

HSC Reforms Benefit all Students

Yesterday the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli introduced reforms to the New South Wales HSC (Higher School Certificate). The changes represent improvements in areas of concern to parents, students and employers; particularly areas of numeracy and literacy standards and levels of student stress.

President Jason Vials says “The changes have a whole-of-school focus on numeracy and literacy and benefit all school years, including those students who do not stay on for the HSC”.

These changes will come into effect over the next four years:

- the introduction of minimum standards for numeracy and literacy
- a stronger focus on depth of knowledge and skills; a move away from memorising pre-prepared exam responses
- regular reviews of the syllabus; including online syllabus, interactive e-syllabus
- improvements to English, Maths, Science and History syllabuses
- a common scale for Maths to encourage more students to study the course that best suits them
- new courses; starting with a new Science extension course
- a cap on the number of HSC assessment tasks to help reduce student stress

While not addressing all of the concerns with the HSC, this is its first significant overhaul in 16 years. P&C Federation commends these changes as a move in the right direction. P&C Federation will continue to work with the BOSTES and other stakeholders to ensure there are ongoing improvements and reviews to the HSC in coming years.

P&C Federation and parents have an eye on the future for our children; “The HSC isn’t the end of learning for students, it is a preparation for the next stage of their life”.

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