

May 2017

Author: Andrew Pierpoint

Position Paper Senior Schooling

Introduction

Senior Schooling outcomes are the culmination of not only the Secondary sector, but also the culmination of a student's formal obligation to schooling. The transition from the existing OP system to the new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance (SATE) system is the largest change to Senior Secondary in over 40 years requiring strategic consideration for the implementation of the many aspects of this change.

Issues

1. With the delay in implementing the new SATE system the current system needs to be fully supported to maintain credibility in the community.
2. To ensure that all students in Queensland have **access to a high quality education** Senior Syllabuses need to be compatible with a range of delivery options so that schools of all sizes and complexities can continue to offer a broad curriculum.
3. The new SATE regime will require **significant pedagogical change** and hence need systemic support to effectively prepare teachers for the changes.
4. The review of senior syllabuses is resulting in **new programs being written** to reflect contemporary learning areas. As a result there will be no current or training teachers will have an in-depth knowledge of the syllabus programs.
5. The introduction of the endorsement, confirmation and ratification process represents significant change in operational practices of senior teachers and leaders. The change process needs to be carefully planned and transparently implemented to **minimize staff stress**.
6. The new SATE system will require development of **new data literacies**. Schools will face an initial **'data drought'** in transition years. It is vital that information and support be given to schools to appropriately interpret the new data sets.
7. All students in Queensland deserve the same opportunity to **an equitable pathway to Tertiary Education**.
 - a. No student should be advantaged or disadvantaged due to location or socio-economic background.

QSPA Advocates that

1. The current senior schooling OP system be appropriately resourced with staffing and panel professional development to maintain credibility of the system.
2. A variety of senior syllabus delivery options be provided to schools to ensure that the new SATE system does not diminish the breadth of curriculum being offered.
3. Final drafts of syllabus be released early 2017 to allow staff to engage in the programs and plan for delivery.
4. Schools have access to trial exams so that, with the syllabus, they are able to backward map program delivery.
5. DET deliver professional development to build effective pedagogical practices for preparing students for external exams, possibly drawing on the experience of the Academies or interstate peers.
6. QCAA delivery professional development be provided to schools, and the tertiary sector, to develop knowledge of the content of new syllabus.
7. DET develop Strategic Scope and Sequence for effective implementation supported by a 'Flying Start-ish' process to support schools to transition successfully to the new SATE process.
8. DET consider supplementary resourcing to facilitate the staffing imposition of releasing staff to participate in required professional development.
9. QCAA and DET develop understanding of new data sets to allow school leaders and teachers to make informed decisions and provide quality feedback and advice to students.
10. DET and QCAA advocate for the importance of providing equitable access to tertiary entrance for all Queensland students via the new SATE.