

**Education and Innovation Committee**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 May 2013 3:28 PM  
**To:** Education and Innovation Committee  
**Subject:** submission NAME TO BE WITH\_HELD

**Categories:** Blue Category

Dear Committee Members,

I have been teaching mathematics/chemistry for many years. I feel gravely concerned about the QSA and their approach to assessment. The workload is horrendous. The effect of this is that my preparation and student contact time is limited. I know that most of my colleagues also hate QSA's approach.

I have recently taught Senior Math in Canada and their system of assessment is basically what we were doing 15 years ago. The students showed a lot my understanding of the Math and as a teacher I was able to put more into my everyday Math's teaching.

Perhaps more important, is the damaging effect this assessment is having on the students. They have too many long written assignments, are staying up till very late and have no time for regular revision of mathematics.

Assessing mathematics/chemistry through long written assignments is not valid for many reasons:

- (1) There is the issue of who actually does the assignments. How many times have we seen the take home assignment result much better than the in-class supervised result?
- (2) Students do not learn as much math/chemistry by doing them. Students obtain a narrowed exposure to Math.
- (3) these assignments use up much time, which could be used in learning fundamental math/chemistry.

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. If marks were to be used then the opportunity given to students now (A-B-C standard questions, KP and MPS) should also be retained to keep the standards high.

I would also support state-wide externally-set exams set by teams of experienced and currently practicing teachers in conjunction with school based assessment. Similar to that of NSW.

Content and its application is important. Would you have confidence in a doctor who only studied the respiratory system (assignment/EEI) if you had a spiral fracture of the ankle?

Please assist us

Sincerely,

