



Australian Government



Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

## Media release

1 April 2009

### **Calling all budding Dr Karls! - free science tours -**

Is your child a budding science guru who cares about the environment? Or are they just curious? Either way, school children and their parents are invited to ANSTO these school holidays for a free tour of Australia's only nuclear reactor – OPAL – and other exciting science facilities.

On the tour, children and their parents will learn how radiation works and how radioactive waste is safely managed. They will also learn about climate change research using nuclear techniques to determine rainfall patterns and greenhouse gas levels going back hundred of thousands of years.

Kids will see the OPAL reactor and learn about many other applications of nuclear science, including:

- Reducing the need for pesticides by controlling fruit fly larvae population
- Checking welds in metal structures to ensure longevity and safety
- Using radioisotopes to detect when food and drink containers are filled to the correct level
- 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

#### **TOUR DETAILS:**

- \* The two and a half hour tours run from Tuesday 14 April until Wednesday 22 April (excluding Sunday) from 10am and 1pm each day.
- \* Tours are free to the public and must be pre-booked by calling 02 9717 3111.
- \* A nearby cafeteria is available for refreshments afterwards.
- \* Closed footwear must be worn, no high heels.
- \* Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- \* Free parking on-site.

ANSTO manages a 70 hectare campus at Lucas Heights and with around 900 staff is Australia's centre of nuclear excellence and innovation.

ANSTO is clearly signposted on New Illawarra Road, Lucas Heights, in southern Sydney. For further details, go to: [www.ansto.gov.au](http://www.ansto.gov.au)

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**For more information please contact ANSTO Media and Community Relations Manager, Sharon Kelly, on (02) 9717 9575 or 0400 394 085**