

Summary of Discovery Indigenous Applications for Funding to Commence in 2006

Queensland

Griffith University

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Approved Project Title Indigenous world view, algebra pedagogy and improving Indigenous performance in secondary mathematics

2006 : \$50,877

2007 : \$53,209

2008 : \$55,627

Primary RFCD 3302 CURRICULUM STUDIES

Administering Institution Griffith University

Project Summary

Schools have low mathematics expectations for Indigenous students; low performance is blamed on their culture which is seen as primitive and instruction is reduced to repetitive rote learning of computation. There is evidence that Indigenous students could excel in mathematics if it is contextualised and taught from patterns and structure. A theory showing how Indigenous students can develop strong mathematical understandings would provide a counter to accepted wisdom of low performance and a model for future Indigenous student attainment. Making mathematics-based University disciplines a reality for Indigenous students will benefit individual students, their community and the economic future of Australia.