

reSolve Champions – Information and expression of interest

Background

reSolve: Mathematics by Inquiry is a bold new national program to promote innovative and engaging approaches to teaching mathematics in Australian schools. It is managed by the Australian Academy of Science in collaboration with the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. The project commenced late in 2015 and will conclude in mid-2018.

Given the relatively short duration of reSolve, the project is designed to produce a legacy that can be taken up and built on by teachers, schools and others once the project has concluded. The teaching and professional resources produced by reSolve will be one part of its legacy. Classrooms using reSolve resources and approaches to inquiry will foster mathematics learning through engaging activities that are meaningful to the students, and that support the development of both the content and all four of the Proficiencies in the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics (fluency, reasoning, understanding and problem solving). They will be learning environments in which students are challenged and supported to build their knowledge by taking risks, and exploring and discussing their ideas.

The other component of the legacy will be a human one – people who engage with the project in various ways during its lifetime and who carry forward an understanding of, and commitment to, its aims for the teaching and learning of mathematics in Australian schools.

The *reSolve Champions* are a major component of the ‘human legacy’ of the project. As a reSolve Champion you will have the potential to play a significant role in school mathematics into the future.

This package contains information to enable interested teachers to complete the expression of interest to become a reSolve Champion.

Expression of interest

The process for identifying participants in the *Leading reSolve* program will be conducted online.

Step 1 – Carefully read the information contained in this Information and Expression of Interest package.

Step 2 – Speak to your principal and colleagues to outline the opportunity that becoming a reSolve Champion provides for you personally, and for the school (see attached reSolve Champions –Information for Principals). **Your expression of interest must be endorsed by your principal (or nominee) on behalf of the school.**

Step 3 – Complete the online expression of interest (<http://tiny.cc/resolvechampion>).
Expressions of interest are due no later than 30 April 2017.

Your principal will also provide a separate, confidential referee statement once your expression of interest is received.

You will need to commit to completing the full Leading reSolve professional learning program over the period July 2017 to June 2018. Completion of this program is the only means to become a reSolve Champion.

For further information go to the website (www.aamt.edu.au/resolve) or email resolve@aamt.edu.au.

Submit your expression of interest at <http://tiny.cc/resolvechampion>.

Common questions

Who can be a reSolve Champion?

Any teacher of mathematics from Foundation to Year 10 can complete an expression of interest to become a reSolve Champion. We are looking for people beyond those who are or would see themselves as ‘mathematics specialists’. Overall, the group of Champions will be diverse – experienced and early career teachers; specialists and those without strong formal qualifications in mathematics (primary ‘generalists’, ‘out of field’ secondary). **All will have a commitment to better mathematics outcomes for their students, and to supporting their colleagues in and beyond their school in mathematics.**

Other educators such as principals, teacher educators and officers of education authorities who also have a stake in reforming school mathematics practices by promoting and supporting adoption of inquiry approaches in the teaching and learning of the subject will be welcome as reSolve Champions. Their role and preparation will be somewhat different, although their basic attributes will be similar to those of reSolve Champions who are currently teaching. The paper “Overview of the process and program for reSolve Champions who are not classroom-based” has more information (www.aamt.edu.au/resolve/Downloads).

Why would I want to become a reSolve Champion?

A major factor for most people will be the opportunity to undertake a high quality, sustained professional learning program that will hit many of the ‘hot topics’ in teaching mathematics with research-based strategies and approaches that work in the classrooms. Beyond that, the motivating factors will be different for different people, and might include:

- being at the forefront of a major new national initiative
- contributing to the school’s efforts to improve student achievement and attitudes in mathematics
- networking and learning with like-minded, committed teachers of mathematics
- access to new and exciting classroom materials
- skills and experience leading professional learning with colleagues
- generating evidence of achievement against the higher levels of professional standards for teachers
- greater confidence as a teacher and/or leader in mathematics.

There are likely to be many more

What are the criteria I need to meet?

The expression of interest (<http://tiny.cc/resolvechampion>) requires short statements (approximately 250 words) related to the following criteria. The explanatory notes in *italic* below will help guide your thinking and formulation of your response. You are urged to ‘sell yourself’ through what you write.

Background:

- Your knowledge relevant to the reSolve Champions’ role

What we are looking for are people with a sound, coherent knowledge of the mathematics appropriate to the student level they teach, along with an appreciation of the broader mathematics curriculum.

