

Addendum for Submission # 19

In my submission (# 19) I made two statements for which I would like to offer further support.

The first statement: *"Needless to say, both outcomes based education and Queensland's assessments are the products of sociologists and psychologists, not mathematicians or empirical scientists."*

In my recent reading I have come across further support that curriculum and assessment has been placed in the wrong hands. I know that Mathew Dean of the University of Queensland is critical of allowing those, other than mathematicians to design a maths syllabus.

In the United States review of Mathematics by the Thomas B Fordham Foundation, this issue is addressed. We read in the executive summary that they make three major recommendations to lift the standards of Mathematics in US schools. The first, which is relevant to my above comment, is:

"Replace the authors of weak standards documents with people who thoroughly understand mathematics, including university professors from math departments. Many states have delegated standards to development of "math educators" or "curriculum experts" with inadequate backgrounds in the discipline. States must make actual mathematical competency a prerequisite for inclusion on the panels that draft standards." (The State of State Math Standards by David Klein et al, Thomas B Fordham Foundation, 2005)

I believe the committee should include a similar recommendation in its findings.

The second statement: *"Perhaps in the light of the corporate trend for outsourcing, maybe Queensland would be best served by dissolving the QSA and outsourcing our senior school assessment to New South Wales. They can't come close to us in State of Origin, but are way ahead in education."*

This comment mirrors something I had said in a Letter to the Editor of the Courier Mail earlier this year. This concept of borrowing from a more successful program is also supported in the U.S. document.

"Consider borrowing a complete set of high-quality math standards from a top-scoring state. There is no need to reinvent this wheel. California, Indiana and Massachusetts have done this expertly. Other states could benefit from their success." (*ibid*)

So there is a precedent for outsourcing Queensland's curriculum and assessment to New South Wales.

Thank you for your attention

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