



MARCH FOR SCIENCE

— 22 April 2017 —

AUSTRALIA

Aims and Goals

About the March

The March for Science is a global event bringing together people from all walks of life who believe we need more evidence and reason in our political process. We champion the public discovery, distribution, and understanding of scientific knowledge as crucial to the freedom, success, health, and safety of life on this planet.

We are a nonpartisan group, marching to promote stable public science funding, open communication of science, evidence-based policy, and widespread scientific literacy.

All people who value the role of science in society are encouraged to take part in the March for Science.

Aims of the March for Science Australia

The aims of the March are centered around fostering a flourishing culture of robust scientific pursuit, ensuring that the knowledge gained through science is used for the public good, and improving the public's relationship with the scientific process.

Universal Literacy

March for Science Australia calls for:

- *World-class science education in Australian schools.*

A well-informed community is essential to a free and successful society. We support initiatives to promote broad public knowledge and discussion of scientific work. We support science education that teaches children and adults to think critically, ask questions, and evaluate truth based on the weight of evidence.

Science is not a field that should be understood by a select few; every person, from every background, deserves an education that encourages scientific learning alongside the arts and humanities. Science works best when scientists come from diverse perspectives, and we must work to encourage and support a new generation of scientists that increasingly includes historically underrepresented groups.

Open Communication

March for Science Australia calls for:

- *No censorship of public research methods or findings;*
- *Public availability of all publicly-funded research; and*
- *Encouragement of public outreach initiatives.*

As well as the benefits to the scientific community of open access to published work, there is a great benefit to the public when scientific discovery is communicated in a way that is both accurate and accessible to all. We celebrate the many scientific outreach programs which currently make science accessible to school students and the general public, and call for the extension of these initiatives.

Informed Policy

March for Science Australia calls for:

- *Decision-makers to genuinely consider the best available evidence when formulating policy; and*
- *The public to hold decision-makers to account if they deny or ignore evidence for political ends.*

We acknowledge that the complexities of social and environmental issues mean that many factors need to be taken into account when applying scientific evidence to create public policies. However, when those tasked with making public policy do not use rigorously reviewed scientific evidence as the starting point for their decision making, the resulting policies will and not serve the common good and may ultimately endanger future generations and the planet.

Our Goals for This March

Humanize Science

Science is first and foremost a human process -- it is conducted, applied, and supported by a diverse body of people. Scientific inquiry is not an abstract process that happens independent of culture and community. It is an enterprise carried out by people who seek to expand our knowledge of the world in the hope of building a better, more informed society.

Advocate for open, inclusive, and accessible science

We strive to break down barriers in our own community. A career in science should be an option for anyone and everyone who is passionate about discovery. Likewise, the process and results of scientific inquiry should be open to all. Science can assist the decision-making of all people, from the choices we make as consumers to the policies we adopt through public debate. By inviting scientists and STEM professionals to speak in public spaces around the globe, we voice our support for science being freely available.

Partner with the Public

We join together as scientists and supporters of science to promote the importance of partnerships formed between the lab and the broader community. Science works best when scientists share their findings and engage with the public allowing a greater community of minds to help shape, share, and participate in the research process. Researchers also look to the public for inspiration on what new questions need to be asked about the world around us.

But isn't science apolitical?

The March for Science Australia is not aligned with any political party, but it is absolutely intended to have an impact on policy makers. Science as a process of discovery is apolitical but the application of evidence to policy has always been political.

The March for Science has generated a great deal of conversation around whether or not scientists should involve themselves in politics. In the face of an alarming trend toward discrediting scientific consensus and restricting scientific discovery, we might ask instead: can we afford not to speak out in its defence?

Scientists and supporters of science have remained silent for far too long in the face of policies that ignore scientific evidence and endanger both human life and the future of our world. Staying silent is a luxury we can no longer afford. We must stand together and support science.

The application of science to policy is not a partisan issue. Anti-science agendas and policies have been advanced by politicians on all sides, and they harm everyone. Science should neither serve special interests nor be rejected based on personal convictions. At its

core, science is a tool for seeking answers. It can and should influence policy and guide our long-term decision-making.

We encourage scientists to reach out to their communities and share their research, and communicate the impact of science on our everyday lives. We must take science out of the labs and journals and share it with the world.