

TO: The Education and Innovation Committee [eic@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:eic@parliament.qld.gov.au)

I wish to express my concern about deterioration of our education system in Queensland. In particular my concerns relate to the Inquiry into Senior Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry Assessment procedures. I have spoken to a number of school teachers and parents and find that they are equally concerned about the changes that are taking place.

I request that:

- **Report cards be written in plain-english and test results be shown in percentage scores.** The flowery words currently used for reporting do not convey a clear message about the students skills and/ or progress. Consequently it is difficult for parents and students to understand and make sound decisions for their future..
- **Research assignments be designed for secondary rather than tertiary level students** These high-level assignments are extremely stressful for students, They are time costly and reduce the hours that could well be spent on other essential homework.
- **The number of student assignments be reduced.** Assignments currently take up a disproportionate amount of time in relation to other lifestyle needs that are essential for student well-being.
- **Research assignments are not to be used for assessment of student qualifications for senior graduation or university entry.** Given that these assignments are done without supervision there is no guarantee that the assignment is truly the work of the student who has submitted it.
- **Mathematics, chemistry and physics be prioritized as homework subjects.** These subjects are based on equations and are best learned through understanding and practice.
- **Students be encouraged to gain an understanding of basic maths without the aid of calculators.** Too many of our young graduates are unable to do the simplest mental calculations without calculators.
- **Teaching schedules be streamlined so that set times are allocated for specific Duties.** In the present system teachers are under constant stress to find time for lesson preparation, sports coaching, marking homework and other duties that are unscheduled yet are essential for an efficient education system.
- **Senior mathematics examinations be standardized across the state.** A standardized system would provide a benchmark by which potential employers could assess the real competency of first-job applicants.

Patricia OConnor



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