



**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP**  
**MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**  
**MINISTER FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES AND SUPERANNUATION**

Dear Dr Evans-Galea

I would like to congratulate you for hosting the inaugural *Science Pathways 2012* event. Unfortunately I am unable to attend, so I would like to offer this letter of support and gratitude for the work you do and more broadly, the contribution that the Australian Academy of Science makes to the fabric of Australian society.

I believe that Australia needs science and innovation to make our country as famous for ideas as we are for sport. Australia is a big country, but not a big nation. While we don't have the scale of China, India or the United States, I believe we can compete globally by working smarter and that many of the challenges that our nation faces can be overcome by the brains and ability of our people. I believe that our future prosperity and sustainability depends on the creativity and inquisitorial endeavours of our people and the Government has a part to play to make that future a reality.

I commend the Australian Academy of Science for its contribution to the diversity of our talent and global standing in the field of science, and its ambition to build a more prominent position for science in our national psyche. This is particularly relevant at a time when Australia's Brian Schmidt, along with Adam G. Riess, holds the latest Nobel Prize in Physics. Physics was the prize area which Alfred Nobel mentioned first in his will and at that time, in the end of the nineteenth century, many people viewed physics as the foremost of the sciences. I am immensely proud of this Australian accomplishment and of course I am interested in the small ways by which I may be able to better highlight the importance of science in our national discourse.

In this vein, I hope your event in the Shine Dome, the Australian Academy of Sciences purpose built home, is a great success and an opportunity to bring together our up and coming scientists with their more experienced counterparts. I look forward to hearing the ideas that will no doubt emerge on what we can do to cater for the best possible outcomes in Australia's scientific capability.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bill Shorten'.