The opportunity to upload your school's 2014 QuickSmart student data to the database will need to be delayed for a little longer. Each year, after the large task of analysing the data from the previous year and preparing reports for all schools and their cluster is completed, QuickSmart staff are involved in an evaluation of the database tool. Consideration is given to ways in which it can be improved for school users, the functionality and efficiency of use for SiMERR, and other matters that may impact on the database's design, e.g., use by schools of online PAT tests. These tasks make a large call upon the time of a small group of SiMERR staff.

This year the evaluation and revision process has been delayed because of a number of pressing demands on our staff. We wish to inform you that we are currently employing another programmer to assist with this task. All schools will be notified by email once the new version of the student data upload tool is ready for use. Please check the QuickSmart registration database to ensure your school’s email address is correct for more information please contact quicksmarthelp@une.edu.au

In the meantime, thank you for your patience!
The *QuickSmart* Numeracy and Literacy programs are now implemented in just over 1000 schools across Australia. This is an amazing journey from the initial trial in two schools during 2001.

Following a careful, research-based roll-out in its early years, the look and feel of the program material was significantly upgraded in 2008, with another minor upgrade in 2013.

With the support of education jurisdictions, and significant Federal funding to schools, the program has grown dramatically in the past five years, adding over 800 new schools.

‘We knew our work was important but the success of *QuickSmart* has exceeded our expectations. We have learned so much and worked with so many fantastic educators along the way. The outcomes recorded from approximately 25,000 students tell a compelling story of the efficacy of the program’ said co-developers Professors John Pegg and Lorraine Graham.

The 1000th school took part in the 2014 Hunter Numeracy professional development workshop in Kurri Kurri on the 5th and 6th May, facilitated by Anne Parnell.

Congratulations to *QuickSmart* Instructors, Coordinators and students everywhere! And the *QuickSmart* SiMERR team, of course!
QuickSmart goes to Korea.

As a gift of friendship between two Rural Education Centres, four QuickSmart Numeracy and four QuickSmart Literacy kits, OZCAAS and materials have been donated to South Korea. Four schools are presently trialling the numeracy program and four schools will begin trialling the literacy kit in September 2014.

The Numeracy kit was translated into Korean and will be used as a learning support program.

The Literacy resources are presently being rewritten for Korean schools. This program will be implemented as a tool for selected struggling students learning English as a Foreign Language.

Professor John Pegg and Mrs Lyn Alder travelled to South Korea in March to deliver the training for the teachers involved and to strengthen the collaboration between SiMERR and Kongju University. Writing for a different culture and education system has been both challenging and exciting.

This is the start of QuickSmart International!
QuickSmart and the Parramatta Eels

QuickSmart for the Workplace is geared towards offering opportunities for adults to address gaps in their literacy and numeracy development.

In 2013 the Parramatta Eels Rugby League Club approached SiMERR to support their players in improving literacy skills at all levels of the Australian Core Skills Framework. The goal was to move every player by at least one level against the ACSF.

The QuickSmart Eels Program has been contextualised and developed to meet the needs of these players. The program has been created around the type of understanding of the workplace that professional footballers need in their work. Focus texts about players, player expectations and the history of the club have been written and trialled with success.

The first four Parramatta players to participate in QuickSmart have demonstrated impressive growth. A further seven players began the pilot program as the NRL season commenced. Paul Heptonstall, the Senior Education and Welfare Manager of the NRL has endorsed the QuickSmart pilot program. The NRL has also committed to the financial support of the Parramatta Rugby League Club in developing this version of the QuickSmart in the Workplace program.

The club is investing time, staff and enthusiasm into the program. The QuickSmart Literacy team, particularly Kate McCrohon, is working with the Eels to create a program that meets the needs and goals of the players. It is a partnership aimed at improving the relevant literacy skills of all participants.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

- Nelson Mandela
A minute with...

