

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Dugan, Leanne

Reference Type: Primary school teacher

State or territory: Vic

Serial Identification Number: 473621

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

The Curriculum is not always connected to a student's career path, or opportunity to find a career path. There needs to be more options for student's who DON'T know what they want to do in the future. Student's don't have an incentive to do well in study if they don't know what career path they want to take after Year 12. More focus should be on having opportunities in placement or work experience in a variety of fields. There needs to be more money (especially in regional areas) to give the students more hands-on opportunities. Public transport (we don't really have enough) to help the kids get to the variety of towns in regional areas.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

It is vital that all secondary teachers have opportunities (time and money) to help student's look at the available opportunities and to focus on their strengths. Too much is left to the individual student, who are too immature to make life-changing decisions, without being given ample support and advice.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Opportunities to show leadership in communities in sport or other commodities is essential. Rural children have different upbringings to city children and lack of opportunity due to small numbers is a major problem. There are only 3 high schools in a 50 km radius so with each one only having 2 school captains as leaders that is about 6 students out of 3000 - not great odds.

Rating: 7

School and Community

All our local secondary and primary schools are linked to the community for various programs and these are essential in giving our children a broader experience in life skills, eg: nursing homes, kindergartens, local theatres etc

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

The country/rural schools are WAY behind in technology in both secondary and primary schools. More money needs to given to the education sectors so our children aren't missing out on the best available education.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Not sure what this question is about.

Rating: 3

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Better technology connections for interaction between the rural schools would be fantastic. As seen in some overseas schools who can live skype classrooms and connect with other countries can only enhance and improve the learning and education.

Rating for enrolments: 4

Rating for clusters: 2

Rating for distance education: 6

Rating for boarding: 5

Diversity

Not sure what you want here - diversity in what????

Rating: 1

Transitioning beyond school

Life in the country is like being on another planet compared to the city. Linking city life well before the transition to uni should be better organised for both parents and students.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

MONEY - The country kids are disadvantaged to the high uni fees plus living away from home (eg: \$400 a week rent). Not only do families struggle to pay for the children to get the education but the students have to adapt to a life without family support and TOO many students don't continue study because they can't cope with the change in lifestyles. If the government is serious at giving Rural or country students a better education the TAFE options need to be upgraded - IMMENSELY and there needs to be more University courses available from the Bairnsdale/Sale area. Government subsidies need to be in place for the struggling families trying to help their children get further education in the cities as they can't access it in the country. Two of my 4 children have done the city education (Uni and TAFE) and it has been a struggle for all of us...At times I worked 6 part-time jobs and my husband worked overtime to try and help the kids. We are at a major disadvantage in the country for educational opportunities for our children, compared to the city families.