

## Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Baines, Karen

Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: SA

Serial Identification Number: 478931

## Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Rating: 0

Teachers and teaching

Rating: 0

Leaders and leadership

Rating: 0

School and Community

Rating: 0

Information and Communication Technology

Rating: 0

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating:

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Bus access

☒ Is an issue with some farm families forced to drive 80km per day to and from the bus stop. There needs to be a 'bias' for yes from the education department for reasonable requests to changes of the routes. Time away from the farm affects productivity.

☒ Bus access is sometimes 20km away and to organise a change in the bus route is time consuming and a difficult task - this should be easy to find some compromise. There needs to be a 'bias' for yes from the education department for reasonable requests to changes of the route. It can be over 1.5 hours out of the day in travel to and from a bus stop. Some farms are still and husband and wife operation to that travel is lost work time.

☒ Other wives work off farm so then juggle a bus in one direction and then off to work in the opposite direction. The days of the wife staying home as a housewife and cooking are long over, that's not our reality anymore. We work on and off farm.

Rating for enrolments: 0

Rating for clusters: 7

Rating for distance education: 0

Rating for boarding: 7

Diversity

Rating: 0

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 0

Additional Comments

Flexibility

- Overall, the education system needs to be more flexible to address the specific situations that some rural/remote schools find themselves in.

Sleepers

- Small schools enable some underperforming teachers to hide and retain employment. It is difficult to motivate them or encourage them to move on.

Festering school problems not dealt with

- It is a great expense to farmers when a local school is not performing or the culture has been allowed to become unsavoury.
- Some farmers have felt the need to purchase a 2nd home in a regional town in order to school their children, even though there was a bus available to the closest school in their area
- This scenario has a detrimental effect on the family entity, with husbands and wives juggling travel, farm work, children and the expense it creates
- Sometimes this education situation is unavoidable or some choose private schooling over public, and we accept that. But it is becoming more and more common in some areas of EP due to dissatisfaction with certain public schools

Mixed age classes

☒ The low allowance for teacher numbers in small schools is a disadvantage to our children. It might have worked well 40 years ago, but in this day and age many feel this is a great impediment to the learning of our children, especially those with learning difficulties.

☒ When you have Reception aged children (now 4-5 year olds), in the same classroom as Year 3's (8-9 year olds), it is impossible for the one teacher to attend to all of the various learning levels and needs.

It is absolutely imperative that rural/remote farmers have access to good local schools, have a means of getting their children to and from school that is equitable and that the school system supports and considers those more remote children and the distance burden they already suffer for every other aspect of their life.