

# Schools authority in need of an overhaul

LIKE the citizens in the Hans Christian Andersen tale, the people of Queensland have also been told the emperor is wearing a fine suit of clothes.

In our case, we have been told for years that Queensland's school assessment is a world leader and represents world's best practice.

Professor Peter Ridd, like the youngster in the Andersen tale, has alerted the townsfolk to the fact that the emperor is naked (Opinion, Sep 14).

Professor Ridd's damning indictment of the mismanagement of education by the Queensland Studies Authority is long overdue.

The QSA has resisted calls for a statewide survey of teachers' opinions on its assessment methods and answers every criticism with unproven, undocumented platitudes.

The State Government must heed Professor Ridd's call for major changes.

**Patrick Whalen, Newmarket**

THANK goodness eminent educators such as Professor Peter Ridd are questioning the current assessment regime for maths in our schools.

Students who are good at maths but not languages are unable to achieve top marks because they cannot "explain"

maths (using words, rather than numbers).

I was always told my son was good at maths, but he struggled with English.

However, when he went to university he received two high distinctions in maths at the end of the first semester.

How could that be possible?

For the first time, his ability in maths was recognised. Unfortunately he failed a compulsory "communication" exam, which was a course requirement, but at least the university separated language from maths. Schools need to do this too.

**Tony Templeman, Biloela**

I AGREE with Peter Ridd. I went through Queensland's state high school system in recent years and found the way the QSA sets up assessment is completely flawed.

Without help from my parents, I might have only just passed and would not have reached university.

It is obvious assignments should not be a part of the assessment of most subjects as they favour those students good at planning and writing.

Assignments might be fine for English or history, but not for maths, IT, physical education or science.

**K. Baker, Holland Park**