



Australian Government



Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

MEDIA RELEASE

5 January 2009

Discover the amazing world of nuclear science - free family school holiday tours -

Looking for something for the kids to do these school holidays? From 12 to 24 January 2009, join in a daily free nuclear science tour and check out Australia's only nuclear reactor – OPAL.

Children and their parents are invited to come on a school holiday tour of the reactor and other exciting science facilities at ANSTO¹ in Lucas Heights, on New Illawarra Road, southern Sydney.

Come and find out how radiation works and how it is an essential part of our everyday lives. Learn about climate change research using nuclear techniques to determine rainfall patterns and greenhouse gas levels going back many hundreds of thousands of years.

See the OPAL reactor which is used to produce nuclear medicines and to irradiate products such as silicon used in electronic equipment. The neutrons it produces are also used for research into structures (eg aeroplanes and turbines), medical treatments and plastics.

Learn about the many other applications of nuclear science including:

- Reducing the need for pesticides by controlling fruit fly larvae population
- Checking metal structures to ensure longevity and safety
- Carbon dating ancient artefacts and old bones for forensic purposes
- Tracing air and water pollution and identifying its sources
- Understanding what happens to food when it's processed
- Medical imaging to better understand disease and treatment

ANSTO manages a 70 hectare campus at Lucas Heights and with around 900 staff is Australia's centre of nuclear excellence and innovation. As the primary supplier of life-saving nuclear medicines, ANSTO makes over half a million doses every year.

TOUR DETAILS:

- **Tours are free to the public and must be pre-booked by calling 02 9717 3111.**
- **The two and a half hour tours run Monday to Friday from 12 January until 24 January 2009 at 9.30am and 12.30am.**
- **A nearby cafeteria is available for refreshments after the tour.**
- **Closed footwear must be worn, no high heels.**
- **Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.**
- **Free parking on-site.**

For more information and to arrange interviews please call Sharon Kelly, Media Relations Manager on (02) 9717 9575 or 0400 394 085

¹ Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation