As the QuickSmart Team is part of the SiMERR Research Centre, we really value your sharing of QuickSmart and Comparison Numeracy or Literacy students’ pre-test and post-test data.

This information, alongside the data from hundreds of other schools across Australia, has been summarised in the 2011 QuickSmart Annual Numeracy Program Report and the 2011 QuickSmart Annual Literacy Program Report.

Both these reports can be accessed using the link below. Many other research-related reports and articles are also available on our QuickSmart website at:


Our records show that many schools shared 2011 data with us, but not necessarily their 2012 data, as yet. If you are one of these schools, we really encourage you to share your data with us, and to do so soon. Sharing your data for 2012 with SiMERR will allow us to prepare and send to you:

i. a school report based on your own school’s data within two weeks of receiving this information; and

ii. a completed 2012 QuickSmart
Annual Numeracy Program Report, when we have finalised the data entry for all schools for last year and analysed these results.

These two reports are an excellent way of evaluating the effectiveness of the QuickSmart program in your school. Schools have used these documents for a variety of important purposes, including:

• confirming the learning gains of participating students in comparison to the scores of their average achieving peers and sharing this information with members of the school community;

• justifying funding expenditure for National Partnership and other grants;

• comparing the learning gains of participating QuickSmart students from one year to the next;

• gaining insights about the successful implementation of the program over time; and

• promotion of the school and its programs in local media.

The data upload tool for Numeracy or Literacy is available under the “Login” menu on our QuickSmart website.

Dave Heap is available to assist anytime Monday to Friday, 9 am to 12:30 pm. The existing password you have for QuickSmart will allow access to the data upload tool. If you encounter any difficulty, Dave will be able to work his magic!

We are counting on hearing from you!

QUICKSMART POSTERS

If your QuickSmart students have created some posters for your QuickSmart room we would love you to send these to us. We will display them on our website and they could feature in future newsletters too. Just send your students’ creations to rwrigh21@une.edu.au
In the first QuickSmart newsletter this year, we encouraged you to go to the Teach, Learn, Share website with the following article. This is such an important resource that we thought we would publish the article a second time and encourage you again to visit the website, and, importantly, to share your QuickSmart reflections with others who visit the website.

The Teach, Learn, Share website (www.teachlearnshare.gov.au) is a Federal Government initiative, where ‘educators and education systems can share their most effective approaches to literacy and numeracy teaching and learning in Australia’, overseen by DEEWR (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations).

Not surprisingly, QuickSmart has been registered on this site as both a literacy and a numeracy intervention. In order to be registered, an application was submitted by SiMERR, and evaluated by the National Partnership Literacy and Numeracy Expert Reference Group (the group responsible for assessing all applications for registration).

We know that you have many wonderful QuickSmart stories, and since it is possible for you to have your say about any of the programs on this site, we are inviting you to post your comments about QuickSmart on this website. Your comments will form part of a Reader Comments forum, and as such you will need to agree to abide by the terms of use as posted on the site.

What to do:

1. Go to:
   http://www.teachlearnshare.gov.au/Strategy/e1b96c82-c2fb-49a6-bb56-a0e500fba409

2. Click on ‘Register’ (if you haven’t already done so on this site) and fill in your details.

3. Agree to the terms and conditions.

4. Post your comment(s).

So, this is an opportunity for you to share your views about QuickSmart with others, and at the same time to explore a website whose goal is to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for students. If you would like any assistance from us in posting your comments, do contact one of the QuickSmart team as listed on the back page of our newsletter.

The more responses added, the better it is for QuickSmart!

1. From the Teach, Learn, Share website.

2. The terms and conditions state, amongst other things, that ‘the discussion forums are intended to be a medium for the exchange of information between, and points of view of, many people, and these are the points of view and statements, opinions or questions are not of the Commonwealth. Divergent points of view can provide for vigorous and refreshing debate within online forums, and while you will not always agree with another user’s opinion, it is courteous to remember that each user is entitled to his or her own viewpoint.’
A QuickSmart related paper was presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference in San Francisco by Professor John Pegg, co-founder of the QuickSmart program. An international audience attending the session on "Enhancing the Academic Achievement of Indigenous Students in Rural Australia" heard Professor Pegg deliver this paper in the Pursuit of Academic Resources in International Schooling section of this major international conference.

"Indigenous students in the middle-school years who experience difficulties in basic mathematics are a particularly vulnerable group. During these years gaps in performance between educationally disadvantaged students and their peers widen, potentially leading to ongoing economic and social disadvantage. This proposal reports on a teaching intervention referred to as QuickSmart, which has been particularly successful with Indigenous students from rural communities who perform in the bottom 30% of the achievement spectrum in Australia-wide tests. Evidence is drawn from the learning progress of Indigenous middle-school students who completed the QuickSmart numeracy program. These data show, based on effect-size statistics, academic growth for students of up to two years over the course of a 30-week program.”

