The camp leader role strengthens the program and expands their own career horizons; however managing busy schedules and other priorities can be challenging for camp leaders that want to commit to multiple camps each year.

Why it matters

These STEM camps are piloting a model for inclusive, culturally rich learning experiences for the next generation. By weaving together science, culture, and community, the program aims to build a foundation for lifelong growth and local connection.

[Read the full 2024 insights report \(PDF\)](#)

Find out more at csiro.au/generationSTEM

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