

MEDIA RELEASE:
For immediate release



Monday, 29th December 2014

Ashgrove parents urge Qld Premier against experimental Year 12 testing

View Leaflet: http://www.schoolwatchqld.com/Qld_Needs_External_Exams_Flyer.pdf

Ignoring objections from parents and many other voters in marginal electorates, Queensland's Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek today pushed a highly experimental post-OP system model for Year 12 testing to the public consultation stage. <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2014/12/29/a-new-era-for-senior-school-education>

"Parent and teachers have been door-knocking for months across several Brisbane electorates, including Premier Campbell Newman's Ashgrove electorate, urging State MPs to reject this very model," said AFA spokesperson Mrs Tempe Harvey in reference to recommendations of *Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER)*.

Mrs Harvey said, "Parents are alarmed that ACER's model is not being risked by other states and has never been tried anywhere in the world! It falls far short of the proven testing standards that have been in place for decades in every other state.

"All states except Qld supplement teacher-set tests with comprehensive end-of-Year 12 state-wide exams in all senior subjects counting for around 50%.

"Despite Minister Langbroek's upbeat spin, ACER's proposal is anything but transparent! It leaves the door wide open to Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (**QCAA**) bureaucrats to experiment with unproven non-exam testing worth up to 50% towards senior results.

"Parents risk being left in the dark for another 20 years as to whether their children have met or passed Year 12 standards in all their subjects."

Other states have three safeguards which, if adopted here, would bring Qld Year 11 and 12 assessment in line with the rest of Australia.

Mrs Harvey explained the three safeguards Premier Newman must promise, "*First*, avoid experimental government testing by insisting on a **proper external exam in every senior subject** like **all** other states, worth 50%.

"*Secondly*, free teachers from Minister Langbroek's proposed Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) control. Parents want **teachers, not bureaucrats, to control school-set tests**, worth 50%.

"*Finally*, we need **scaling** as used in NSW, VIC and WA. To stop schools inflating their own test results, these results must be benchmarked to a common standard by statistically adjusting them to match the school's proven performance on external exam in each subject."

Media Contacts:

Tempe Harvey M 0420 857 688

E: tharvey@family.org.au

Luke McCormack M 0459 133 947

E: lmccormack@family.org.au

Notes:

1. Qld school assignments: The government's assessment authority QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) requires teachers to set unpopular 'teach-yourself' assignments in many subjects. These Google-it projects stress students, deprive them of proper teaching and lower academic standards.

2. Qld needs scaling as used in NSW, VIC and WA: End-of-Year 12 external exams (worth 50%) will still let teachers customise their lessons and remaining tests (worth 50%) to their own students. Once a public exam is in place, automatic scaling can fairly compare school performance across all subjects state-wide. This system still gives credit for in-school work, but will identify under-performing schools that need help and root out those schools that embellish their results.
http://www.schoolwatchqld.com/Ext_Exams_for_Qld_All_States_Past_Exams&Scaling_Dec2014.docx

3. A push for external examination for Queensland students http://blogs.abc.net.au/queensland/2014/12/a-push-for-external-examination-for-queensland-students.html?site=brisbane&program=612_morning