Schools in Grayndler will benefit from a significant Australian Government investment to improve the focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

The Australian Government will invest $12 million in primary and secondary schools across the country to ensure young Australians are equipped with the necessary skills for the economy of the future.

The Government will also establish the Commonwealth Science Council as the pre-eminent body for advice on science and technology in Australia.

Senator for New South Wales, Senator Arthur Sinodinos, said that the Science Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, would advise the Government on areas of national strength, current and future capability.

“The Council will also work out ways to improve connections between Government, research organisations, universities and business,” Senator Sinodinos said.

“We must encourage interest and curiosity in STEM subjects and demonstrate there are great careers built on science, engineering, maths and technology.”

The Government will:

- Invest $7.4 million to provide innovative mathematics resources for primary and secondary school teachers and students.
- Invest $3.5 million to provide greater exposure to computer coding across different year levels in Australian schools to expand the pool of ICT-skilled workers.
- Provide $500,000 for an innovation-focused ‘Pathways in Technology Early College High School’ (P-TECH) pilot programme to help develop the next generation of innovators and job-ready graduates.
- Increase student participation in the ‘Summer schools for STEM students’ programme, with a focus on girls, disadvantaged and Indigenous students and those living in regional and remote areas. The Government will provide funds to support travel and accommodation for participants.

The Commonwealth Science Council will include the Minister for Industry, Minister for Education, Minister for Health and the Chief Scientist. Other Ministers will participate in the Science Council’s discussions as required.

“Five eminent scientists, researchers and educators and five business leaders will make up the majority of the Science Council to ensure discussions address the need for industry and science to work together closely to boost Australia’s competitiveness Senator Sinodinos said.

“The Science Council will meet twice yearly and its first meeting will be held before the end of the year.”

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