



**AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION  
SOUTH AFRICA**

**Introductory remarks at the Big Aussie Science ShowOff  
at the Scibono Discovery Centre  
24 March 2014**

Good morning students, media representatives, ladies and gentlemen

I'm very pleased to be joining Mr David Kramer and his distinguished team here today at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre. I've just been lucky enough to tour the world-class science centre here at Sci-Bono and have been impressed by the fantastic work that is being done here to support maths, science and technology education in South Africa.

I'm particularly pleased to be introducing you to the *The Big Aussie Science ShowOff* - a fantastic science education show that is currently visiting Sci-Bono as part of a larger 'southern Africa' tour supported by the Australian Government, which includes a jam-packed schedule of science shows and training programs in South Africa, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia. As you'll soon see, it is a show that involves lots of laughs, learning and exciting experiments that are a celebration of the fun in science.

The show is presented by Dr Graham Walker, a science education specialist who has a unique brand of high-energy delivery. He has been thrilling audiences around the world with his science shows for the past 13 years, and he is one of only two people in the world with a PhD in science show performance.

For those of you in the audience that might already be considering pursuing a career in science, during this morning's show you'll see some seriously mind-bending experiments that will hopefully reinforce your sense of the amazing opportunities that can be pursued through science-based professions. For others, we hope the show might inspire you to consider new options for your careers. And for everyone here today, Graham's show might help you learn a little bit about how the amazing Square Kilometre Array (SKA) radio telescope works.

Australia is very proud to be co-hosting the SKA radio telescope with South Africa. The SKA project is of huge scientific importance and is really exciting in so many ways. It will enable new discoveries about the origin of the universe, encourage scientific innovation, and drive economic growth and

development in a range of areas including renewable energy, engineering and information technology.

Australia and South Africa are already working together on readying our sites and necessary infrastructure for the SKA. When the SKA is completed, its component parts across Australia and Africa will work as a single observatory that will be used to map the sky and find targets for closer study. The SKA will be able to detect some of the oldest radio waves in the universe and enable us to see back to soon after the Big Bang. This will hopefully lead to exciting new discoveries, including about the origin of the universe.

I'll now hand you over to Graham Walker, so please sit back and enjoy the show.