



THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICS TEACHERS INC.
supporting and promoting mathematics education

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Indigenous students count on national collaboration

The key to improving the numeracy outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is the mutual understanding and collaboration of educators, researchers and leaders of Indigenous communities.

The Numeracy, Mathematics and Indigenous Learners Conference will bring together key people—identified by school systems, professional organisations, and Indigenous-education projects from across Australia—for a showcase of best practices which have demonstrated real improvements in numeracy and mathematics for Indigenous students.

The conference will be held 14–16 October 2012 in Adelaide at the City West campus of the University of South Australia, convened by The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT).

The conference aims to develop a national picture of the state of Indigenous numeracy education, and to develop a framework of advice for everyone involved in Indigenous mathematics education—which will be promoted to Governments, school systems, and others.

It will be the first conference of its kind where classroom teachers from across Australia will demonstrate the classroom, school and community practices that have made a genuine impact on the learning of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Besides presentations led by classroom teachers, the conference will feature keynote talks by leading Indigenous educators Prof. Peter Buckskin, Dean of Indigenous Scholarship, Engagement and Research from the University of South Australia, and Prof. Russell Bishop, Professor of Maori Education at the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

“It’s important that networks across Australia are built between educators involved in the teaching of mathematics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators who are committed to achieving quality learning outcomes through improved collaboration,” said Prof. Buckskin, who is confident that this conference will provide the beginnings of a more coordinated approach to improving learning outcomes in mathematics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners.

Dr Kim Beswick, AAMT President, said, “We know that maths can be a gatekeeper for students’ future opportunities, and AAMT is keen to promote the sharing of exemplary teaching of mathematics that is making a difference to students’ learning. We need to use this shared knowledge to steer towards a brighter future that includes better options for Indigenous young people.”

AAMT’s own project “Make It Count: Numeracy, Mathematics and Indigenous Learners”, funded by the Australian Government, will be among the projects showcased at the conference.

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Conference website: <http://aamt.delivr.com/1a9od>

Available for interview

[about the conference]

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[about the issues]

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