

Education and Innovation Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2013 5:01 PM
To: Education and Innovation Committee
Subject: Maths, Physics, Chemistry assessment - in need of radical change

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a GP who received both her secondary and tertiary qualifications in Queensland and now am watching my children as they negotiate secondary school science. My two daughters are in Years 11 and 12 and my son in Year 7.

Although advised by my daughters teacher in Year 11 that she was obviously the only child to have attempted her Maths B assignment without the help of tutors and that I would be doing her a disservice not to employ one, I have stoically struggled on, watching my child in tears trying to do assignments that I was doing for the first time in 4th Year Medicine at the age of 20 years. My father is the retired head of the Physics Department at UQ but not even he could do her Year 12 Physics assignment! That daughter has dropped chemistry, which she used to love, because of the madness of this assessment and curriculum. Surely we should be encouraging girls to do science, not driving them away. If you want a smart state, then this needs to change!! Families are in distress and children are at their wits end – heaven help those who cannot afford tutors to help them through the maelstrom.

Please, please can you return to an external exam for these subjects by the time my son will do Year 12 in 2017 – or at least abolish assignments, which are so clearly open to abuse in terms of assessment.

How can things have gone so badly wrong in thirty years??

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]