



## OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR

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### Media Release

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#### More opportunities for curious New Zealanders to engage in science

Survey results jointly released today by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Education are both reassuring and at the same time challenging says Sir Peter Gluckman, the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor

"This survey of public attitudes toward science tells us that we're moving in the right direction. We know that New Zealanders are curious and savvy, but we also now know that too many think that the science we learn about in the media is inconsistent and even contradictory. That raises alarm bells, both in terms of how science is understood and how it is communicated. I am confident that the activities bundled in *A Nation of Curious Minds*, particularly those announced today, will start to unpack and address the issues in novel and constructive ways," said Sir Peter.

*A Nation of Curious Minds* is the government's strategic plan for science in society. Released in July of this year, the plan comes as a response to the leadership challenge put to the government through the National Science Challenges development process. Among the first activities to be rolled out from the plan is platform for 'participatory science', which will be run as a pilot project in the first year of operation.

"My Office is looking forward to helping the Ministries build a platform that allows practicing scientists and community organisations, including iwi, schools and businesses to work together in the co-production of knowledge of high relevance to communities. In some cases, this will be about strengthening community-based research relationships that are already in place, but it is also aimed at developing innovative new partnerships that can inspire learning and collaboration, and can promote the impact of science," said Sir Peter.

For further information see: <http://www.msi.govt.nz/update-me/major-projects/science-and-society-project/public-attitudes-research>

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