



Education and Innovation Committee

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Editor's notes:

- The Education and Innovation Committee is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland with responsibility for the following areas: Department of Education, Training and Employment; Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts.
- Further information is available from: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/eic or by contacting the Committee secretariat on 3406 7363.

Media Release

Committee to look at assessment of senior maths and science

A parliamentary committee will examine how senior level maths and science subjects are being assessed in Queensland schools.

The Queensland Parliament's Education and Innovation Committee is holding an inquiry into claims that there are problems with a new assessment system that are impacting on the numbers of students who study maths, chemistry and physics at the senior level.

At question is an approach to assessment that requires students to do 'extended investigations' such as long form assignments, in maths and science; with schools assessing a student's work against a set of standards-based criteria. While this approach has been in place for some time, and is seen by some as world class, others claim that it is open to abuse, time consuming and confusing for students, parents and teachers alike.

Committee Chair, Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP, said that a Parliamentary inquiry would look at this matter independently, seeking advice from a range of experts and practitioners in the field.

"This isn't a cut and dried issue. While some teachers have a problem with the current system, others think it is wonderful. And some education experts say the new system is world-class, allowing for a depth of teaching and learning. It's clear that there are some positives about the new system, as well as perhaps some challenges. The committee will be doing its own learning on this subject," Mrs Menkens said.

Mrs Menkens said that the committee would gather information based both on subjective experience and on empirical research.

"The Committee will consider whether the balance is right between long form assignments and shorter assessment tasks, as well as the differences between and relative merits of standards-based and numerical score-based assessment processes in these subjects," Mrs Menkens said.

The Committee will receive initial briefings from the schools sector, the Queensland Studies Authority, and Professor Peter Ridd at Parliament House, Brisbane on March 6 and 7. Mrs Menkens said that these briefings will be open to the public.

"I hope that people with an interest in this important area will come along, watch or listen online, or read the transcripts of these briefings, and give us their views on senior maths, chemistry and physics assessment in Queensland," said Mrs Menkens. "The briefings will also be broadcast live online via the parliament's website and then available for a period of time to watch on replay, so anyone with internet access can watch".

The Committee will invite submissions from all interested parties in the near future via its website as well as writing directly to identified stakeholders and using social media.

"As well as hearing from educators, administrators, and industry groups, I hope we hear from students during the course of our inquiry," said Mrs Menkens.

Up to date information can be found on the committee's webpage, and interested people are encouraged to subscribe to the committee's mailing list at- <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/en/get-involved/how-do-i-get-involved/email-alert>

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