

## **DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF STUDIES MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2003**

1. ***English Stage 6 Prescriptions: Area of Study, Electives and Texts for the HSC 2004-2005***

The Board discussed the removal of "A Thousand Acres" by Jane Smiley and noted that the Board President will attend the English Board Curriculum Committee's next meeting to discuss the text selection process.

2. ***HSC examination: non-serious attempts***

The Board was advised of an FOI request received by the Office of the Board concerning a script submitted for the 2002 HSC examination in English Extension 1 which was initially determined to be a non-serious attempt. The Board noted the standard processes used in the case.

3. ***Mathematics in Indigenous Contexts: Mathematics K-6 Aboriginal Support Documents project***

The Board noted a presentation on the above topic.

4. ***Primary curriculum project: progress report***

The Board noted the report.

5. ***Syllabus revision progress report***

The Board noted the report.

6. ***2002 HSC Consultative Committee report***

The Board agreed that, in courses where the performances of many students are of a standard beyond that normally achieved by secondary school students, procedures should be introduced when setting marking schemes and briefing markers to ensure that appropriate levels of discrimination between the performances of the top students are obtained. It was further agreed that the training operation in 2003 should reinforce the importance of the Standards Packages for the standards-setting operation so that judges apply the same standards as the previous year. The Board agreed that, during the training operation in 2003, judges should be reminded that it is not required, or even desirable, that the team reach complete consensus on cut-off marks. It also agreed that further steps should be taken to lessen the likelihood of judges receiving extraneous information during the standards-setting operation. The Board agreed that collection of cut-scores for "non-pathway" options should be continued in those courses where the options cover qualitatively different skills and that this information should be provided to the Consultative Committee to assist it in finalising the cut-off marks in these courses.

7. ***Report from the Office of the Board on the 2002 Higher School Certificate***

The Board noted the evaluation of the 2002 HSC program and the procedures and enhancements for the 2003 HSC program.

8. ***2002 School Certificate Consultative Committee report***

Mathematics

The Board agreed that schools should be advised of the importance of reminding students to bring all items of equipment required for the test, including calculators and mathematical instruments. It was further agreed that the test committee for mathematics should be briefed to avoid the use of multiple-choice questions where all options are correct.

Science

The Board agreed that a detailed analysis of the statistical data and student test responses should be undertaken to inform the preparation of the new test scope statement. It also agreed that consultation should be held with science teachers about the draft test scope statement. The Board agreed that the comments provided by the 2002 judges should be discussed with the 2003 test committee.

Australian History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship

The Board agreed that principals should be informed of the need to advise students that they should allocate one hour to each component of the Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship test. It was further agreed that Presiding Officers should advise students during the test when one hour has expired. The Board agreed that a detailed analysis of the statistical data and student test responses should be undertaken to inform the preparation of the new test scope statement. It also agreed that the report provided by the subject representatives to the Consultative Committee should be considered in the preparation of the test scope statement.

9. ***2002 School Certificate grade monitoring report***

The Board noted the results of the monitoring of 2002 School Certificate grades.

10. ***Stage 6 Studies of Religion I and II, Ancient History and Modern History***

The Board endorsed the proposals in the above paper.