## OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES

## **BUSTING MYTHS ABOUT WOMEN IN STEM**

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A meta-analysis of more than 240 studies published between 1990 and 2007 shows no statistically signi cant gender di erence in mathematics performalice

In short, maths ability is not determined biologically by sex. So why is there an emerging gender gap in Australia's maths performance?

e answer lies both in social norms and the con dence of students. PISA studies nd that gender disparities in drive, motivation, and self-belief play a signi cant role in determining di erences in male versus female mathematics(I [(m?n <</Lanng ( )-5(mance)]TJ ET EMC /ang (en-US)/MCID 1144.22)en-USm s501\_1 0/ang (en-US)/MCID 1144.22

More women than men work part-time across most STEM elds $^{36}$ , resulting in lower overall female wages. However, the wage pay gap still persists once this is accounted for. For

