



Public submission made to the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools

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Summary

Without the issues of health being addressed, no improvement in student results will occur, and no amount of teacher development will make any difference to a child's learning. Health screening needs to take place in prep and again in year 7 for all children and children of all backgrounds/nationalities/races

Main submission

There are many barriers to implementing improvements but nothing will make any difference if a child's health is not addressed. A child cannot learn and a teacher cannot teach a child who has a health issue. Common health issues that affect learning include ear health, eye health, physical health, mental health. There is no longer any hearing or eye screening available to families when their child begins school. Many conditions are not picked up until they come across a teacher who has noticed something different about a child's interaction/behaviour. This can sometimes not be until high school. A child can't learn if they cannot hear, see or are dealing with mental health issues. There are costs involved for families in accessing a diagnosis. Many families are unable to afford this testing.

Without the issues of health being addressed, no improvement in student results will occur, and no amount of teacher development will make any difference to a child's learning. Health screening needs to take place in prep and again in year 7 for all children and children of all backgrounds/nationalities/races.