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ZEN steps up to give 126 Indigenous students vital STEM learning

A funding boost for the national [DeadlyScience](#) 'Deadly Learners' program from [ZEN Energy](#) will deliver science, technology, engineering and maths resources and education to 126 Indigenous students this year, particularly in remote communities where opportunities do not otherwise exist.

ZEN's \$10,000 donation to the ground-breaking 'Deadly Learners' program, delivered by DeadlyScience, will also contribute toward addressing the stark education gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, especially in STEM education and careers.

Among the non-Indigenous population of Australia, 5.2 per cent has a University STEM qualification. The percentage of Indigenous Australians with a STEM qualification is one-tenth that rate, or just 0.5%. In regional and remote Australia, the gap is even greater.

As part of its Reconciliation Action Plan, ZEN is dedicated to meaningful collaborations with First Nations people and organisations through partnerships, sponsorships, and advocacy opportunities that also improve industry participation and leaders.

The donation of \$10,000 will fund an additional 7 Deadly Learner sessions during 2024. These sessions will be held at regional and remote primary and high schools across Australia. This equates to an average of 18 students per session. Therefore, 126 students will gain access to STEM learning.

Quotes attributable to ZEN CEO Anthony Garnaut:

"ZEN recognises the immense potential of young minds to shape Australia's transition to renewable energy. Their contributions will play a vital role in driving innovation, sustainability, and positive change in our nation's journey towards a cleaner, greener future.

"Our Reconciliation Action Plan seeks to establish long-term partnerships based on trust, respect, and shared values. By investing in education, we aim to inspire future leaders that will lead the transition to renewable energy and beyond."

Quotes attributable to DeadlyScience CEO Corey Tutt:

"DeadlyScience is thrilled to be partnering with ZEN Energy to further our mission of creating STEM equity for Indigenous learners. This partnership has paved the way for further expansion of our Deadly Learners sessions to positively impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners across the country.

"We know that 'you cannot be what you cannot see', and that is why we continue to inspire Indigenous youth through our educational programs including Deadly Learners, to allow them to explore the possibilities of pursuing a career in STEM."



ZEN staff joined DeadlyScience CEO and Founder Corey Tutt for the unveiling of the DeadlyScience Tram, an initiative of the Yara Trams Community Partnership Program during NAIDOC Week 2024. The artwork was designed by Worimi-Biripi artist Jake Simon from InYaDot Art and calls for Melbournians to *'Tap into 65,000+ years of Indigenous science knowledge'* and is an important step towards respectfully recognising Indigenous peoples as the first scientists of this country.

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