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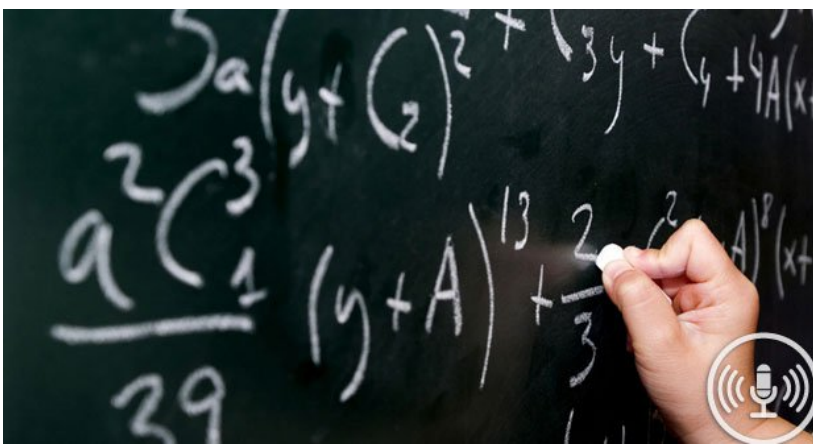
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Many country students aren't taught maths by maths teachers: AMSI

By: James Wells | in News, News, Podcasts, Radio+TV, Top Stories, Workforce | November 4, 2016 | 0

Only one-third of Year 7–10 students are being taught maths by a qualified maths teacher, the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute has warned.

AMSI director professor Geoff Prince explained that this figure is not uniform for all types of schools; those in the country are worse off. As such, he said Australia needs more maths teachers coming out of universities – though the workforce supply must be regulated.

"We need to sit down with the minister for education [Simon Birmingham], with the state ministers, and with the universities and identify some milestones," Prince said. "We need to have short-, medium-, and long-term targets. Then we need to put measures in place to get there. At the moment, we don't have those targets."

Prince also said there is a need for better data collection on the workforce. He said the federal government must conduct an audit.

"At the moment, if you graduate out of a teaching degree, if you've done a three-year maths degree or a maths major and you go on and do a teaching qualification, the Commonwealth doesn't know that you're a maths teacher as opposed to an English literature teacher or a physics teacher," Prince said. "They've got no clue how many maths graduates, how many new maths teachers, are being produced by the universities every year."

"We need to begin an audit exercise, working out how many trained maths teachers we've got, what the patterns of graduation are in the universities, in order to be able to work out what policy measures to take in order to fix the problem," he continued. "That's the very first thing we're recommending is that governments start to record this information and do an audit, a state-by-state audit, and a jurisdictional audit on the teaching issue."

EducationReview
Geoff Prince

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