Board of Studies: Edval Testimonial

The NSW Board of Studies is responsible for the conduct of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations, which take place in October/November each year. The scheduling of the examinations is a complex task, with over 65,000 students presenting for more than 100 examinations in a vast range of combinations which vary each year. Various constraints, such as the time required to mark the examinations and the need to minimise the number of examination "clashes" – when a student has two examinations scheduled for the same timeslot – have made developing the HSC timetable a time-consuming task.

In 2012, the Board of Studies approached *Edval Timetables*, a provider of software to many schools, with the aim of investigating the use of their software in scheduling the HSC examinations. Edval representatives met with BOS staff and consulted at length on various aspects of the timetable, and developed a variation on the existing Edval exam scheduling product, to cater to HSC specific needs.

The Edval software allowed the Board to quickly and effectively test different timetable options. The ability to rapidly reconfigure, and manage complex exam constraints electronically has also facilitated construction of the HSC timetable process. The result is a 19 day 2012 HSC timetable with a minimal number of examination clashes and an even spread of examinations for the vast majority of students.

Apart from the use of technical software, Edval consultants have actively shared advice on a number of aspects relating to scheduling, which may prove to be of further benefit.

The Board is pleased with the relationship formed with Edval. I have no hesitation in recommending them to other educational bodies that are required to easily and effectively schedule exams for large numbers of students.

Peter Feary
Manager
Examination Operations Branch