



URGENT ACTION TO TACKLE MATHS GAP FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Education leaders from every Australian state and territory will come together this week to urgently address the entrenched and widening gap in academic achievement for Indigenous students in maths.

The National Summit on Indigenous Students and Mathematics Education brings together maths associations from all around the country and has been organised by The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance (ATSIMA) and the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT).

The summit will develop a Commitment Statement to hold education systems accountable for the mathematics outcomes of Indigenous students and put together an action plan for driving meaningful change to close the gap in maths education achievement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

“The latest NAPLAN results demonstrate the shocking, seemingly entrenched, and in some cases widening, gap for Indigenous students in maths,” said ATSIMA CEO and Quandamooka mathematician Professor Chris Matthews.

“For example, Year 9 Indigenous students perform, on average, at Year 5 level in numeracy.”

“That’s unacceptable. It’s an educational gap that has the potential to impact their entire lives – permanently putting the handbrakes on their career opportunities.”

Allan Dougan CEO of AAMT added: “It’s the urgent task of education leaders all around Australia to work together to address this – we simply cannot let education outcomes like this sustain and get worse.”

“The summit will mobilise the mathematics education system to arrest and reverse the gap in maths attainment between Indigenous and non-Indigenous kids.”

The Summit will take place in Adelaide from 10-11 April and has been fully funded by generous philanthropic donors including BHP Foundation and Reserve Bank of Australia.

For interviews:

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