

Media statement

Queensland Studies Authority

Date: 24 January 2013

Topic: Science syllabuses and assessment

The following may be attributed to a Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) spokesperson.

Curriculum content

Principals have responsibility for the quality and content of teaching and learning programs in their schools, including assessment tasks.

It should also be noted that the principal of a school implementing a QSA syllabus is required to formally confirm that school staff have followed procedures for the approval of work plans and assessment.

QSA science syllabuses and resources support the teaching of scientific theories, including the theory of evolution.

No document prepared by QSA includes the study of creationism, nor is it evident in the Foundation to Year 10 Australian Curriculum: Science and draft senior secondary Australian Curriculum science subjects.

This position is supported by the Australian Academy of Science and Australian Science Teachers' Association. Both maintain that creationism is not a valid scientific theory, chiefly because it is unable to be tested by experiment or observation and modified on the basis of evidence.

These organisations' views on creationism and intelligent design can be accessed at:

<http://www.science.org.au/policy/creation.html> and

<http://www.science.org.au/reports/intelligent-design.html>

Senior assessment in Queensland

In Queensland, schools develop courses of study and assessment for Years 11 and 12 based on the requirements in QSA syllabuses and other advice and guidelines.

It is normal practice for teachers to present different perspectives when teaching a required topic, such as evolution.

It is therefore possible for creationism to arise in a range of contexts, such as an assessment task that requires the comparison of a scientific theory to a non-scientific one.

The QSA works closely with schools to ensure the suitability of their courses of study and assessment.