

## Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Gaman, Monica

Reference Type: Parent - University

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 475926

## Responses

### Curriculum and assessment

The biggest hinderance I see with curriculum and assessment for some students in Year 11 and 12 is achieving the required mark in ATAR English. For students whose strength is in the Maths/ Science area, achieving the required grade is very difficult and disheartening as they have great difficulty understanding the concepts and addressing the questions in the manner that is required. Often the essay questions are worded in an ambiguous way which makes it even more difficult to answer. I feel it would greatly benefit those students whose strength does not lie in the English/ humanities area, to have a different 'English' course available to them which would encompass business and report writing. This could teach students, who are bound for engineering/ science/ maths/ information technology areas, the skills needed for lab reports and business documents rather than the kind of essays taught in traditional English courses which they will more than likely never use again.

Rating: 7

### Teachers and teaching

In the regional area that I live in we are lucky that our town is very popular place to live. This means that schools are generally able to attract high quality teaching staff. I don't believe that students in my area are too greatly disadvantaged by the teaching of curriculum and assessment.

Rating: 7

### Leaders and leadership

I feel it is for schools and universities to foster our future community leaders.

Rating: 7

### School and Community

Schools are where our future leaders and adult community members are being nurtured and influenced. It is that we are in touch with the needs of the communities and the students who live within those communities.

Rating: 7

### Information and Communication Technology

Information and communication technology are obviously going to be a big part of our future, however I think we need to be very cautious as to how early we introduce this into the curriculum and the amount of time that children use devices. Speaking from personal experience, some children are particularly vulnerable to screen addiction given availability and easy access to a device. It can be a devastating problem for the child and family and a very difficult problem to overcome, with long

term effects on brain development. I think children should first learn to do things manually and leave use of devices to as late as possible. Screen addiction and related problems I am sure will be a growing issue with young people.

Rating: 4

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating:

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 0

Rating for clusters: 0

Rating for distance education: 0

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

Rating: 0

Transitioning beyond school

Regional students and their families are definitely disadvantaged when they decide to go to university. For most course choices, regional families have no choice but to send their child to the city to attend university. This involves great cost to the family and to the student as they now have to cover the living costs of more than one household. If a student decides to go directly to university from school, in most cases they are not yet classified as independent for Youth Allowance. Unless their families are very financially disadvantaged, they often either have to work for 18 months doing a minimum 30 hrs per week or wait until they turn 22. If a family cannot afford to send the student to university without Youth Allowance, the student must then work for 18 months, meaning they start university a minimum of 18 months behind their peers. As well as this they are forced to have a long break in their study. In the case of my family, my daughter chose to go directly to university. We were not eligible for any payment in the first year and now this year my daughter receives \$160 a fortnight; rent assistance and youth allowance. Her rent alone is \$110 per week. Because she was ineligible to claim Youth Allowance the first year she moved out of home, we missed out on the first year relocation scholarship. We have had to purchase furniture, a car, all university books, plus pay for her food and living costs. Next year my son would also like to go to commence university. We will have to once again find somewhere for him to live, purchase furniture, a car etc. and will then be supporting three households. I believe that if a child is accepted by a university to enter a course, they should be able to commence university straight away if they wish and not be held back. I don't think it should be any different to the assistance available to assist regional students who have to board to complete high school.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments