



CREATING CONNECTIONS & GROWING UNDERSTANDING

2014 National Conference on Numeracy, Mathematics and Indigenous Learners

Adelaide, 10–11 November 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

10th November, 2014
For immediate release

Community, education and industry collaborate on mathematics education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance (ATSIMA) will bring together the first-ever gathering of leaders from Indigenous Communities, school and tertiary education, and business and industry for the *Creating Connections and Growing Understanding* conference that will focus on a national collaboration for improving numeracy and mathematics outcomes of Indigenous students.

Dr Chris Matthews, Chairperson of ATSIMA, says the conference will go beyond the classroom and bring together stakeholders that can influence, and have a vested interest in, the educational outcomes of Indigenous students in mathematics.

“We have a range of stakeholders who are passionate about, and working towards, improving the educational outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander learners and future life opportunities. However, we tend to work within our sphere of expertise with minimal understanding and connection with other stakeholders.

“The conference is an attempt to position these stakeholders with respect to the learning cycle of the student and then explore the *connections* across the stakeholder groups to develop stronger *understandings* and create meaningful and effective *processes*.”

The conference will feature leading Aboriginal academic Professor Ian Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor Engagement at the University of Melbourne and Co-Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council; Minnie King, a Torres Strait Islander who is National Business Development Manager for Carey Mining and also presenting, Indigenous Rhodes scholar Rebecca Richards.

Professor Anderson 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.

“It’s important that networks across Australia are built between Community, education and business sectors so there is coordination, collaboration and understanding between them to making a difference to the education, career and life opportunities for Indigenous learners” said Anderson.

“ATSIMA believes that it can play a major role in advancing the agenda in this area and will be developing an outcomes focused response to the conference to inform, advice and influence governments, the private sector and philanthropy to invest in this area” said Matthews.

For more information on the ATSIMA *Creating Connections and Growing Understanding* conference, go to the [conference website](#).

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