



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Better teaching of mathematics for Aboriginal learners

The President of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT), Associate Professor Kim Beswick from the University of Tasmania, today launched the AAMT Blueprint for improving the mathematics and numeracy outcomes of Aboriginal learners across Australia.

The Blueprint is a call for action and outlines AAMT's recommended pathway to building capacity and improving learning outcomes rather than continuing with a 'fix the problem' approach.

"We know that quality mathematics and numeracy teaching can make a difference but there needs to be a strategic plan in place that is supported by a systematic research agenda at national, state, regional and school levels", said Assoc. Prof. Beswick.

"The Blueprint is an appeal to governments, systems, practitioners, community organisations, and business and industry to collaborate in a targeted effort".

The Blueprint has the support of well-known Aboriginal educator Emeritus Professor Paul Hughes, Chair of the Expert Advisory Group to AAMT's 2009-12 *Make it count* project – part of the Australian Government's Closing the Gap initiative – and currently Chair of the First Peoples' Education Advisory Group to Education Minister Garrett.

"Many of our Aboriginal young people are not reaching their potential in schools and a lack of maths skills is a real gatekeeper to life opportunities beyond school. This must be changed", said Prof. Hughes.

"Educators at all levels must understand that our kids can learn mathematics as well as anyone and that ability is not fixed by race, class, gender or geographical location. They need to understand quality mathematics pedagogy and how it impacts on our kids".

The Blueprint calls for a coordinated approach through a coherent and connected National Network which brings together the teaching profession, universities, government and business and industry.

The Blueprint outlines the strategies AAMT will undertake between 2012 to 2016 and, importantly, invites governments, universities, business and industry and community organisations to work with AAMT to achieve improved mathematics outcomes as a matter of urgency.

For more information, visit the AAMT website at www.aamt.edu.au.

Available for interview

[about the Blueprint]

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