

Equity statement

January 2011

Purpose

This statement articulates the equity principles that underpin all functions of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA).

Principles

All young people in Queensland have a right to gain an education that meets their needs, and prepares them for active participation in the creation of a socially just, equitable and democratic global society. This principle is aligned with the range of UN Conventions that Australia has ratified, including the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* December 2008.

The QCAA is committed to providing services and materials that contribute to Queensland students receiving a socially just education, and that challenge inequities by:

- recognising that teaching and learning should be socially and culturally responsive and inclusive
- developing an understanding of diversity within and among groups
- identifying and minimising structural barriers to access and participation
- acknowledging the diversity of students and their life circumstances, and the need for particular strategies which can enhance engagement and equitable outcomes among all students
- recognising and acknowledging the diverse bodies of knowledge and backgrounds of all students, including marginalised groups
- acknowledging the relationship between valued knowledge and the participation of students in society.

Application

Equity is embedded in all functions of the QCAA by:

- distribution to, and discussion of equity principles by, all new staff members and new QCAA committee members as part of induction processes
- discussion about, and incorporation of equity principles by, QCAA staff and QCAA committee members when developing and reviewing products, processes and services
- provision of advice from the Equity Committee about the incorporation of equity principles in QCAA products, processes and services
- reflection of equity principles in all strategic planning processes of the QCAA, including the *QCAA Strategic Plan* and annual performance report to the Governing Body
- regular reflection on the equity principles and revision of these when required.