

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Jackson, Joanna

Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 474801

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Success in online formats is currently limiting achievement. For example, today my son's English teacher has written to say that the course content he cannot access without blowing our bandwidth for the month is 'too big to email'. She has put a huge amount of time and quality of thinking into developing something he cannot use with any ease. He is in year 12 so this is a big problem. So the quality of curriculum and assessment is terrific: the useability is low.

Rating: 4

Teachers and teaching

Again, bandwidth is significant here.

Another story. Due to limited teacher time my year twelve's chemistry teacher used the half hour contact he had with the students (my son is educated online) to tell them what they needed to cover. He didn't teach. My son has withdrawn from Chemistry after a catastrophic exam result. I didn't believe him when he said 'my teacher isn't actually teaching'...but in the feedback session this exact statement was also made by his teacher. The teacher didn't have time to teach.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

This goes to the heart of the problem. Our leaders are extinguished by upper management - I know they too are distressed by the kind of stories I repeat here. The problem is that the bush isn't valued, and this is reflected in the lack of voice given to educators of these children.

Rating: 0

School and Community

Vital to move beyond teachers as leaders of engagement between school and community...teachers are often scared in these contexts.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

At the moment the lack of quality NBN and amount of download is the main limiting factor to online education.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating: 4

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

I didn't want to send my indigenous sporty children to boarding school - I can't afford it, and they are not WA indigenous so I could only have done so by labelling them and risking a focus on sport ahead of other achievements. However, in keeping them home they have suffered from a lack of access scholastically - due to problems with the promised NBN.

Rating for enrolments: 5

Rating for clusters: 4

Rating for distance education: 7

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

Rating: 4

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 5

Additional Comments

I am moving for my last son to attend a local government school in Perth that offers a Gifted program. My other boys attended an excellent online gifted program that had two contact hours per subject per week and two camps a year - GATE online. However, despite making every attempt in the world, I couldn't find something similar for their final years. These are bright hardworking kids let down by the lack of willingness by government to invest in their year eleven and twelve in terms of teaching time and NBN.