



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 29 May 2013**

**Senator Conroy launches Australia's 2013  
National ICT Careers Week  
Wednesday 29 May 2013, CeBIT Sydney**

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy officially launched the National ICT Careers Week on Wednesday 29 May 2013 at CeBIT Sydney.

National ICT Careers Week 2013 – under the theme ***ICT: Start Here, Go Anywhere*** – will be held from 29 July to 4 August 2013 to showcase the extensive and rewarding study and career opportunities currently available in ICT for young people.

The Week aims to get young people, their parents, teachers and careers advisors excited about what ICT study and work has to offer. The Week highlights the diverse range of information communications and technology (ICT) careers available and aims to provide more information to students.

"We are very pleased that Senator Conroy is willing to launch National ICT Careers Week again this year," said Ms Penny Coulter, Chair of the Careers Week Steering Committee. "Senator Conroy has been a long time supporter of the national initiative of National ICT Careers Week which aims to introduce young people to the rewarding and engaging career opportunities available anywhere in the world to ICT professionals."

NICTA CEO Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, who firmly supports the need to encourage young people into ICT, hosted this year's national launch of ICT Careers Week at the NICTA Stand at CeBIT today. Professor Durrant-Whyte also accepted his appointment as an ambassador of National ICT Careers Week, and was presented with a certificate by Ms Coulter. Hugh advised "ICT is the key transformer for all businesses. This is why it's critical to have the best ICT graduates working with Australian industry to make the country globally competitive."

"NICTA produces over a quarter of Australia's ICT PhDs who are already helping make Australian businesses more successful", he said.

Mr John Ridge AM, Executive Director of the ACS Foundation said, "ICT Careers Week is a great way of positively promoting careers in the ICT profession. National ICT Careers Week aims to ensure that Australia

**Information on National ICT Careers Week activities,  
participating organisations and other information**

[www.ictcareersweek.info](http://www.ictcareersweek.info)

continues to produce a highly-skilled workforce that will generate and sustain ICT-based economic growth and innovation – not only for the Australian ICT industry, but for all other industry sectors, which also rely heavily on ICT for productivity gains.”

### **Reason for National ICT Careers Week**

Skilled people are the most important component of the ICT industry as they provide the genesis, implementation, and support of the technologies of the ICT industry. The larger the skills base in the information and communications technologies (ICT) industry, the higher the uptake of information technology, the faster will be the growth of the economy.

The continued productivity dividend by ICT to the Australian economy will be jeopardised if Australia does not have sufficient people with ICT skills joining the Australian workforce in the medium to long term.

With more than 100,000 new ICT jobs created in the past decade, more than 385,000 workers are now employed in ICT occupations in Australia.

But Australia is facing a widening gap between the demand for ICT skills and the supply of qualified ICT workers.

While the situation has improved, interested organisations and people remain concerned that there are insufficient young people enrolling in tertiary ICT courses. This trend will have an impact on the number of graduates available to work in ICT from tertiary education over the next 5 years, and into the future.

We must ensure that Australia produces a well-educated workforce and researchers who will generate and sustain economic growth and innovation, not just for the Australian ICT industry, but also the other industry sectors which rely heavily on ICT for productivity gains.

### **About National ICT Careers Week**

The annual National ICT Careers Week will be running across the country from 29 July to 4 August 2013 with events and activities being presented by businesses, educational institutions, government agencies, industry bodies, women’s groups and professional bodies.

National ICT Careers Week showcases the opportunities in information and communications technology available to young people. We want to introduce young people to the rewarding and engaging career opportunities available across Australia and in the world.

The ACS Foundation, the Australian Computer Society, and the Australian Council of Deans of Information and Communications Technology coordinate the National ICT Careers Week. Organisations together with their events and activities are listed on the National ICT Careers Week web site. The web site is being constantly updated with new registrants and various ICT Careers Week activities.

National ICT Careers Week [www.ictcareersweek.info](http://www.ictcareersweek.info)

**Contact for media**

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