

**28 August 2019**

## **Local Students' Eyes Opened To What Industry and University Has to Offer**

Last week was an exciting one for a group of 32 students, as the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) launched its iSCIENCE Project for 2019. The program is for students who are intending to follow ATAR Science, Math and Technology subjects during Years 11 and 12, and head off to university after that.

The students, who were selected from high schools in the Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn areas are taking part in a seven-day program during August and September, aimed at providing an insight into the many career opportunities available in the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA).

KIC Director Chris Oughton said he had no doubt that the students selected for the 2019 project would graduate from the program with an expanded knowledge of industry and the possible career paths that may be suited to them.

In partnership with Murdoch University, the course provides students with valuable information and awareness of science, maths and technology courses at Murdoch University. The program includes a visit to Murdoch's South Street Campus to meet lecturers and students.

KIC Director Chris Oughton said the iSCIENCE Project backed up KIC's commitment towards providing ongoing opportunities for students in the local region.

"The project gives students the opportunity to explore and understand the breadth of industry in the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA) and the broad range of science based career options available. "The iSCIENCE Project provides a unique approach to the existing programs, as it is aimed at students who are intending to go to university to pursue science-based studies", he said.

This year KIC member Alcoa jumped on board as a Partner and organised a site tour of their Kwinana Alumina Refinery in an effort to engage the students with companies that could possibly become their future workplaces. During the first two days of the program, students met with Alcoa employees who spoke about their career pathways and offered them advice to help achieve their career goals. The refinery visit consisted of a bus tour, walking tours of the laboratory and Alumina Centre of Excellence research and development centre, and hands-on science activities simulating the alumina refining process.

Alcoa Kwinana Community Relations Officer Scott Hansen said the students made the most of the refinery visit.

“Their eyes were well and truly opened to the extraordinary effort that goes into making alumina and aluminium,” Scott said. “Most importantly, they got to mix with people in roles they are aspiring to – engineers, scientists, researchers, industrial chemists – and see their real-life, operating workplace. Our operations are in the students’ backyard and I hope to see some of them back here as graduates and employees in the future.”

During the program, the students will be guided through a series of workshops, including research into industry, career choices and education pathways, the use of social media, resume writing, and preparing for an interview.

A presentation evening will be held at the end of the program, to recognise the graduating students of the 2019 iSCIENCE Project.

**END**

Pics attached separately



