

# NEWSFLASH

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TO QTU REPRESENTATIVES / PRINCIPALS

ATTENTION: MATHS TEACHERS

**URGENT**

## Maths A, B, and C Syllabi

### Background

The following resolution was carried at a recent Branch Meeting and forwarded to the Union Executive for consideration at its meeting last night, Monday 18 June 2001.

Before making a final determination in relation to the matter, Executive is seeking the opinion of secondary maths teachers throughout Queensland in relation to the resolution. If feedback indicates that widespread concerns do exist, then negotiations with the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies will occur. If necessary, members will be balloted on whether the syllabi should be banned.

I appreciate that the timelines are short but it would be appreciated if maths teachers at your school could meet and give consideration to the issue and respond to the Union by completing the attached membership survey by close of business on Friday 22 June 2001, so that the assessment can be made of members' opinions during the QTU Biennial Conference (25-27 June 2001).

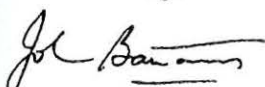
### Branch Motion for Executive Consideration

*"THAT this branch calls on the executive of the QTU to issue a directive to all QTU members to cease work on implementing the new syllabus (2001) in Maths A, B and C until such time as the BSSSS is prepared to enter into meaningful discussions with the QTU regarding implementation of these new syllabi.*

*This action has been precipitated by the fact that the BSSSS has attempted to implement new syllabi that:*

- a. *Are supposedly a minor revision of the 1992 - syllabi but in fact represent a major revision of the existing syllabi in terms of both objectives, assessment and content. Under the BSSSS own procedures such a major revision should only be implemented after a trial/pilot stage. This places a very significant extra work load on our members.*
- b. *Members feel that the assessment criteria contained in the revised syllabus, have been complicated to the extent that there will be no useful outcomes for students but in fact will require a lot of extra work for our members. In fact many of our members feel that the proposed criteria will not differentiate fairly between students and will place members in the invidious situation of attempting to do so without an effective model. Members are not happy with the criteria of Modelling and Problem Solving and Communication and Justification in there present form. They feel that these criteria are not able to be implemented in a practical and meaningful way.*
- c. *Members are concerned that there seems to be an overt attack by the BSSSS on the model of using marks and accumulating marks as a valid method of determining a students level of achievement.*
- d. *Members are concerned that over the last few years that responses to the board in relation to requests for responses to new draft syllabi (or other issues) are returned with a "yes minister" reply with no consequent action to address the concerns of teachers."*

Authorised by:



John Battams  
General Secretary

19 June 2001