



Australian Government



Venue and safety information for school excursions

Venue name

Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre

Location

King Edward Terrace, Parkes, Canberra ACT 2600

Phone number

6270 2800

Fax Number

6213 7254

Web Address

[Questacon Website www.questacon.edu.au](http://www.questacon.edu.au)

Insurance

Questacon has public liability insurance

Activity/program

Gallery 7 - *Excite @ Q*

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- All ages

Staff accreditation/ competence

- Trained and accredited staff

Potential risks

- Low to medium risks
- Active area with excited participants
- Risks of trips and bumps

Control Strategies

- Active teacher/carer/parent supervision required
- Intermittent staff presence in general area
- Exhibits designed to minimise risk
- CCTV in place

Gallery 4 – Q Lab

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- All ages

Staff accreditation/ competence

- Trained and accredited staff

Potential risks

- Low risk
- Various science experiments and demonstrations

Control Strategies

- Constant supervision of visitors by trained and accredited staff
- Staff follow strict risk management guidelines for each experiment
- Secure storage of chemicals and materials

Gallery 5 – The Shed

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- All ages

Staff accreditation/competence

- Trained and accredited staff

Potential risks

- Low to medium risks
- Risks of trips and bumps
- Potential choking hazards

Control Strategies

- Active teacher/carer/parent supervision required
- Trained staff actively monitor the tinkering space

Exhibit – Freefall - Gallery 7

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- 5 years to adult
- 110cm minimum height requirement
- Can support own weight
- Exclusions for numerous medical conditions

Staff accreditation/ competence

- Trained and accredited staff

Potential risks

- Low to medium risks

Control Strategies

- Active teacher/carer/parent supervision required
- Trained staff actively monitor this exhibit
- Clear visual instructions for participants
- Exhibit design and maintenance to maximise safety

Exhibit – Robo Hockey and Cross Hockey (air table) - Gallery 7

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- All ages

Staff accreditation/ competence

- Trained staff

Potential risks

- Low risks
- Puck hitting fingers and/hand

Control Strategies

- Staff presence in gallery, can assist when required
- Exhibit design and maintenance to maximise safety

Exhibit - Water Play - Gallery 6

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- 0 to 6 years

Staff accreditation/ competence

- Trained staff

Potential risks

- Low risks

Control Strategies

- Active parent/carer supervision required
- Staff presence
- Exhibit design and maintenance to maximise safety

Demonstrations - Various locations

Recommended age group/fitness level/prerequisite skills

- All ages

Staff accreditation/ competence

- Trained and accredited staff

Potential risks

- Low risks

Control Strategies

- Presenters will ensure that when using potentially hazardous materials in shows, and busking, that the hazards are clearly explained to the audience and all safety precautions are clearly observed, prior to commencement of the show

Equipment provided by Questacon

Overalls

- Free Fall – used to prevent friction burns, restrain loose clothing and for visitor comfort

Booties

- Free Fall – used to prevent friction burns and maintain hygiene

All equipment at the venue is maintained in accordance with WHS Regulations, appropriate standards and codes of practice

Public Safety

WHS

Visitors to Questacon have a shared responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.

In accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act, visitors are to:

- take reasonable care of their own health and safety;
- take reasonable care to ensure they do not adversely affect the safety of others; and
- comply with all instructions given by Questacon staff so far as they are reasonably able to.

Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult (17+) at all times.

Questacon will minimise the risk of injuries by;

- Ensuring safety is of high importance in the design and building of exhibits and exhibitions
- Ensuring physical environment is safe
- Ensuring all electrical switches for exhibits which are operated by the public are safe and of low voltage levels
- Wherever practicable, non-slip floor treatment will be applied to reduce/minimise the risk of slips and falls
- Where applicable all steps will be clearly defined to eliminate the potential risk of falls
- All stairs will be maintained in good condition and rails will be fitted where there is a need for extra precaution

All dangerous materials and equipment will be stored away out of reach of the public

Other

- Centre management will ensure that the amenities provided for the public are maintained according to public health regulations.
- The café is managed according to public health regulations.

Cochlear Implants. The following galleries may pose a risk to visitors with Cochlear Implants; Gallery 2, 3, 6, 7, some *Q Lab* activities and some *Excited Particles* science shows. Information sheets can be requested at the time of your visit, alternatively you can refer to our website for more details.

Pacemakers. The following galleries may pose a risk to visitors with Pacemakers; Gallery 2, 3, 6, 7, some *Q Lab* activities and some *Excited Particles* science shows. Information sheets can be requested at the time of your visit, alternatively you can refer to our website for more details.

Epilepsy. The following galleries may pose a risk to visitors with Epilepsy; Gallery 2, 3, 4, 7, some *Q Lab* activities and some *Excited Particles* science shows. Information sheets can be requested at the time of your visit, alternatively you can refer to our website for more details.

Other requirements

- All visitors are required to wear footwear whilst in the centre.

Supervision/services

Students and teachers are briefed on arrival – please advise staff of any special needs prior to your visit or at the briefing.

Supervision of students is the responsibility of teachers or group supervisors. Please ensure that all students are accompanied and supervised at all times whilst at Questacon.

Questacon recommends the following teacher to student ratios:

- pre-school: 1:4
- primary: 1:10
- secondary: 1:15
- tertiary: 1:15

Trained staff are present throughout the centre and at exhibits where appropriate, to assist visitors and maintain a safe environment for visitors and staff.

Lockers are provided for storage of school bags.

Access

- Access to and egress from the premises is safe and without risk to health.
- The venue is wheelchair accessible.
- Disabled toilets are available.

Emergencies

- Emergency procedures are in place in the venue.

- Employees and others undertaking work (including volunteers) are trained to deal with emergency situations.

Construction/Maintenance/Repair

- Licensed personnel are used for all construction, maintenance and repair work.

First Aid

- First aid kits are available for each activity.
- There is a trained first aid officer at the venue.
- A first aid room is available.

Child-related employment

- All staff and volunteers have undertaken the Australian Federal Police screen - 'Working with Children Police Check'.
- All staff who work directly with children are registered with the ACT Office of Regulatory Services as per the *Working with Vulnerable People Act 2011*.