

Education and Innovation Committee

From: Debbie Lovell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 8:22 AM
To: Education and Innovation Committee
Subject: The Inquiry into Assessment Methods for Senior Maths, Chemistry a Physics.

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To: The Education and Innovation Committee, eic@parliament.qld.gov.au

I am making this submission for your consideration in the The Inquiry into Assessment Methods for Senior Maths, Chemistry a Physics.

As a parent of three daughters, two are currently students in the High School System, one attends school in the public state system, an other is currently enrolled at Hubbards School for 2013 and the third daughter has just finished her schooling. I have written the following points from my experiences of my daughters school years.

1. Maths, Physics , Chem and Biology students have judgements made on their ability to write in sentences/paragraphs and these impact on their results considerably. So there might be a very capable Maths student who gets everything correct, but, ends up with a 'B' because he/she did not communicate or explain themselves clearly in sentences/paragraphs etc. Marks would fix that issue. The current scoring system of ABC leaves us confused as the accuracy of the scoring, what does A+,A-,B+,B,- etc. mean and as a parent I am confused at Parent Teacher reports as sometimes the teacher can't explain how to interpret these marks. Report cards are frustrating to read and I would rather see a percentage score showing results from their tests.
2. Assignments are a huge drain on students time and cause a lot of stress in our household and the work load is out of control at times. The criteria is often confusing and very subjective and I feel that they don't provide a valid indicator of the students achievements or knowledge of maths, chemistry of physics.
3. Mathematics, chemistry and physics are based on numbers and equations and are best learnt by practicing rather than writing assignments. Written assignments are better suited to other subjects. Students can get outside help from parents tutors, etc to complete assignments. How accurately would those assignments reflect the ability of that student? Good essay writing skills becomes more important than the students ability to solves an equation and answer a question.
4. The whole education process currently seems to be very subjective. If schools used the same senior exams across the state, then this would provide an accurate benchmark for employers and ensure consistency and fairness across the state.

We need a fairer assessment system in our schools. I thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards

Debbie Lovell