

Recipient Details

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Reference Type: Parent - university, school, TAFE

State or territory: WA

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Responses

Curriculum and assessment

To focussed on academic performance, kids learn differently and have strengths in different learning areas. We should be offering more hands on approach for those students who may not have learning difficulties as such but who may struggle with testing. Schools are to focused on academic performance and ATAR results. Students need to be encouraged to think outside of the box and look at other ways they can achieve their goals besides just getting good grades, to much pressure to do well and if you don't then an emphasis on failure.

Rating: 5

Teachers and teaching

Teachers need to connect more with students and get back to teaching and making sure that they have the capabilities to teach what they are teaching. Schools need to be accountable for the quality of teachers they are employing and also they need to take ownership for continual education of teachers. They also need to ensure that students are not disadvantaged when they are allocating teachers eg. you give a classroom access to a great teacher and then for whatever reason you take that teacher and put them somewhere else and then you dump a relief in the classroom of year 12 students is not smart. Students develop a relationship with their teacher over time and often this begins in year 11 students should remain under the same teacher (if they study the same subjects year 11 to year 12). Teachers should be made accountable for their own professional development.

Rating: 5

Leaders and leadership

We can't teach leadership this is something that is developed over time and their are people out there that are natural leaders. School is a great place for children to become leaders in their school community but I believe it is the quiet, hard working, I will just do my best type that always succeeds in the end.

Rating: 2

School and Community

At the moment there is a lot of emphasis on school and socio economic backgrounds. All schools should be funded the same, making schools independent is supposed to mean more choices but schools need to listen to the students. At senior level asking the students what they would like to get from their time in school, listen to their thoughts and ideas, intergrate good old fashioned learning with understanding what it is like to be in the real world, teach life skills - how do I get a tax file number, what is tax, what is super, how do I claim medicare, what is debt etc..... all simple things but things that they need to know for the when they go out into the community.

Rating: 5

Information and Communication Technology

There is so much emphasis now on technology. I believe there should be a balance between the old and the new. IPADS and computers are wonderful resources to have in the class room, but what about books? Children should be encouraged to utilise books and skills such as researching should be developed from using books as well as the wonderful world of the internet. Classrooms should not be focused on technology alone.

Rating: 4

Entrepreneurship and schools

Partnership programs within the community are a wonderful way to grow education outside of the classroom. In particular these are important in later senior school years and further education and training. Also showing students that success can come in many forms and hard work is the key.

Rating: 4

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Access to accommodation is often difficult and comes at a costs. If the student does not have family to support them then obtaining accommodation that they can afford is difficult. Students should not have to travel so far to receive support for their schooling.

Rating for enrolments: 6

Rating for clusters: 6

Rating for distance education: 6

Rating for boarding: 7

Diversity

Being accepted for you are and what you are should be emphasised from home, through school and the wider community.

Rating: 7

Transitioning beyond school

The transition beyond school to university, other study or work should be more supported by the government. To many kids drop out of study due to financial factors or lack of support. More scholarship opportunities, financial support for middle income families would make a great difference. Offering more variety in types of courses and students not having to move so far away would also help. TAFE course fees are sometimes more than uni fees, regulating fees and bringing in line to make more realistic for people to be able to pay. Encouraging more traineeship opportunities across all industries rather than selected ones to help grow employment rates amongst young people. More ongoing funding to help with study supplies and training equipment for all. Start up grants for education for students wanting to start their own business (this funding would be up to \$5k and could be for assistance with business plans, set up of accounts, research, marketing and development).

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

Being a parent of a first year uni student who has had to move to Perth to study and a soon to be year 12 graduate I find that financially this has been the hardest year for my husband and I. We are middle income earners who have had to support our son with rent and other expenses this year. He receives some centrelink funding but this does not even cover the cost of his on campus accommodation for the fortnight. He has some part time work and what he earns from this pays for his food and fuel expenses. My husband and I are also covering his licensing and insurance on his car as he needs this to get to his job. His course of choice does not offer any scholarship opportunities. What concerns me is that he can not be classed as independent because he has not had a gap year and worked full time. I think that as a 19 year old his is expected to pay tax and can fight for his country but he can't get independent status from centrelink. I am worried that with my daughter graduating this year and wanting to pursue further study that my husband and I will be put in financial distress as we will have to support both children through their studies until such time as they can support themselves. As a parent we take on this responsibility but life for us is supposed to be getting easier financially and it only seems that it is getting harder. Rethink financial support for students would make the world of difference.