



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

Submitter: Beyond the Bell Great South Coast Ltd  
Submitting as a: Parent or community organisation  
State: Vic.

### Summary

In order to achieve educational excellence in Australian Schools, collaborative approaches across all sectors are needed. It is a whole of community responsibility, and such initiatives require government support and cooperation.

### Main submission

- Schools and teachers are doing a fantastic job
- Keeping kids in school is a much bigger and complex job - more than just the school's responsibility, it is a whole of community responsibility
- Life is more complicated now for kids - due to social media, complex family arrangements, higher rates of vulnerability and disadvantage (particularly in rural and regional areas)
- Therefore, collaborative approaches across all sectors are needed, such as the Beyond the Bell Great South Coast Initiative. These initiatives need support from government (funding, cooperation, resources, etc.).
- Beyond the Bell is undertaking and supporting some ground-breaking initiatives. Although early days, they are making a difference. A couple of examples are the Continuum of Need initiative across Colac Otway and Corangamite shires, and the Stepping Stones to School Initiative in the Glenelg shire. These initiatives are supported by schools and the Department of Education and Training, but additional resources are needed to be able to implement them across the region.
- Additional support is required to enable the social and emotional well-being of your children and young people with higher rates of depression, anxiety and self-harm being reported. Whole of community approaches are needed to assist in developing resilience and other related skills.