

Education and Innovation Committee

From: Richard Stokes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 7 May 2013 5:43 PM
To: Education and Innovation Committee
Subject: the disaster that is Queensland education

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To: Parliamentary Inquiry into Assessment Methods for Senior Maths, Chemistry & Physics

Dear Committee Members,

I believe that the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) methods for assessing Senior Mathematics (Maths A, B & C), Chemistry and Physics are worse than useless, guaranteed to produce mathematical and scientific illiterates.

I teach the products of our high schools, and have to revise at length things they should have known in year 9. These students are waving year 12 certificates.

The QSA's Assignments can be done with by parents or with expert help. They are subjective, and are unable to be aggregated. They have been created by bureaucrats with no knowledge of teaching.

It's easy to fix. Introduce numerical marking, and bring back some means of competitiveness among students. And then bring in examinations centrally set and marked. As they used to be when Australia was great. And finally, get rid of the bureaucrats and place curriculum development in the hands of real teachers. REAL teachers.

I have taught in several Asian countries, and they are going to leave Australia far behind. They all use, as part of their method, rote learning. Just as we did when we were successful.

Richard Stokes