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Submission to the Education and Innovation Committee Inquiry into Assessment Methods for Senior Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics

The Federation of Parents & Friends Associations in Catholic Schools Queensland welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Education and Innovation Committee Inquiry into Assessment Methods for Senior Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. The Federation is the peak parent body for Parents and Friends Associations in Catholic Schools across Queensland. There are 294 schools, each with a parent organization that operate in various formats to suit the local school community and on behalf of all parents in the school.

The Federation is aware that in the Government plan, which was released last year, a review of the Overall Position and Tertiary Entrance processes would be conducted. We support this review as timely as it has been some 20 years since the system was put in place. We believe that this inquiry, which singles out three subjects, needs to be subsumed into the full review process in order to have consistency across subjects in senior secondary.

The Federation through its own processes discusses school based assessment in senior secondary and has agreed that we are fully supportive of school based assessment and the practices currently used in secondary schools in Queensland. We also support the Queensland Core Skills test as one measure towards a student's Overall Position. We do not support public exams in each subject across the range of Year 12 offerings. We believe that our teachers are best placed to know and understand what a student can do and can fairly and professionally assess their work.

The Secretariat of the Federation and the members of the State Committee have had no reason to believe that there is a major problem for parents and their students with the current assessment for Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. We realize there are sometimes individual problems which need to be worked through at the local school level.

Thank you for allowing the Federation to comment on this inquiry. We wish to reiterate that we believe this inquiry should be subsumed into the review of the Overall Position and Tertiary Entrance so that consistency is achieved across all subject areas in Senior Secondary.

Carmel Nash

Executive Director

Federation of Parents & Friends in Catholic Schools Queensland.