

From: [Tempe Harvey, AFA](#)
To: [Education and Innovation Committee](#)
Cc: [Michael Ord](#)
Subject: Suggested amendment re: Clause 10 of Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013
Date: Friday, 15 November 2013 3:26:30 PM

Attn: Ms Bernice Watson,
EIC Committee

cc. Michael Ord, Australian Family Association (Qld Branch)

Dear Ms Watson,

I understand that today is the deadline for comments to you on the above Bill. Kindly put forward for the Committee's consideration, the following suggestion.

Background

I note that Clause 10 of the QCAA Bill provides that the new Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) does not have a function to develop a syllabus for Australian Curriculum subjects in Prep-Year 10. Syllabi are defined in the Bill to include assessment methods.

The Bill's Explanatory Note expressly states the significance of Clause 10 is that Queensland schools will access P to 10 Australian Curriculum Content and Achievement Standards and schools (not the QCAA) will determine P-10 assessment processes from 1 July 2014.

This creates a hiatus from January to 1 July 2014 when potentially invalid and unreliable QSA assessment methods could be forced onto (or recommended for) vulnerable Queensland students of AC subjects in Prep to Year 10.

This hiatus poses an unacceptable risk for students, given the recent Menkens' Report (14 Oct 2013) findings that very similar assessment methods (in senior maths/science) -

- were of questionable validity and reliability (see Menkens' recommendations 1-16)
- the demoralising effect of using letters to mark down students work (Menkens, p113)
- lacked clarity for students (Menkens Rec. 13)
- increased workload on teachers (Menkens Rec 13)
- failed sufficiently to show what students know and do not know (Menkens Rec. 13)

Recommended Amendment to draft QCAA Bill

The best course is amend the QCAA Bill to allow Prep to Year 10 teachers of Australian Curriculum subjects at all Queensland schools (State and private) to determine **from 1 January 2014** valid and

reliable assessment methods for those subjects.

Failure to do so could expose Queensland schools and/or the Queensland Government to negligence claims for continued use of invalid assessment methods, given the Menkens' findings.

Therefore, from 1 January 2014 assessment methods of the soon-to-be-abolished Queensland Studies Authority ("QSA") should cease to apply to (or be recommended for) Queensland teachers of Australian Curriculum subjects in Prep to Year 10.

Final comment

This makes sense given -

- Queensland Prep-Year 10 schools teaching the AC must be immediately able to use evidence-based valid and reliable assessment methods, in use in every other Australian State;
- that schools will have this same power from 1 July 2014, in any case; and
- Clause 10 as it stands it will create unnecessary and disruption to schools by forcing them to comply with potentially invalid QSA methods for Semester 1 and not Semester 2.

Moreover, this is a prudent amendment, given that the QSA continues to recommend its methods (and Principals are advising parents that they must be used at State schools across Qld) even after the Menkens' Report was released. The QSA recommendations can be found under the "Resources Tab" on the QSA website under every Prep to Year 10 AC subject.

Yours sincerely,

Tempe Harvey
Australian Family Association, Qld Branch

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