The above is an abstract taken from the AMER website in relation to this conference. More than 4100 presenters from the 2013 AERA conference have made their Research Papers available in AERA’s open access online repository.

If you are interested in gaining access to the repository it is free and all you need to do is register at www.aera.net and then you will receive an email with login information that will allow you to access the abstract from presented research papers and in some cases the full text is provided as well.

Users of this bank of research papers are offered an opportunity for broader access to information presented at the AERA annual meetings and it also acts as a reference on current scholarship and research.
Gerard joined QuickSmart in 2010 as the Multimedia/IT Support Officer. He became Senior IT Officer in 2012 when the need for more IT staff reached the growing QuickSmart platform. Gerard has experience teaching in high schools and lecturing at the University of New England.

Gerard’s work at QuickSmart involves supporting staff and clients with all things ICT. He designs and maintains the QuickSmart website and administers QuickSmart’s ICT infrastructure. Gerard has brought to fruition many improvements to QuickSmart’s operation making it possible for QuickSmart to reach more users. These include: construction of the QuickSmart private area, allowing distribution of the OZCAAS software electronically and user access to a greater number of resources for use with the QuickSmart program; design and creation of the speed sheet generation tool; and design and creation of the Data Upload tool.

Gerard has recently been involved in the eduONE project that will bring the QuickSmart program to an even greater number of people through the use of web-based technologies.
We have just updated the information in the Resources and Organisation Folder about submitting data, and have reproduced that information here for your reference. It replaces pages 195 and 196 in the Numeracy Resources and Organisation Folder.

**IMPORTANT:** Data collection at your school is of critical importance to the future of the QuickSmart program. Sharing your data with us allows us to prepare and send to you a school report based on your own school’s data. As well, we will compile an Annual Numeracy Program Report (based on all schools each year) to which you will have access. Schools use these documents for a variety of important purposes, including:

- confirming the learning gains of participating students in comparison to the scores of their average achieving peers and sharing this information with members of the school community;
- justifying funding expenditure for National Partnership and other grants;
- comparing the learning gains of participating QuickSmart students from one year to the next;
- gaining insights about the successful implementation of the program over time; and
- promotion of the school and its programs in local media.

There are 2 types of data to collect:

**1. Electronic data**

These are the results for each student (QuickSmart and Comparison) on the PATMaths and OZCAAS pre- and post-intervention testing.

Firstly, record each student’s pre-intervention results on a copy of the ‘Summary of Individual Student Performance for QuickSmart (or Comparison) Students’ page (located in the Resources and Organisation Folder on pages 197 and 198).

When time permits, but before the end of the program, submit these data electronically via the secure section of the QuickSmart site. (See below for more detailed instructions.) Then at the end of the year, after doing the post-intervention testing, record the results on the hard copy pages you used for the pre-intervention results and transfer this second set of results electronically to our website. (That allows us to have access to your two sets of data on which we will perform our analysis.)

**2. Data you post to us at:**

The QuickSmart Project  
SiMERR – The National Centre  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW. 2351

This is what we want you to post to us when they have been completed at the end of the year:

i. The QuickSmart School Numeracy Information Summary Sheet (page 197 in the Resources and Organisation Folder).

ii. QuickSmart Evaluations (located beyond page 200 in the Resources and Organisation Folder). You will need to photocopy these, as appropriate, first.
How to submit data electronically

1. You will need to refer to your hard copies of each student’s (QuickSmart and Comparison) ‘Summary of Individual Student Performance’ page with their pre-intervention results on both PATMaths and the five OZCAAS tasks.

2. Go to our webpage: www.une.edu.au/simerr/quicksmart and click on ‘Login’ on the right-hand side.

3. Choose ‘Numeracy Data Upload’. You will need to enter your username and password. This is the same username and password you used to download the OZCAAS software for the current year.

4. After this step, follow the prompts. We suggest that the very first time you upload data you use the ‘test’ version so that you can see how things work and what you will be asked to enter. When you have seen what is needed in the test format, go back and choose the relevant year group to enter all the data for all your students.

5. If you have problems using the data upload function, contact quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au

6. At the end of the program, follow the same procedure to add each student’s post-intervention data.

General Information about submitting data electronically

1. The Browser

Problems may arise if you are using the wrong browser, so it can be worthwhile trying a different browser in such circumstances.

2. General Database Correction Information

Due to security limitations in the current version of the database system, it is not possible for you re-enter and change data in a section. As well, you have to enter all the pre-intervention data (or the post-intervention data) for each student at one time. (You can enter different students’ results at different times.)

If you make mistakes that you cannot rectify, contact quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au

DATA UPLOAD DEADLINE
August 14, 2013.

