

**From:** raeclark@samika.com.au [mailto:raeclark@samika.com.au] **On Behalf Of** rae clark  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 April 2016 2:03 PM  
**To:** Bostes Review <Bostes.Review@det.nsw.edu.au>  
**Subject:** Submission to the 2016 Review of the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards

## **Submission to the 2016 Review of the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards ('BOSTES')**

[via: [bostes.review@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:bostes.review@det.nsw.edu.au)]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing in relation to the Review of the NSW Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES).

I am writing specifically in response to Terms of Reference No 4 “The optimum processes for formulating and assuring high educational standards for...assessment...” and BOSTES’S role with respect to the HSC examinations (Issues Paper p2).

BOSTES’s policy and administration of disability provisions for the HSC is of significant concern to me.

I am very concerned by the disability adjustment system for the HSC and the process my children will confront should they require an HSC adjustment to allow them to “participate in their education (including assessment) on the same basis as a student without disability” (Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth), ss. 3.3 (a) and 6.2 (1))[\[1\]](#).

Namely, BOSTES’s advice:

*You must submit two extended responses/essays and at least one of these must be from an assessment task*<sup>[2]</sup>:

BOSTES requires that the two essays must be written without disability adjustments and at least one must be an assessment task (ie counts towards the final HSC grade).

This amounts to a blanket ban on adjustments for all assessment tasks. BOSTES is requiring that students with a disability, that requires an adjustment to allow them to participate on the same basis as a student without a disability, must be denied that opportunity for one assessment task.

This is unconscionable, poor practice, and makes a mockery of the Disability Standards for Education 2005.

I welcome this review and trust that by the time my children reach year 12, the process for disability adjustments will enable them to receive adjustments on all assessment tasks, without imposing a “one assessment task blanket ban” as is currently the case.

Regards

Rae Clark

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<sup>[1]</sup> The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* are subordinate legislation made under the *Commonwealth's Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, The provisions are enforceable (*DDA*, s. 32)

<sup>[2]</sup> Refer FAQ#6: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/disability-provisions/faq-schools.html>

and page 4: [http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/disability-provisions/pdf\\_doc/schools-guide-disability-provisions.pdf](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/disability-provisions/pdf_doc/schools-guide-disability-provisions.pdf)