



Dear Principal/Science Coordinator

You have previously (December 2008) received an offer, from the ESSA team, of participation in a number of workshops in **2009** for science teachers.

The workshops listed in the overview sheet attached are registered with the Institute of Teachers and additional information was part of the first round invitation.

**The 2008 statewide results on ESSA have identified a need to support students to achieve at the Stage 4 standard.**

We ask that you consider these workshops as part of your calendar of professional development opportunities.

It is intended that the workshops be presented over a period of five hours, or one whole school day. There is no cost attached to the presentation of the workshops by the ESSA team. Schools have offered their premises as a venue.

For clarification or additional information, please contact the ESSA team on **9707 6295**.

Please provide the details for teachers at your school who wish to attend the workshops on the FAX reply attached and we will contact you to confirm their registration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dagmar', is positioned above the typed name.

Dagmar Arthur  
**Leader**

**ESSENTIAL SECONDARY SCIENCE ASSESSMENT**  
30 January 2009

To register teachers for ESSA workshops in 2009, please complete this form and fax to (02) 9707 6289 no later than **Wednesday 25 February 2009**.

# FAX

Educational Measurement and School Accountability Directorate  
Locked Bag 555  
Delivery Centre Milperra DC NSW 1891  
Phone 02 9707 6215  
Fax 02 9707 6289

## 2009 ESSA WORKSHOPS FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

School name .....

Contact person .....

Preferred contact details .....

Workshops	Venue	Date	Name(s) of teacher(s)
ESSA Access and analysis			
Analysis of assessment tasks in science			
Multiple choice and short response items in science: writing and reviewing			
Marking and tracking extended tasks in ESSA			

**Comment**

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## Overview of ESSA workshops for 2009

Title	Outline of workshop	Special requirements	Venue and catering	Cost	Number of participants	Element and standard
ESSA Access and analysis	Activities involve teachers in accessing and analysing <b>2008</b> school data, discussing actions to be taken, articulating targets and completing faculty action plans.	Participants must bring a laptop computer and must have their school's ESSA data downloaded on that computer prior to the workshop.	School as venue and provides catering	NO cost is attached to the course; schools must cover their own teacher relief	20	3.2.6 3.2.10
Analysis of assessment tasks in science	Activities involve teachers in using the 'expert group' strategy to analyse and evaluate a number of assessment tasks ( <b>new tasks</b> will be used in 2009) using identified criteria. Participants discuss the metalanguage of assessment. Teachers respond to sample multiple choice items to experience meaningful feedback.	Participants should bring a copy of the <i>Science Years 7–10 syllabus</i> .	School as venue and provides catering	NO cost is attached to the course; schools must cover their own teacher relief	30	3.2.5 3.2.6 3.2.7
Multiple choice and short response items in science: writing and reviewing	Activities involve teachers in learning how test items are developed for ESSA, including information about the psychometric analysis process. Teachers then practise writing items, including distracter analysis, and participate in the review of items from an electronic database ( <b>additional items</b> in the 2008 version).	Participants must bring a laptop computer that will accept a copy of a <i>FileMaker Pro</i> database. They should also bring a copy of the <i>Science Years 7–10 syllabus</i> .	School as venue and provides catering	NO cost is attached to the course; schools must cover their own teacher relief	30	3.2.5 3.2.6 3.2.7
Marking and tracking extended tasks in ESSA	Activities involve teachers in using holistic marking guidelines to score sample scripts of student responses to ESSA <b>2008</b> extended response tasks. Teachers add to their knowledge and understanding of how students learn by the use of SOLO in the marking guidelines. Participants track the requirements of ESSA <b>2008</b> extended tasks through their faculty programs.	Participants should bring a copy of the <i>Science Years 7–10 syllabus</i> .	School as venue and provides catering	NO cost is attached to the course; schools must cover their own teacher relief	30	3.2.5 3.2.6 3.2.7

The NSW Department of Education and Training is a NSW Institute of Teachers endorsed provider of professional development for the maintenance of accreditation at Professional Competence. The scope of endorsement includes all Elements of the Professional Teaching Standards. These Department of Education and Training courses are registered professional development under the terms of the NSW Institute of Teachers Continuing Professional Development policy. **For teachers accredited at Professional Competence, completion of one of these courses will contribute five hours towards Institute Registered professional development.**



## 2009 ESSA workshops for non-government schools –second round offer

Workshop	Date	Venue
ESSA Access and analysis	Tue 5 May	SCEGGS Darlinghurst
	Thu 7 May	Redeemer Baptist School, Castle Hill
		Holy Trinity School, Inverell
Wed 10 June	James Sheahan Catholic High School, Orange	
Analysis of assessment tasks in science	Mon 4 May	Casimir Catholic College, Marrickville
		Redeemer Baptist School, Castle Hill
	Tue 16 June	Cattleman's Country Motor Inn, Dubbo
	Wed 26 August	Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour
Multiple choice and short response items in science: writing and reviewing	Wed 6 May	SCEGGS Darlinghurst
		Redeemer Baptist School, Castle Hill
		St Mary's High School, Casino
	Thu 11 June	James Sheahan Catholic High School, Orange
Marking and tracking extended response tasks	Fri 8 May	De La Salle College, Caringbah
		Redeemer Baptist School, Castle Hill
	Mon 24 August	St Mary's Central School, Wellington
	Tue 25 August	Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour