

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Down, Tania

Reference Type: Parent - University

State or territory: Vic

Serial Identification Number: 473226

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

It's very difficult to entice teachers to move to rural areas to teach especially for VCE subjects and particularly for the lesser popular subject areas

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

In fact I believe our children possibly have more opportunities to become leaders as the sheer number of students within the schools is lesser than their city cousins. There are many leadership roles within the school and community/sporting groups which support those seeking greater responsibility

Rating: 7

School and Community

In our smaller communities it is essential that school and community work together to provide a holistic approach to education. Our small communities rely on young people becoming further educated and moving back to ensure a positive future for our areas.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

Without effective ICT our students are unable to access many subject areas especially those which attract fewer students. This has improved greatly in recent years and has helped to close the gap in education between all students. The continued roll out of the NBN will either enhance or restrict the effectiveness of this depending on the reliability of the service.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

I don't see this as particularly important in relation to transitioning to University

Rating: 3

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Enrolments are not really an issue in rural and remote areas as the choice in schools is very limited. Therefore distance education is a must. The problem with boarding is primarily the costs involved. Boarding schools are very prohibitive for most rural families

Rating for enrolments: 4

Rating for clusters: 4

Rating for distance education: 7

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

Rural communities are as diverse as any other community.

Rating: 4

Transitioning beyond school

Hugely important as most employment and ALL tertiary study requires moving away from the family home. Online courses are becoming more available however limited, unreliable and expensive internet service is definitely a barrier to this. The financial, and emotional costs involved with this are enormous and something which city living students would not have to consider.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

I currently have one child who has finished a degree and 2 children completing their degrees at University (with one more planning to attend in three years time). Because of this I feel confident to have a very informed opinion of the transition to University from a Rural setting. The biggest difficulty in getting my children to University, aside from the fact they have to leave home and live 400+ kilometres away, is the financial burden associated with this. University fees are not really a primary issue as the HECS provides this support. Being from an agricultural business background, we are not entitled to any CentreLink support for living expenses as our assets are too great. This is a huge disadvantage and one which I'm sure makes a difference to the number of rural students attending Universities.