



SiMERR WA
Western Australian Hub of SiMERR Australia
(National Centre of Science, ICT and
Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional
Australia)

Curtin 
University of Technology

Background

Since 2005 SiMERR WA, the Western Australian Hub of SiMERR Australia, has been led by a team of academics from Curtin University. SiMERR Australia is a priority project of the Federal Government. It provides a national forum to address issues relating to the key areas of science, ICT and mathematics education, particularly as they concern rural and regional communities. The SiMERR National Centre, located at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW, has established Hubs in each state and territory. These Hubs work together with the National Centre in establishing links with teachers, education providers and relevant professional and community organisations within their own state or territory. Hub teams also identify research opportunities and priorities, and undertake research and professional development projects within their state or territory.

Research Foci

- Sustainability in education in regional, rural and remote communities;
- Innovation and enhanced learning outcomes in mathematics, ICT and science teaching in regional, rural and remote schools;
- Professional development for mathematics, ICT and science teachers in regional, rural and remote areas;
- Use of technology to develop educational learning communities in regional, rural and remote areas; and
- How students can be supported in their learning and engagement in science, ICT and mathematics.

Contact

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Recent/Current Research Activities

- Developing an 'advocacy for action' agenda with a cluster of seven participating schools and students and staff at Curtin University, built around the topic of sustainability.
- Investigating how the use of advanced interactive computer technologies adapted for educational purposes can support the teaching and learning of science and mathematics through the use of 'Cybercells'.
- Working together with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) to evaluate the impact of the Bushrangers Program on student learning in remote schools.
- Raising awareness of the possibilities for, and impact of, social computing on student learning (in collaboration with the SiMERR National Centre and other state Hubs for SiMERR).
- Enhancing the professional participation of science and ICT teachers through sponsorship and support for teachers to participate in and present at major international science and ICT conferences.
- Using cyber networks for supporting beginner mathematics teachers in regional schools.
- Supporting a remote community school in whole-school teacher professional development to use interactive whiteboards to enhance teaching and learning in science, ICT and mathematics.
- Researching Aboriginal numeracy to identify issues impacting on mathematics learning for Aboriginal primary students.

External Links

SiMERR WA has established and maintains professional links with:

- Educational authorities including the Department of Education and Training WA (DETWA), the Catholic Education Office (CEO), and Association of Independent Schools of WA (AISWA)
- Scitech
- The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Bushranger Cadets program
- The Telecentre Support Branch

Educational Courses

Through Curtin University, postgraduate studies (Masters, PhD and EdD) are available in:

- Learning Technologies
- Mathematics Education (Early Childhood, Primary, or Secondary)
- Science Education (Early Childhood, Primary or Secondary)

SiMERR WA Research and Teaching Staff

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