



Education and Innovation Committee

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: 11.1 MC&PA

26 June 2013

Mr Paul Herschell
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Queensland Studies Authority
PO Box 307
SPRING HILL QLD 4004

Dear Mr Herschell

Parliamentary committee inquiry into assessment methods for senior mathematics, chemistry and physics

Thank you for the briefings and responses to queries provided by the Queensland Studies Authority to date, to inform the Committee's inquiry into assessment methods for senior mathematics, chemistry and physics in Queensland schools.

Now that submissions to the inquiry have closed, the committee would like to invite the QSA to provide a response to issues raised in submissions.

In particular, the committee is interested in a QSA response to the matters raised in submission 286, in respect of the Queensland Core Skills Test and its comparability to school-based assessments of mathematics achievements; and whether the test is an indicator of the reliability of school-based assessment in mathematics, chemistry or physics. Additionally, that submission refers to a recent external audit of the QCS test which suggested that girls are favoured in terms of OP scores, due to current assessment practices. Is such an audit report available?

The committee also seeks clarification on some of the data presented in the QSA's submission to the inquiry - details are attached.

It would be greatly appreciated if responses to these matters, and to any other matters the QSA would like to respond to, were provided by Wednesday, 10 July 2013.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Committee's Research Director, Ms Bernice Watson, in respect of this request. Ms Watson can be contacted on 3403 7363.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary Menkens".

Rosemary Menkens MP
Chair

Participation and performance data

1. Could you please provide the definition of 'cohort size' and 'weighted population', as used on page 24 of your submission?
2. Could you please confirm what year group (Year 11 or Year 12) Table 3 applies to (on page 24)?
3. Could you please provide the same data as provided on page 24 of your submission, over a 10 year period (2002-2012) and also include the same data for mathematics A and chemistry?
4. Could you provide data for the number of completions in mathematics A, B, and C, physics and chemistry by gender, over the period 2002-2012?
5. Could you please explain the difference between the enrolment figures provided on page 24 of your submission (Table 2, 'enrolments' column), and those available on your website (www.qsa.qld.edu.au/617.html), titled 'Subject enrolments and levels of achievement'.