

Education and Innovation Committee

From: Bob Osmak [REDACTED]
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Parliamentary Inquiry into Assessment Methods

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a high-school teacher with 23 years teaching experience (some of it overseas) I can testify that our schools are an almost total failure. I also taught with TAFE in Queensland for 13 years and I can confidently say that up to 1/4 of the pre-vocational intake of our students could not read, write or do basic maths.

I am teaching presently part-time in a primary school. I am a Queensland registered teacher (registration number [REDACTED], status full registration).

Our students all had minimum gr.10. It makes you wonder what they did during the 10 years of their schooling.

I am not surprised that so many parents are choosing to homeschool their children. The other reason for homeschooling is the violence in our schools. Teachers have lost control of students both in and out of classrooms. Students keen to learn find it impossible to learn because of lack of discipline in the classroom which also makes teaching most difficult if not impossible.

Besides English I also taught Remedial Maths with TAFE. My students' arithmetic was at about grade 4 level. Equally their knowledge of science was very low.

We must have an independently set central exams that are also marked by an independent body of teachers several times through the year. No student should be able to go to a higher grade unless he/she passes these exams. I believe that the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) methods for assessing school subjects are totally unsatisfactory.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish more information.

Kind regards,
Robert Osmak, BA TeachersCert