

**Minister for Education and the Arts  
The Honourable Rod Welford**

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**HOMEWORK GUIDELINES RECOMMEND BALANCE**

New guidelines for Queensland state schools about levels of student homework emphasise a need for balance between family life and consolidating classroom learning.

"The new guidelines for Queensland state schools recognise the need for children to have a balanced lifestyle and provide a common-sense framework for principals, teachers and parents," said Premier Peter Beattie.

"They provide a very solid basis for schools to develop their own individual homework policy in conjunction with parents.

"There is an emphasis on helping students establish a positive routine of regular, independent study, without going overboard.

"Homework is only one part of a child's lifestyle and it's important for them to have time to take part in activities with parents and friends and to develop interests in other areas.

"The key is balance and while homework is important for students, so too are the other healthy activities that young people need to undertake."

The Premier said the guidelines prescribed levels of homework for different age groups as follows:

In the Prep year, generally students will not be set homework

- Homework in Years 1,2, 3 could be up to - but generally not more than - an hour each week
- Homework in Years 4 and 5 could be up to - but generally not more than - 2-3 hours each week
- Homework in Years 6 and 7 could be up to - but generally not more than - 3-4 hours each week
- Homework in Years 8 and 9 could be up to - but not more than - five hours each week
- Homework in Years 10, 11 and 12 will vary according to the young person's learning needs and individual programs of learning.

Education Minister Rod Welford said the suggested levels of homework would provide a useful guide for parents and teachers.

"We have to recognise that students complete homework tasks at different rates so these levels are only a guide," Mr Welford said.

"For our younger students, it is important that parents get involved by reading books to them and encouraging them in a range of activities.

"For the older students, parents can help them balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing sport and doing part-time work.

"Good communication between teachers, students and parents is also very important to ensure students reach their full potential."

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