

Draft submission for busy teachers

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

Dear Committee Members,

I am a mother with an Honours degree in science, who has worked in QLD university system for 25 years and now works as a Science Officer in a private girl's school.

I feel gravely concerned about the QSA and their approach to assessment and the damaging effect this assessment is having on the students. Students have too many long written assignments, are staying up till very late and have no time for regular revision of mathematics and science.

Assessing mathematics and science through long written assignments is not valid for many reasons a very important one being the issue of who actually does the assignments. Students have access to very different resources – i.e parents, tutors, older siblings and in all written assignments whether they are EEI's, ERT's or mathematics the outcome of the assignment often has very little to do with the ability of the student.

Having worked in the university system I was astounded to see that the extended experimental investigations assignments are as big as anything done at third year uni.( some even a big as a PhD thesis – up to 100 pages). This is inappropriate for a grade 12 student and very stressful. The time these assignments take up, stops students from doing their other homework. It's also very hard for them to do enough hours and be awake for school the next day. They are HUGE. It is not fair for students' grades to be based on these assignments, as they can be done by tutors or anyone. Senior assessment and university entrance are competitive, so the grading ought to be fair for students.

The criteria paragraphs which QSA call standards, are the most tedious and ineffective thing I have ever seen. They are subjective and unhelpful. It would be much more efficient to add up marks and award percentages, as has always been done.

Originating from the UK , I cannot understand the complexity of the QLD system, why can't all students be taught the same thing and be examined with the same examination? Therefore I would also support state-wide externally-set exams prepared by teams of experienced and currently practicing teachers and discipline experts, in preference to the current system of social moderation.

Please help us. Students knowledge levels are dropping compared with many other states. Not to mention other countries – we need to do something about this now.

Sincerely,  
Concerned Mother