Welcome to the *Quicksmart* program's website

Many tens of thousands of students in Australia struggle with Numeracy and Literacy during their middle years of schooling (ages 10-to-13 years). Current instructional activities do not appear to overcome the learning problems experienced by many of these students or lead to substantial improvements in their academic performance.

In order to address this situation, the National Centre for Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SiMERR National Centre) has further developed and supported the growth of *QuickSmart*, an extensive research program aimed at narrowing the achievement gap between low-achieving students and their average-achieving peers.

The *QuickSmart* program is a theory-based intervention approach to the assessment, diagnosis, and remediation of basic academic skill deficits in Numeracy (basic Mathematics) and Literacy (reading, vocabulary, and comprehension).

Its purpose is to provide necessary tuition and support, within a motivational learning environment, to educationally disadvantaged students who are currently experiencing difficulties in these areas.

The assessment and intervention program used in *QuickSmart* commenced in Australian schools in 2001, although it is based on, and extends, research findings from international studies in numeracy/literacy, cognition, assessment and neuroscience.

The primary pedagogical aim of the QuickSmart program is to increase automaticity in basic academic skills for middle-school students with learning difficulties. Automaticity, or automatic and effortless recall of well-learned information, frees up working memory and allows students with learning difficulties to undertake higher-order mental processing with greater efficiency and success.

*QuickSmart* has improved the academic performance of many thousands of students from over 150 schools across sectors and State/Territory education jurisdictions. *QuickSmart* has systematically addressed the learning needs of those middle-school students who often find themselves caught up in a cycle of continued failure in Numeracy and/or Literacy.

Important understandings gained from the *QuickSmart* research program are summarised below:
The *QuickSmart* program is an evidence-based program that is highly supported, well resourced and built around a professional learning program for Principals, supervising teachers, teachers and teacher support staff.

*QuickSmart* emphasises understanding, practice and strategy instruction, and is a sustained quality intervention for pairs of students who actively participate in 30-minute lessons three times a week for 30 weeks.

*QuickSmart* narrows the achievement gap by facilitating growth of two-to-three years and sometimes more as compared to average-achieving students. This enables low-achieving students to proceed with their studies successfully, to maintain improvement and to learn to “Trust their heads” in the same ways that effective learners do.

Research evidence confirms that *QuickSmart* students maintain the gains from the program years after they have completed the program.

*QuickSmart* students report a new confidence about their learning based on feedback and acknowledgement of genuine observable improvements that are obvious to peers, parents, teachers and the students themselves.

*QuickSmart* is successful with Indigenous students who achieve substantial and lasting benefits from the program.

The *QuickSmart* model of professional learning provides the necessary knowledge and experiences to enable participants (Principals, Co-ordinators and Instructors) to work effectively towards improving the life chances of low-achieving students.

*QuickSmart* is a data-rich intervention with comprehensive information collected on pre- and post-measures on individual learning characteristics and Australian standardised tests (and where possible National/State Basic Skills tests), as well as stakeholder views from students, parents, teachers and school executives.

*QuickSmart* is cost-effective, scalable, sustainable and efficient in addressing the learning needs of persistently low-achieving students.

Detailed information about the *QuickSmart* program is available on this website. Please contact us if you have any queries or are interested in finding out more about the *QuickSmart* program.