

NEWS

Career insight provided by Indigenous summer schools

Indigenous high school students from around Australia converged on Perth and Sydney last month for the annual Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer Schools held at Curtin University and the University of Sydney.

Established in 1998 by Engineering Aid Australia, the week-long live-in summer schools introduce Year 11 and 12 Indigenous students to engineering and the wide range of opportunities an engineering degree offers.

At Curtin University, 16 students, mostly from Western Australia, attended hands-on classroom activities and visited engineering sites.

The classroom activities included assembling light-beam sensing circuits, assembling and controlling miniature robots, pumping water with energy from photovoltaic panels and driving fans with electricity from hydrogen cells.

The site visits were to the Leighton caisson construction site at Henderson for the Gorgon LPG project; the Fiona Stanley Hospital project at Murdoch; and the BHP Nickel refinery at Kwinana.



Indigenous summer school students on a site visit to Leighton's headquarters in North Ryde prior to being bussed around the M2 widening site in Sydney.

At the University of Sydney, 23 students took part in a vessel construction and buoyancy load test, a robotics lecture and demonstration, and a flight simulator test flight.

Site visits included a tour of HMAS

Success at Garden Island Naval Base; the ABC television broadcast facilities; the Leighton M2 widening project; the RMS model road and tunnel construction exercise; and the Qantas Jet Base inspecting the new A380 passenger jet.