



THE HON. DR SHARMAN STONE MP

Federal Member for Murray

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing in support of the Science Pathways: Getting Science on the National Agenda Forum hosted by the Early and Mid Career Researcher Forum of the Australian Academy of Science to be held on the 24-25 September in Canberra.

This event provides an excellent opportunity to communicate and promote the importance of science in all aspects of life and to highlight the fact that science underpins our understanding and knowledge about our universe and the development of new technologies.

The communication of science to society in general is vital if we are to benefit from new ideas and discoveries and match policy with scientific endeavour. There are many competing priorities in policy development and it is incumbent on scientists to ensure the language they use is understood by the general populous if it is to be heard and heeded.

I note the forum "examines critical issues including career structure, education, job security, funding, training and gender equity." There has been an increase in women scientists in recent decades and it is important that the issues relating to career development and family responsibilities particularly for women are acknowledged and discussed.

I commend the Australian Academy of Science on this exciting initiative and the excellent program that is on offer and I congratulate presenters and participants who are engaging in the discussion and debate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Sharman Stone', written in a cursive style.

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The Hon Dr. Sharman Stone MP
Federal Member for Murray
20 September 2012