

To the Inquiry into Senior Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry Assessment.

I am concerned about the deterioration of our education system in Queensland over many years. I support of this contention I make the following points:

1. Mathematics, chemistry and physics are based on equations and so are best learned through homework practice. Writing assignments is better suited to other subjects like English or History.
2. Real knowledge competently conveyed empowers children to think independently. The current methods hone research and plagiarism skills not independent thought nor do they cater for students who will not progress to tertiary level studies.
3. Recurrent use of cognitive and practical operations within the school milieu where students can have their work corrected if in error and reinforced if correct, is the best way to ensure employability for the future.
4. The whole education process currently seems nebulous and subjective. If schools used the same senior maths exam across the state, then this would provide a benchmark for employers and ensure consistency and fairness across the state.
5. Teachers are reduced to administering a system which has no right or wrong parameters – this is difficult for them and disastrous for their students.

As a former teacher and now grandmother of students in Qld schools I implore this government to empower and encourage teachers by instituting education policies that recognize their abilities and allows them to hand on real knowledge.

Mary Rofe



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