

Introduction to BonSAI

Transcript of SAls and BonSAI video 3

Transcript of video three of five

This video is available from www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/tertiary-entrance/sais-bonsai/bonsai-videos

Voiceover

BonSAI_2014 is a software application designed as a tool to assist teachers to assign SAls and check the reasonableness of their decisions quickly and easily.

It is available free for download from the QCAA website and can be installed on single computers or school networks.

Liz van Genderen
Head of Department

I've found BonSAI_2014 a simple but effective tool to use. The thing I like about it is that it will assist you in the assigning of SAls and you can actually anchor students and then drag them on the screen to show the differences in where the students are placed. The other thing I like about it is that you are able to show a graph distribution which will highlight any errors that may have occurred during the assigning of the SAls.

Voice over

BonSAI_2014 allows student data to be imported from the Student Data Capture System, known as SDCS. Once SAI distributions have been generated, they can be exported from BonSAI_2014 back into SDCS, eliminating the need for a lengthy data entry process. Full instructions for this process are available in the BonSAI_2014 user guide which can be downloaded from the QCAA website.

When a subject is open in BonSAI_2014, the screen looks like this. There is an enrolment pane, an editing pane, Rungs to SAls graphs and subject information tables.

First, the 'enrolment pane' displays student information imported from SDCS, including their QCAA student number, name, visa status and OP eligibility as well as their Form R6 rung placements and SAls. In the Sample column, teachers can indicate if the students' folio was a sample provided to the district panel. Clicking on the Form R6 tab displays students' surnames next to the Form R6 rung. This is very useful for checking against the hard copy of the Form R6 to ensure there are no errors.

In the 'editing pane', teachers can drag and drop student names to place them along the 400 to 200 scale. When names are moved up or down the scale, the students' SAls automatically change in the enrolment pane. This allows teachers to represent difference between students' work in a visual way without worrying about numbers.

Jason Gibbs
Head of Department

BonSAI is a user-friendly program that provides instant feedback about the quality of the judgments you are making about students. It's also a valuable tool in consistent SAI allocation across the school and makes the data process at the end of the year much more efficient than it used to be.

Voice over

There are three main tools you can use to check decisions in BonSAI_2014. The first tool is the rungs to SAI's graph. The second tool is the ratio information table and the third tool is information about maximum ratio multiplicity and the number of rungs on the Form R6 the distribution covers. The tools available should be used together to make sure that your SAIs are reasonable. Sometimes one tool will show something that another does not.

BonSAI_2014 is used by the QCAA to check SAI distributions, so checks used by schools are the same as those performed by the QCAA.

Tamie Hay
Head of Department

What I like best about BonSAI is the peace of mind it gives me when I'm checking distributions to ensure that I have made the best decision for each of my students. It's not about making right or correct decisions but more about fairly representing real similarities and differences between students in the distributions.