

## Online professional development for science teachers

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Project Title	Online professional development for science teachers: Integrating ICT into the laboratory
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Period	2007
Funding Agency	Australian School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM)
Organisational Base	SiMERR National Centre

### Description

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#### Purpose

The project provides an online professional development program to support science teachers embed ICT into their classrooms. It demonstrates a variety of strategies, technologies, and modes and how these can enhance deeper student learning in science. This PD program will be developed around a prepared series of online units for students. In this way, it ensures that teachers are using the online student materials productively. Involvement of a range of schools from metropolitan and rural/regional areas provides the opportunity for teachers to develop networks outside their immediate environment and create a 'community of scholars'.

#### Focus

The focus of the project is to provide teachers with concrete examples and ways in which to incorporate ICT into science lessons. This is achieved by providing a professional development program online allowing teachers to access and work through the materials whenever relevant to their teaching context. As this package is designed to link with a series of already developed student units for Years 7-10, both teachers and students will benefit from the project.

The outcomes for teachers will be an opportunity to:

1. Trial a range of PD strategies with their students;
2. Provide feedback to the team developing the PD material; and
3. Engage with other teachers in their own cluster but also across clusters to create a 'learning community'.

The outcomes for students will be:

1. Opportunity to experience different modes of delivery in science lessons;
2. Greater use of computers and associated technologies to enhance their learning during lessons;
3. Creation of a more engaging learning environment as teachers trial particular ICT strategies in their classrooms.

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