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### **NEW SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE IN 2008 FOR IPSWICH YEAR 12 STUDENTS**

Ipswich Year 12 students this year will be among the first to receive the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the QCE replaces the Senior Certificate, and recognises a range of achievements by students from the start of Year 10.

"The introduction of the QCE raises the bar for certification and its attainment is a significant achievement," Ms Nolan said.

"Students can have certain achievements from community or sporting activities taken into account for their senior qualification.

"Importantly, vocational education and training, including school-based apprenticeships and traineeships will continue to count towards the new senior qualification.

"The new certificate allows results from workplace learning projects, self-directed learning projects, and university subjects to be recorded. It also requires literacy and numeracy standards to be met.

"The new system will help students move into further education, training or the workforce more smoothly as a broader range of achievements can count. The former system limited achievements to particular subjects."

Education and Training Minister Rod Welford said the QCE also gave senior students more flexibility.

"Those who are not awarded a certificate by the end of Year 12 are able to continue their studies to accumulate credits," Mr Welford said.

"To receive a QCE, students must achieve 20 credits, including a minimum of 12 in completed core subjects and up to eight credits from non-core studies."

The Queensland Studies Authority, as an independent statutory authority, oversees the QCE implementation.

Amendments to the *Education Act 2002*, took effect in November giving the green light to the introduction of QCE.