



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

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Submitting as a: Principal  
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### Summary

Absence from school on regular basis is a growing problem.  
Sport commitments are destroying our schools' effectiveness.  
Many parents are taking kids out of school for very poor reasons.

### Main submission

My concern is that school attendance is at a critical level. Many students do not attend school on a sufficiently sustained basis to achieve any worthwhile level of learning. One aspect of this is the increasing interruption caused by sport of every kind. Almost every major level of sport have moved competitions etc. into the school week thus taking kids out of the classroom for extended and regular periods of time. I'm not sure why sport cant ne done on weekends and in school holidays. Some students are in may sports and this increases their disengagement.

Another aspect of this problem is parental attitude to absence...a growing number of parents take their kids from school for reasons that are not justified. Many parents are unaware of how damaging absence is on a child's educational outcomes.