

# aamt

Australian Association of  
Mathematics Teachers Inc.

# Focus on Maths

A program to support maths education in disadvantaged schools



## Why Focus on Maths?

**Focus on Maths is a program that aims to improve the maths skills of students in disadvantaged schools by building capacity in maths teaching.**

As routine tasks in the workplace are automated, jobs in the future will require complex skills built on a strong foundation of numeracy and maths. This applies to trades, services and technical work. In many disadvantaged communities, especially those in remote areas, schools struggle to give their students the maths education they need for the future. Without a strong foundation education on which they can build, young people in these communities will be left behind.

Maths teachers in all schools are challenged by the lack of time and opportunity to keep up-to-date with maths outside their school, for example through exchange with their peers or with mathematicians in industry. This is especially the case in disadvantaged schools where teaching relief is unaffordable and the costs of sending teachers to participate in professional learning can be prohibitive.

As a consequence, maths teachers in low SES schools often miss out on opportunities that can help them develop both their maths and teaching skills. Inevitably, students are negatively impacted.

Supporting the development of good maths teachers in local communities is the best way to improve maths achievements in schools. The Focus on Maths program aims to provide professional development opportunities for maths teachers in low SES schools who demonstrate a commitment to creating a positive impact on maths teaching and learning within their school and community. The program solicits financial contributions from donors. The funds are made available to teachers as professional development grants. Donors can be assured of contributing to the systemic improvement of maths education in the communities they wish to support.



## About the Focus on Maths program

- AAMT aims to establish a fund that can provide grants for maths teachers who work in schools with an ICSEA value below 1000\*.
  - AAMT is working in partnership with Schools Plus, a national charity that connects donors with schools in disadvantaged areas to improve student outcomes.
  - Maths teachers in these schools can apply for a grant to undertake professional development activities that will have a positive impact in their school or maths education community.
  - Grants are issued on a competitive basis. Applicants are selected based on their demonstrated commitment to maths teaching and the extent of impact of their proposed grant-funded activity. The intention of the program is to support and build capacity within the maths teaching community who work in low SES schools.
  - Donors who wish to support maths education in low SES schools provide funds to support the Focus on Maths program.
  - Funds of any value can be offered with any qualifying conditions the donor or sponsor may wish to impose. For example, a donor may want to support a maths teacher in a particular school or community or a sponsor may wish to fund a particular type of program.
  - AAMT will match teachers with grant contributors and ensure any conditions attached to funding are fulfilled.
- \* ICSEA, Community Socio-Educational Advantage, gives an indication of the socio-educational background of students.

## Invitation for donations

AAMT and Schools Plus invite organisations, endowments and other charitable donors to support maths education in disadvantaged schools by contributing funds to the Focus on Maths program. Focus on Maths allows contributors to:

- ▶ Donate any value of funds and claim tax relief (the program has DGR status)
- ▶ Support maths education in any disadvantaged school or community of their choice
- ▶ Allocate funds to a specific education activity that builds maths teaching capacity in the target schools
- ▶ Sponsors receive recognition for their contributions.
- ▶ Be assured funds are allocated to the education activities that have the most impact on the teaching of maths in disadvantaged schools
- ▶ Be confident that contributions will improve career and life opportunities for disadvantaged students through systemic improvements to their maths education

For further information and to discuss prospective donations, please contact:

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[www.schoolsplus.org.au](http://www.schoolsplus.org.au)  
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