All schools

QCATs to be phased out by 2013

Purpose
To inform principals of the current and future status of Queensland Comparable Assessment Tasks (QCATs).

Background
Introduced in 2009 under the Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework, QCATs are annual standards-based assessments in English, Mathematics and Science that:

- engage students in Years 4, 6 and 9 in assessment tasks that value higher order thinking skills
- provide evidence of students' understanding and skills in relation to the Australian Curriculum content descriptions and achievement standards
- support teachers in making consistent judgments about students' work using moderation processes
- provide teachers with information about student achievement with a focus for future teaching and learning.

All schools should have received QCATs packages in English, Mathematics and Science for Years 4, 6 and 9 students by the end of Term 2, 2012.

Information
Minister for Education, Training and Employment John-Paul Langbroek has today confirmed that 2012 is the final year that QCATs will be available for implementation by schools.

QCATs were administered by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education and Training which lapsed on 30 June 2012.

The QSA wishes to advise principals that we will continue to support schools to implement the 2012 QCATs during Term 3. A range of resources is available on our website to assist schools with this process <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/3163.html>.

However, principals should first seek guidance from their schooling sector about implementation.

You should contact the QSA for all curriculum or logistics related queries you have about 2012 QCATs.

What you need to do
Contact your schooling sector for advice about implementing QCATs during Term 3 this year.

More information
Please email qcats.administrator@qsa.qld.edu.au or phone 3864 0350.

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