

QASSP Position Statement: Head of Department – Curriculum



Supporting State School Leaders Since 1966
Queensland Association of State School Principals

QASSP Position:

All schools should have Head of Department – Curriculum (HoD-C) positions as a part of the allocative model.

Rationale

- Primary classroom teachers are typically responsible for planning, teaching, assessing and reporting for at least six separate Key Learning Areas.
- HoD-Cs are only allocated to primary schools with enrolments between 225-324.
- Australia's declining performance in international tests (PISA, TIMMS).
- Students in Years 4 to 6 are the least resourced in Australian education.

Heads of Department – Curriculum are required in each school to:

- Lead and align (horizontally and vertically) the implementation of the dynamic Australian Curriculum and the assessment and reporting framework in the wide range of primary school contexts in all parts of Queensland.
- Implement personalised, evidence-based, professional development for teachers.
- Enhance teachers' skills by modelling lessons and sharing best practice in pedagogy across the school.
- Observe teachers in class, and then provide them with personalised, developmental feedback.
- Work with teachers in year level groups to facilitate collaborative planning, as well as refine assessment pieces and assessment standards, supporting the diverse learning needs of students.

Details

- Each school is allocated 0.5 HoD-C for every 100 students or part thereof.
- HoD-C role is to improve student outcomes through sharing expert curriculum knowledge, co-teaching, modelling and coaching of pedagogy and differentiation.
- The role needs to be flexible enough to respond to local contexts with HoD-C directed by the principal to focus on developing less experienced teachers and continually building and expanding the skills of experienced teachers, as well as sharing best practice.

Opportunities for QASSP to achieve the desired position

- Advocating through the QASSP advocacy subcommittees, Deputy Director-General, Director-General, Minister meetings.
- Working with QASSP partners and organisations, for example the Queensland Secondary Principals Association, Queensland Teachers' Union, P&Cs Queensland.
- Branches/individual members advocacy to local state and federal Members of Parliament.

Queensland Association of State School Principals
t: 07 3852 3411 | e: qassp@qassp.org.au