



## **MARCH FOR SCIENCE: Saturday 22 April**

### **Science, not silence: Brisbane locals take to the streets in global campaign**

Monday 10 April 2017

Science literacy in Australia is decreasing. This is despite the fact that 79% of Australians believe that science education is absolutely essential or very important to the Australian economy.

There are fears that Australians don't have enough science literacy to make informed decisions about policies that affect our future. It's a situation this month's March for Science wants to change.

On Saturday 22 April, Brisbane locals will march down George Street in the CBD to demonstrate their support for science and highlight the valuable role it plays in our community.

It's part of a global campaign that will see residents in 11 Australian cities and 440 international locations march under the slogan "Science, not silence".

March for Science will raise awareness for a long-term vision to improve science literacy; and to promote knowledge sharing, the need for stable support for scientific research and the need for public policy based on scientific evidence. It is a march for people from all professions, races, genders, religions and socioeconomic backgrounds who support science.

Professor Carolyn Mountford, CEO of Australia's Translational Research Institute said, "It's great to see that Brisbane is holding a March for Science. Scientists need to spend less time talking to one another and more time talking to the community and business sector."

2017 Australian of the Year Emeritus Professor Alan Mackay-Sim also supports the aims of the March in gaining public advocacy for science.

March for Science Brisbane advocate, Dr Joel Gilmore – a physicist, science communicator and foodie – will get out of kitchen to MC the rally.

The post-march rally will feature family-friendly science activities, performances and a series of short, inspiring talks from speakers including stroke survivor and disability advocate Lisa Cox and Anne Brant who will represent the concerns of Queensland science teachers.

Organisers of the Brisbane march want you to join them in raising awareness for science

globally, through your slogans and signs. They challenge you to come up with a better slogan than Australia's Chief Scientist, Professor Alan Finkel's *Beakers need bankers*.

Everyone is welcome to march as part of the Brisbane community. Your placard reflects your passion.

To find out more visit <https://marchforscienceaustralia.org/brisbane>

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