



Education and Skills  
Development

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## Science attitudes, awareness and education

This month's newsletter focuses on the relationship between science and the public as we celebrate [National Science Week](#) in South Africa. This initiative by the Department of Science and Technology is being held from **8-13 August** at various sites across the country, with the theme of 'Science for Sustainable Development and Improved Quality of Life'. The purpose of this week is to promote general awareness of the value of science in people's daily lives and expose the public, educators and students to science-based careers, particularly amongst the disadvantaged sections of the population.

### Reaching out to the next generation of scientists

The Department of Science and Technology has highlighted science awareness and citizen participation in science as core areas of focus in their recent 'Science Engagement Framework'. Michael Gastrow explores the [relationship between the public and science](#) in South Africa in order to illuminate the context in which related programmes must operate.

### Attitudes to science: part of the puzzle of educational achievement?

A [2014 article](#) investigated the relationship between attitudes to learning science (enjoyment, valuing and self-confidence in ability to learn science) and science achievement in South Africa, based on data from the 2011 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

### Attitudes towards science in South Africa

In this month's infographic we examine the [attitudes](#) of the South African general public and grade 9 learners towards science using data from the 2013 South African Social Attitudes Survey and the 2011 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.

### National Science Week: bridging the gap between the public and science

Our team has monitored the NSW activities over a number of years. We look at the trends in NSW attendance, as well as the [importance of NSW](#) in promoting public engagement with science.

#### INTERESTED IN USING TIMSS DATA FOR YOUR RESEARCH?

If you are interested in working with us on publications based on the TIMSS data, please [contact us](#).

[www.timss-sa.org.za](http://www.timss-sa.org.za)