

This is the eNewsletter of Science ASSIST, the free national online advisory service for school science educators and technicians.

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Science ASSIST August eNews

Update on the Science ASSIST website

Science ASSIST now has:

- 1100 registered users.
- Over 111 questions that have been asked by users and answered by the Science ASSIST expert groups.
- Links to over 460 top quality science teacher resources, all linked to the Australian Curriculum: Science.
- Over 60 resources for school laboratory technicians including SOPs, example risk assessments and information sheets.

New resources on the Science ASSIST website

Recommended list of chemicals for science in Australian schools

Science ASSIST has developed a [Recommended list of chemicals for use in science in Australian schools](#). Until now, there has been no single, nationally agreed list of recommended chemicals for use in science teaching and learning, with significant variations existing between the practices and local policies of the state and territory education jurisdictions. The list was developed to remove the duplication and variation that exists across jurisdictions and aims to reflect the requirements of the Australian Curriculum: Science and current practices in Australian school science teaching and learning.

At the official launch of science ASSIST in November 2014, representatives of various state and territory education jurisdictions attended and were updated with various aspects of the project including the proposed development of a recommended list of chemicals. General support for this was expressed and all jurisdictions have been contacted in regard to the development of the recommended list.

The starting points in the development of the Recommended list were the approved, banned and restricted lists, which were provided, where possible from Australian jurisdictions. Potential chemicals for inclusion were then evaluated in light of the following:

- curriculum requirements as determined from resources such as the Australian Curriculum: Science, science text books and international baccalaureate programs
- legislative and guidance material on chemicals which have security concerns
- the advice of experienced scientists in the fields of chemistry and toxicology

The Recommended list is intended as a **fluid and evolving document** to be built upon to provide a high-quality resource for teachers and technicians around Australia. The data is provided in an easily accessible Excel spreadsheet. As a second stage to the development of the list, Science ASSIST is developing a further resource that will provide information on the storage, use, labelling and disposal of school chemicals on the list.

The recommended list is **not intended as a prescribed stocklist**, but rather as a reference list of chemicals which Science ASSIST has determined as suitable for use in schools. It is not an 'Approved' list in any educational jurisdiction as we have yet to seek its endorsement by the various state and territory education departments.

We welcome and encourage feedback on this list from all stakeholders. Please take a look at the list and if you have any comments, suggestions, or questions about specific chemicals, please direct these to labsupport@asta.edu.au

Connected Learning Experiences

Connected Learning Experiences (CLEs) are curriculum resources designed to support teachers to implement learning experiences that embody an inquiry approach to scientific investigations of natural phenomena and that link directly to the Australian Curriculum: Science.

A CLE is a complete package for teachers that:

- identifies connections between an investigation and the content descriptions of the Australian Curriculum,
- identifies links to **contemporary science**
- identifies student **prior knowledge** and new concepts to be developed, and makes links between science principles and students' experiences.
- identifies possible **misconceptions**.
- outlines the **expected results and explanations**
- sets out a logical **teaching sequence** that is inquiry based.
- provides ideas for **assessment**.
- provides links to complimentary **digital and interactive resources**

Four CLEs have already been uploaded to the Science ASSIST website:

[Sound and hearing Year 1](#)

[The Penguin Project Year 3](#)

[The Egg Bungee Jump Year 10](#)

[Expansion of the universe Year 10](#)

Many more CLEs, covering all years F–10 and all sub-strands in the Science Understanding strand of the Australian Curriculum: Science, will be uploaded over the coming months.



Kate Dilger (Science ASSIST Teacher Support Officer) taking workshop participants through a CLE at the recent CONASTA 64 conference in Perth.

Getting Science ASSIST out there!

You can help us get the word out and be part of the conversation, either through the [website](#), our [Facebook page](#) or on the [Twittersphere](#). Remember to tell other teachers and laboratory technicians about the site.

Science ASSIST is a new and innovative national online advisory service for school science educators and technicians. Advice is provided by an expert national advisory team with extensive collective experience across all areas of science. Science ASSIST is managed by the Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) in consultation with Science Education Technicians Australia (SETA). It is funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTACT US

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