



26th September 2007

Professor William J. Lovegrove
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Southern Queensland
Toowoomba, Queensland 4350

Dear Professor Lovegrove,

Media reports of redundancies at USQ

I write in response to media reports of redundancies at the University of Southern Queensland. Of course, these reports greatly concern the mathematical sciences community in Australia.

The federal government, and all state governments, are clearly troubled by the unnecessarily low level and quantity of training in the mathematical sciences in Australia. They pay close attention to this issue on a very broad front, extending from mathematics teaching in our schools to research training in Australian universities.

This concern led the federal government to increase, in the federal budget earlier this year, its support for the study of mathematics and statistics in our universities. Clearly there is an expectation, at a high level in Australia, that the nation's universities will increase, in both quantity and quality, their teaching, learning and research-training programs in the mathematical sciences. Against this background, we earnestly hope that there will be no redundancies in the mathematical sciences at USQ, and that the university will avail itself of heightened federal funding in order to grow its involvement in, and commitment to, education and research in mathematics and statistics.

Sincerely

Peter Hall President, Australian Mathematical Society
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