Dr Kate McCrohon has joined the QuickSmart team for 12 months. She previously worked at Tamworth High School as Head Teacher (Teaching and Learning) and as English and History Teacher. Kate has a background in adolescent literacy and the development of strategies for engaging students in literacy development. Kate is credited as the creator of the 6S problem solving strategy. She has recently completed a Professional Doctorate Industries and The Professions (Education) at UNE. Since October 2013, Kate has worked with the QuickSmart literacy team. She is working with the school program, the Parramatta Eels and supporting the development of other projects.

Sophie has recently joined the QuickSmart team as the QuickSmart Operations Officer. Her main responsibilities are organising the QuickSmart workshops, looking after the administrative tasks including contracts and licences, and being the first port of call for schools. Before starting at SiMERR in late 2013, Sophie worked mainly in hospitality management and recruitment – both in Australia and in Europe. She is no stranger to the educational environment as her mother is a primary school principal, and her fiancé is a high school teacher. Sophie is also involved in the QuickSmart Online and QuickSmart for the Workplace programs, mainly providing content creation and desktop publishing support.

If you would like to have your school feature in our next newsletter, please contact Rhiannon Wright at rwrigh21@une.edu.au
Teacher and Instructor Comments

Every time you practice or attempt something, you are succeeding at getting better, not failing at being perfect. – Cary E Krix

The children feel important that they have been chosen for QS. They have all become more confident to “have a go” and behaviour hasn’t been an issue.

Imagination in attendance – no one wants to miss a QS day. Class teachers report improvement in the classrooms – performance, participation and confidence.

These students are now able to keep up with or have even surpassed the expectations of their grade level.

The children are a joy to work with and you can’t help but feel energised by their enthusiasm.

Students see this as a “treat” and all students attending give 100% to their sessions.

They have shown great growth and a new confidence that wasn’t present before. It has reduced the gap that was widening between them and their peers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lyn Alder, Stephanie Belson, Kate McCrohon, Martin Trotman and Helen Doyle for their recent completion of their Cert IV in Training & Assessment.
Why does OZCAAS sometimes give a result of 100% when a student has made errors?

If a response time falls outside certain statistical criteria the result is automatically removed by the system. The default rejection criteria are: less than 200ms, more than 30s, more than 2 Standard Deviations away from the average for that session. Take a look at: Module Menu->Assessment Module->Assistant->Options->Program Options...->More Options->Data Trimming.

Have there been any developments with the Quicker and Smarter initiative?

We have trialled materials and lessons at a local school and have had some success and learnt about what works and what doesn't. The materials remain in development while we meet the needs of the basic program.

Who do I contact if there is a problem with my school's resources?

Contact Rhiannon Wright rwrigh21@une.edu.au or 02 6773 5067 and she will be very happy to assist you.

Why do I receive my invoice before my order arrives?

Orders are dispatched by the Ascent Group (an external company), while the invoices are processed through the University’s finance department.

How do I find out about upcoming professional development sessions?

At the moment by emailing sophie.westermarck@une.edu.au and enquiring directly. We are looking at implementing a new section on our website http://simerr.une.edu.au/quicksmart that would include information about upcoming workshop sessions as of 2015. The Professional Development sessions for 2014 have already started, but we suggest you email sophie.westermarck@une.edu.au to register your interest for 2015. An information package will be sent later this year to all registered individuals and schools.

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.
Professor John Pegg – *QuickSmart* Co-developer:
Phone: (02) 6773 5070  Email: jpegg@une.edu.au

Professor Lorraine Graham – *QuickSmart* Co-developer:
Phone: (02) 6773 3821  Email: lgraham@une.edu.au

Mrs Anne Parnell - Numeracy:
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Mrs Lyn Alder - Literacy:
Phone: (02) 6773 5060  Email: jalder2@une.edu.au

Dr Kate McCrohon – Literacy:
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For more information on *QuickSmart* please visit:
FaceBook, Twitter, YouTube, Google+ and the Blog site.