

Addressing the Shortage of Maths & Science Teachers

A Proposal to Re-train Experienced Professionals

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The Current Situation

- Declining demand for university courses in Science and Engineering.
- Declining enrolments in Science and Maths subjects in year 12.
- Declining numbers of appropriately qualified Maths and Science Teachers in the school system.

What Needs To Be Done

- Increase number of appropriately qualified Maths and Science Teachers.
- Employ Maths and Science Teachers who can convey a passion and excitement about maths and science in the classroom.

An Available Resource

- 80% of science graduates are not employed as science professionals.
- Significant unemployment amongst mature (45 years +) science, engineering and IT professionals.
- Strong interest from these groups (and women professionals following family leave) in re-training to be teachers.



Re-training Programs

- Need to be intensive to minimise duration.
- Trainees should receive a salary while training.
- Trainees must be guaranteed a position on completion of training.

The Way Ahead

- (State) Government(s) to commit to funding a pilot program as per above.
- Appoint program coordinator.
- Select provider.
- Select participants.
- Arrange school training placements.
- Conduct course.
- Place graduates.

