

DEADLY LABS



Preserving the Indigenous Science Knowledge of Elders to share and pass down

THE ISSUE

Indigenous Science Knowledge (ISK) has been growing for over 65,000 years. The knowledge belongs to some of the oldest living cultures of the world - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Often it is Elders who hold and pass down this knowledge. However, it can be difficult for Elders to engage the younger generations and pass on this knowledge in these modern times.

With Indigenous learner attendance rates in some schools being as low as 48%, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023 Schools data*, we believe it is important to show learners the value of the Indigenous Science Knowledge held by Elders. Our solution is to bring the community and education together to improve attendance by revitalising this important Indigenous Science Knowledge and empower cultural learning through Deadly Labs.

OUR SOLUTION

DeadlyScience® works with communities to identify scientific knowledge they would like to preserve, knowledge which supports the community and can be woven into education at the local school. Deadly Labs develops community-based STEM 'solutions' in conjunction with local schools and elders to solve a current problem.

To support the long-time tradition of passing on and preserving ISK, we work with Elders and communities to identify how ISK is relevant to today's problems. Then together we revitalise this knowledge. We do science with the learners, develop a video of the community doing this science together, write a teacher guide and share this with the broader Australian education community.

Working with Elders and STEM experts in the field of the problem being addressed we re-engage learners, improve attendance and celebrate the importance of their cultural and Indigenous Science Knowledge.

YOUR SCHOOL

We would love for your school to be involved. You can be involved in the creation of a Deadly Labs kit by emailing:
programs@deadlyscience.org.au

*<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/education/schools/latest-release/#aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-students>

Distribution of each kit impacts over 5000 learners lives

Preserving Indigenous STEM knowledge of today for tomorrow

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