

Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

19 October 2016

Senior secondary

Number: 065/16

Revised timeline for the introduction of a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system

Purpose

To advise schools that the timeline for the introduction of a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system has been extended by one year. It will now commence with Year 11 students in 2019 instead of 2018. The first graduates will finish Year 12 in 2020.

Background

During the past two years, the QCAA has laid the groundwork for a new system of senior assessment and tertiary entrance. Our achievements include:

- conducting two rounds of public consultation on 35 draft syllabuses
- trialling external assessments in seven subjects with more than 20,000 students
- developing and trialling new processes for strengthening school-based assessment
- launching School Portal and commencing redevelopment of existing ICT systems
- engaging thousands of teachers and other education partners in the change process.

Although there has been significant progress, some transition activities will require more time to complete than originally planned. In particular, this means the redevelopment of senior syllabuses and the delivery of nearly 700 professional development workshops to about 17,000 teachers.

Information

The Queensland Government has announced that a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system will now start with Year 11 students in 2019.

The one year extension will ensure that teachers have sufficient support to become completely familiar with the new system. It will also allow QCAA to analyse the findings of assessment trials and consult further with our education partners.

The Queensland Government has released its final position on the review of senior assessment and tertiary entrance conducted by the Australian Council for Educational Research. The policy can be viewed on the Department of Education and Training website at <https://det.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/education/queensland-senior-assessment-and-tertiary-entrance-systems>

What you need to do

Principals should inform their staff of the revised timeline for implementation, and that QCAA will provide further details at 12 information sessions to be held statewide in late October and November for principals, school leaders and parent representatives.

Finding out more

Please email Paul Ould at Paul.Ould@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone 3864 0457.

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