



Australian Government



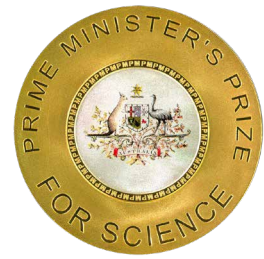
## THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

### Mrs Megan Hayes Mudgeeraba Creek State School, Queenslandy

#### 2021 PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TEACHING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- Mrs Megan Hayes is a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) specialist and primary teacher at Mudgeeraba Creek State School. She is recognised for her outstanding work in championing STEM education at a national level.
- With more than 30 years' primary teaching experience, Mrs Hayes is a highly experienced and innovative educator, who has the ability to easily engage her students in STEM.
- She is passionate about building the connection between science and the real world for her students and inspires students to think critically, take risks and become 'agents of change' for the future.
- Mrs Hayes built and now leads a Professional Learning Team for Science at Mudgeeraba Creek State School, which has positively impacted student learning outcomes and is now a high-profile program at the school.
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that many families seek enrolment at Mudgeeraba Creek State School because of the outstanding reputation of the STEM program at the school.
- Mrs Hayes has significantly raised the profile of STEM education beyond the boundaries of her school, and often features in national STEM publications. She is a genuine ambassador for STEM teachers in Australia.
- Mrs Hayes has won several national prizes and scholarships related to STEM, partnered with high-profile STEM professionals to enhance her lessons and organised events with inspiring speakers.
- She works with high-profile 'real world' scientists to expand on current curriculum content, to maximise student learning and engagement. Her aim is to extend young children's minds and the natural curiosity and understanding about topics such as atoms, molecules and the periodic table.
- Mrs Hayes also integrates contemporary digital tools and practices to deliver high quality teaching and learning in science. Her forethought to establish digital resources became pivotal during the COVID-19 pandemic. She became an indispensable lead teacher as she digitised science resources and created engaging virtual lessons and experiments for home learning.
- Mrs Hayes has a goal of developing strong 21st century STEM skills for students, and she has a keen interest in promoting the role of girls in the field. In 2021, she planned the 'Sistas in STEM' conference, which hosted 36 girls aged 11-13 years old from seven local Gold Coast schools, along with their teachers.
- Her ambition is to grow the conference into an annual event that can cater to even more students, inspiring them to think about taking up careers in science in the future.





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### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2021 Planned 'Sistas in STEM' event with highly respected STEM professionals and academics
- 2019 Highly Commended, Prime Minister's Prize for Science Teaching in Primary Schools
- 2018-2019 Presented at Science Teacher Association of Queensland Conference
- 2018-2019 Presented at Griffith University Cutting Edge Conference
- 2018 Ruth Dircks Scholarship, Australian Science Teachers Association
- 2018 Hosted the Australian Science Teachers Association and Sony Japanese Science Teachers' Association 'Australian Tour'
- 2016-2020 Developed and implemented a specialised STEM and Science program for students at Mudgeeraba Creek State School
- 2017 Finalist, BHP Foundation Science and Engineering Awards Teacher Awards
- 2016 Outstanding Teacher in STEM, Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM
- 2016 Promotion to Specialist STEM Teacher / Science Coordinator, Mudgeeraba Creek State School