

International Year of Planet Earth in Australia

Frequently asked questions

Q1. Can I apply for funding through IYPE?

A1. There is currently not any funding available in Australia.

Q2. What is International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) really about in Australia?

A2. IYPE was proclaimed for 2008 by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its Plenary Session on the 22nd of December 2005. It seeks to raise the awareness of the contribution and role of the Earth sciences in society in the minds of politicians, decision-makers, the media and the general public. It will demonstrate new and exciting ways in which Earth sciences can help future generations meet the challenges involved in ensuring a safer and more prosperous world.

IYPE is multi-disciplinary but based in the geosciences, global in scope and has 10 science themes:

1. Groundwater – towards sustainable use
2. Hazards – minimising risk, maximising awareness
3. Earth and Health – building a safer environment
4. Climate – the ‘stone tape’
5. Resources – towards sustainable use
6. Megacities – going deeper, building safer
7. Deep Earth – from crust to core
8. Ocean – abyss of time
9. Soils – the living skin of the Earth
10. Earth and Life – origins of diversity

Senior Australian Advisors to IYPE are:

Dr Tom Beer – CSIRO Aspendale

Dr Ian Lambert – Geoscience Australia, Canberra

Q3. Is there an Australian IYPE committee?

A3. The National Committee for the Earth Sciences, under the Australian Academy of Science, oversees geoscience activities in Australia, including IYPE. It will report annually to the international IYPE Board on relevant geoscience research activities and meetings in Australia.

Outreach and education activities will form an important component of IYPE.

General coordination of these will be provided by Geoscience Australia

(Fiona.Wright@ga.gov.au). Geoscience Australia is providing, in general consultation with CSIRO (simon.torok@csiro.au) and the Geological Society of Australia (info@gsa.org.au) information and activities to the public at large about topics as diverse as the exploration for resources, management of the environment, and safety

of critical infrastructure. Geoscience Australia's Science Week and Earth Science Week activities will provide forums to address IYPE themes

At the World Science Technology and Education Conference in Perth 2007 a workshop for science teachers will showcase effective tools for use in the classroom that relate to themes highlighted by IYPE. It is planned to incorporate IYPE themes into the 2008 edition of the resource book for science teachers.

Q4. Where can I get further information on IYPE?

A4. <http://www.esfs.org/>

Q5. How do I seek IYPE endorsement of an activity?

A5. Fill out the Expression of Interest form that can be found on the bottom right portion of the web page at <http://www.esfs.org/> .