

Germinator - Classroom Smart Board Program

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Nationally recognised hand hygiene programs "Mister Germ and "No Germs on Me" are delivered to NSW early child care centres, at large community events such as NAIDOC, NSW Koori Knockout and are incorporated into primary school health and wellbeing programs, such as the Young Doctor Program coordinated by Malpa and Shake a Leg Program delivered by NSW Hunter New England Local Health District. Capacity to implement "Mister Germ" and "No Germs on Me" programs is dependent on access to the program's physical resources, availability of staff to deliver the resource and provide training to teachers in remote communities, and the schools' capacity to take on a new program. There remain many primary schools in NSW that have not had the opportunity to access the program resources. However, the classroom "smart board" provides a solution.

"Smart boards" are a modern aid within school classrooms that enhances teaching and learning experience, provides flexibility, and promote interaction and discussion on a topic. The "smart board" is connected to the internet, therefore teachers have access to additional online information to support them and to enhance the learning experience.

NSW Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit and Hunter New England Public Health Unit engaged a graphic designer to develop a smart board program application building upon the already successfully "Mister Germ" and "No Germs On Me" programs. The program supports teachers to engage with their students to teach them what germs are, how easily they can be spread, how they can make us sick and how they can be prevented, with a particular focus on hand hygiene. The program is fun, interactive and includes animation and hands-on activities. The "Germinator", now a key character in the national hygiene promotion scene, takes on a lead role in the smart board program. The technology supports animation and items to be moved around on the screen, making it more appealing to a generation who are skilled and accepting of computer software technology.

The "Germinator - Classroom Smart Board Program" provides an easily accessible resource that can be used at the school teacher's convenience. The application will be designed to run from a thumb drive via the classroom smart board.

For more information

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Glossary

NAIDOC National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance
Committee