This report examines the characteristics of mathematics teaching in Australian secondary schools – the demographics and qualifications of the teachers involved, their teaching responsibilities, and the issues for schools with regard to teacher supply and quality. The objective is to determine the current status of mathematics teaching.

The results of this study highlight the urgent need to prepare more people for mathematics teaching in schools.

The project’s findings draw upon a nationwide survey of mathematics teachers and heads of mathematics departments in secondary schools conducted in late 2005 in the following areas:

1. Tertiary qualifications of mathematics teachers
2. Recruiting and retaining suitably qualified mathematics teachers
3. Demographics and teaching experience of mathematics teachers
4. Career plans of mathematics teachers
5. Attracting new people to mathematics teaching