



Queensland the Smart State

# What the reviews found

## The Pitman Report

### *The Senior Certificate: A New Deal*

The review of the Senior Certificate was commissioned to explore four broad areas:

- determining whether the present two-year, full-time institutional setting for senior is a significant reason for students failing to complete 12 years of schooling
- developing initiatives to improve learning opportunities and student completion rates
- changing the Senior Certificate to sustain these initiatives
- implementing the recommendations.

## The Gardner Report

### *The Review of Pathways Articulation*

The Review of Pathways Articulation was commissioned to provide advice on:

- improving articulation, or coordination, between the courses, credentials, experiences and settings offered to young people by schools, institutes of TAFE, private education providers, universities and industry in Queensland
- determining the effects of the recommended reforms on opportunities for lifelong learning and labour market participation by young people.

Professor Margaret Gardner is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Queensland.

John Pitman is Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Education at the University of Queensland and formerly the Director of the Queensland Board of Senior Secondary School Studies.

## The Pitman Report

### *The Senior Certificate: A New Deal*

Key findings from research and consultation included:

- changes in society, the economy and technology are producing new and complex work environments that demand new skills and knowledge
- students need more flexibility to complete their studies over different periods of time and in different ways
- more needs to be done to ensure that students who are disengaged from learning can re-engage and receive — through a range of opportunities — a Senior Certificate
- the need to recognise that worthwhile learning occurs in a range of places beyond the school gate.

## The Gardner Report

### *The Review of Pathways Articulation*

Key findings from the review included:

- There are now more options for young people, but most communities have limited knowledge of these options beyond the traditional pathways to university, vocational education and training (VET), and employment.
- There are significant negative consequences for young people who leave school early and do not enter work or further study — more direct support is needed for these young people.
- There needs to be greater flexibility in the delivery, pace and setting of education and training in the senior years.
- There should be greater consistency in the quality of vocational education provided across schooling and VET.
- The way learning and qualifications are coordinated and recognised in schools, VET and universities is inconsistent and unclear.
- Greater complexity and choice means there needs to be greater attention given to career guidance and the way student achievement is recorded across sectors.

# What the reviews recommend

## The Pitman Report

### *The Senior Certificate: A New Deal*

The key themes and recommendations included:

- ensuring all young people complete a senior stage of education, with flexible entry and exit points, variable rates of progression and more individualised approaches to learning
- developing a new concept of Worthwhile Learning that builds on the current system, and that also recognises learning that occurs outside school and learning for the 21st Century
- developing a Senior Certificate that is issued on the basis of achieving a minimum amount (threshold quantum) of Worthwhile Learning
- ensuring the Senior Certificate records all Worthwhile Learning
- allowing each student to enter into a Senior Agreement with a school that sets out a plan to achieve a Senior Certificate
- coordinating access through the school to learning opportunities in the community;
- ensuring ongoing advice, encouragement and advocacy for students disengaged from learning
- building on established and innovative practices, in particular building stronger links between schools and communities
- commissioning a report to design a system of ranking for tertiary entrance that is compatible with the New Deal for certification.

## The Gardner Report

### *The Review of Pathways Articulation*

The key themes and recommendations included:

- **Patterns of education — journeys and consequences:**
  - ensuring diversity and flexibility in learning and settings
  - developing work readiness and employability skills
  - recording centrally all student achievements
  - ensuring consistency in the quality of vocational education and training (VET) provided by schools and other VET providers.
- **Connecting the sectors:**
  - improving planning at a regional level to better coordinate and recognise learning and qualifications across schools, VET and universities
  - developing a new model for providing vocational education and training.
- **Access for all:**
  - addressing the needs of young people who do not complete Year 12 or the VET equivalent.
- **Guidance in a complex field:**
  - teaching young people about careers and providing consistent and accurate information.

The reports acknowledge the increasingly diverse needs, expectations and aspirations of young people and advocate for greater flexibility, diversity and choice.

There is agreement that:

- more needs to be done to ensure that young people who are disengaged or alienated from learning can participate in, and succeed, through a range of learning opportunities that lead to work, further education or training
- any proposed changes will not adversely affect those students for whom the system is currently working well.

## Where to from here?

The reports will be released publicly and are available on the web.

The Government is now considering the recommendations of the reports in the development of a White Paper on the Education and Training Reforms for the Future. The White Paper will be presented to the Government later this year.