If you have not submitted your last years data and requested a school report than the Deadline date for inclusion of your school and Quicksmart students in the 2012 National Report is August 14.
This article was also published in our first newsletter because we really want to be able to recognise those hard working QuickSmart champions in schools! We’re now half-way through the year, and we know how hard some people work to get QuickSmart up and running. Do tell us about them!

Is there a staff member at your school (or organisation) whose efforts in supporting QuickSmart over time go above and beyond the call of duty? Tell us about them! We want to be able to acknowledge the efforts of these QuickSmart champions.

Go to:

http://goo.gl/WAo2T

to submit your application. If your nominated person is successful, we will present that person with a beautiful certificate recognising and celebrating their efforts in supporting underachieving learners, and their contributions to the success of the QuickSmart program in your organisation. We will also tell their story on our webpage and in our next newsletter.

It takes only 5 minutes to let that person know how much their hard work is appreciated by you!
Have you ever wondered what happened to your students who did the *QuickSmart* Literacy or Numeracy programs during their latter primary or junior secondary school years? As the Research Fellow for SiMERR – *QuickSmart* in 2003-2004 during the developmental stages of both programs, I had often pondered where life had taken my research students following their formal schooling.

Imagine my delight in finding an article in the local paper in Armidale recently about one of the Literacy students from 2004. Sophia was in Year 6 at the little Catholic primary school in Uralla just south of Armidale in that year. Now here she was nine years later, an employee of the University of New England.

Within days of reading this article, Lorraine Graham and I had arranged to meet Sophia for morning tea at Booloominbah, UNE. What a delightful occasion!

Sophia had continued her education through to her HSC exams at Uralla Central School. On finishing her secondary education in 2010, she had worked briefly at a childcare facility, then as a dental nurse before joining the staff at UNE at the beginning of 2012 as an Admin Assistant in the UNE Business School. Since leaving school, Sophia has completed her Certificate 3 and Certificate 4 in Business Administration at the New England TAFE. WHAT A SUCCESS STORY!

Of course one has to acknowledge Sophia’s application and commitment to her studies, the great schooling that she has received and the interest and encouragement of her very supportive parents. *QuickSmart* is just proud to have provided one piece of this wonderful jigsaw of success.

When questioned, Sophia remembered her participation in *QuickSmart* Literacy as a positive experience and a fun time. Just by chance, Sophie had allowed us at the end of 2004 to photocopy her *QuickSmart* Student folder to use as an example at subsequent professional learning workshops. Below is a photo of Sophia and me perusing her Flash Card Graph from 2004.

Jenny Thomas
We’re Social!!

QuickSmart makes use of numerous social media platforms which will keep you up to date with what is happening. You can friend us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, subscribe to our Youtube channel, circle us on Google+ or pin us at Pinterest. Whichever social media you prefer, we’ve got you covered.

If social media isn’t your thing, you could always subscribe to our RSS feed or read our blog. The newest three blog entries appear on the home page of our website so check back often to ensure you don’t miss anything. Of course everything we post to our blog gets announced on all of our social platforms, so social media junkies shouldn’t miss a thing.

If you would like to converse with us about one of our posts please don’t hesitate. We love to interact and make every effort to check our social media outlets regularly. We also love to get likes, +ones, and re-shares. It lets us know that you want more from us.

Use the links below to access our various social services.

QuickSmart Website
www.une.edu.au/simerr/quicksmart

Facebook
http://www.facebook.com/QuickSmartUNE

Twitter
https://twitter.com/QuickSmartUNE

Youtube
http://www.youtube.com/user/simerraustralia

Google+
https://plus.google.com/103403453601468358405/posts

Blog
http://blog.une.edu.au/quicksmart/

RSS feed
http://blog.une.edu.au/quicksmart/feed/
The QuickSmart program was established in Armidale in 2001 and in that first year there were two schools and 33 students involved in both the literacy and numeracy research programs. In the twelve years since then our numbers have grown to have involved 1231 schools and 26,686 students across Australia as determined by the submission of pre and post data school and student data to SiMERR. These figures were compiled by our statistician and expert in data analysis, here at SiMERR, Dr Stefan Horarik.

Now that certainly is a significant number of students whose basic skills in numeracy and literacy have been enhanced by their participation in the QuickSmart program. The results that these students have achieved have become part of the QuickSmart projects substantial body of research.

Isn't it fantastic to be part of such a dynamic research team and to know that you have assisted young Australians with developing their fluency and confidence in basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Some stakeholder comments from the QuickSmart website:
"More people should do it because it is fun. You learn a lot more than in the classroom because you start with easy work and gradually it gets harder - so you understand better."

"I use the strategies in numeracy and literacy. I underline the problems and what I have to do in both numeracy and literacy. I've gone up a spelling group in literacy. I'm in one of the top groups for numeracy. I read a lot better than I used to."
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