- Your experience as an educator and in seeking and providing professional support for their colleagues.

Champions will have a history of contributing to the improvement of mathematics teaching by actively engaging and collaborating with colleagues both individually and in teams, in formal and informal professional learning – at least some of seeking advice; sharing insights, practices and resources; supporting and mentoring others; networking and providing feedback.

Personal qualities:

- Outline your views about mathematics and its learning, and to working with colleagues.

Champions will need to be advocates for mathematics, and for using reSolve resources and approaches to improve mathematics outcomes for students.

- Describe your skills in networking with others in person or using technologies.

The capacity to build and maintain personal professional connections and relationships will be important to success as a Champion.

- Describe how you are self-reflective and able to learn as you go.

Whilst Champions will have some unique and specialised knowledge and skills, to be successful they will also need to be learners to further develop as teachers of mathematics. Often this will require learning by reflecting on experiences. They will also need to be flexible and adaptable when working with others.

What is the timeline for identifying the reSolve Champions?

Action	Due
Information campaign commences	From 15 January 2017
Expressions of interest open	10 February 2017
Expressions of interest close	30 April 2017
Principal provides a brief referee statement	19 May 2017
Confirmations sent to those selected as Champions, and their Principal	From 26 May 2017

How many reSolve Champions will there be?

There will be a minimum of 240 Champions around the country, with at least 10 in the smaller jurisdictions (ACT and NT). Beyond that, it is expected that numbers of Champions will be roughly proportional to population.

What will reSolve Champions be doing after mid-2018?

The work of reSolve Champions beyond mid-2018 (the conclusion of the reSolve project) will be determined locally, according to the forward plans for uptake of reSolve materials and processes in schools, groups of schools, AAMT Affiliates and education sectors. The project has a program of engagement with education sectors and others that will encourage planning to capitalise on the legacy of the project, in particular the reSolve Champions.

How will reSolve Champions prepare for the role? – the Leading reSolve program

reSolve Champions will undertake the Leading reSolve professional learning program. This is a year-long, specially designed program (July 2017 – June 2018) that will provide a combination of face-to-face and online professional learning. It will provide both significant personal professional learning about research-based approaches to school mathematics for Champions as teachers of mathematics, as well as understanding and skills necessary for leading others as a reSolve Champion.

What does the Leading reSolve program cost?

There will be no cost for participating in the Leading reSolve program. Financial support from the reSolve project will be limited to providing some travel and accommodation funding for participants from country or interstate locations.

Will the professional learning program be accredited?

The Leading reSolve program will be linked to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (with an emphasis on the Accomplished and Lead Teacher levels). The program will be formally accredited in NSW, ACT and other jurisdictions as appropriate.

Who will be conducting the Leading reSolve program?

reSolve staff and consultants will work with national and international leaders in mathematics education to ensure the program is a significant contribution to the reSolve Champions' professional lives. The program will be led by Mr Matt Skoss, Manager of Communication and Engagement, based at AAMT.

What will the program be like?

Leading reSolve will be a blended program involving both face-to-face and online modes. Participants will commit to two face to face workshops (September–October 2017 and April 2018). The online component will be a combination of purpose designed and mainstream reSolve professional learning modules. There will be an emphasis on networking with other reSolve Champions.

When will the face-to-face workshops be held?

As indicated, the face-to-face workshops will be held during school holidays to avoid the need for teacher release. Availability to participate in both programs (September–October 2017 & April 2018) is essential for selection as a *Champion*.

One day workshop in September–October 2017

Perth	Brisbane	Darwin	Canberra	Sydney	Melbourne	Hobart	Adelaide
Tue 26 Sep.	Fri 29 Sep.	Mon 2 Oct.	Wed 4 Oct.	Thu 5 Oct.	Fri 6 Oct.	Mon 9 Oct.	Fri 13 Oct.

Two-day workshop (including optional third day; listed in *italics*) in April 2018

Brisbane	Melbourne	Adelaide	Sydney	Perth	Hobart
4, 5, 6 Apr.	11, 12, 13 Apr.	15, 16, 17 Apr. *SA/NT	18, 19, 20 Apr. *NSW/ACT	22, 23, 24 Apr.	26, 27, 28 Apr.

*Program will involve *Champions* from the two jurisdictions in order to keep within holiday periods. Necessary travel and accommodation provided.