

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Lochore, Miriam

Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 476321

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Regular well-run PD for staff in the STEM areas - perhaps with workshops for students too?

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Ongoing training.

Streamline the paperwork/admin load for teaching staff.

More connection between formal requirements and actual, on-the-ground practice (ie. build cultures where the school's policies and procedures are in touch with what is actually happening)

Effective consequences for disruptive behaviour - perhaps this is something students could have some input into?

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Continue building on existing student leadership development structures (e.g. student council).

Some practical ideas - clear job descriptions for student council members.

Effective rewards or consequences for leadership performance - e.g. my son brought in a '3-strikes-you're-out' reform at his high school student council to improve student attendance at council meetings (the idea being that if student councillors missed three council meetings without an adequate reason they would lose their councillor status).

Rating: 7

School and Community

Teams to help old ladies with their gardens or technology? (There is often animosity between the old and the teenaged in our communities.)

Rating: 6

Information and Communication Technology

Up-to-date curriculum for ICT, please. Perhaps liaison with university departments would be helpful? Grant applications for high school ICT curriculum development? On a more basic level, typing lessons would be great (even if this is just an hour set aside a week for Yr 5s to do 'Dance-Mat Typing Lessons' online).

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

It would be great to get local business people in to do workshops or give training on specific aspects of running a business.

Rating: 6

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Access to tertiary education is a concern for my family. We have saved for our children to go to uni since they were born, however, the exponential increase in the cost of tertiary education (not to mention spiralling rents in capital cities across Australia) makes a material difference to the amounts we can cover, particularly as we are regionally based. I do feel that the goalposts have shifted significantly in the last 15 years and it is a source of frustration.

Rating for enrolments: 3

Rating for clusters: 3

Rating for distance education: 5

Rating for boarding: 4

Diversity

Sensitive recognition of all minority groups - my concern with the Safe Schools programme is that it protects one minority group (LGBTQI- identifying students) at the expense of other minority groups (e.g. those who come from faith or cultural backgrounds that hold to classical/traditional beliefs on sex and sexuality). I would like to see an anti-bullying programme that is more diverse in its approach, and more inclusive of a diverse range of minorities ... and that also takes into consideration the principle that it is possible to disagree with someone (for example, on sex and sexuality) without being hateful or a bigot. Learning to disagree respectfully is an important part of living in a secular democracy. Perhaps schools could facilitate respectful conversations across difference by conducting communication workshops?

Rating: 7

Transitioning beyond school

We really appreciate the university teams that come and visit our regional school to provide information on tertiary education to our students. We hope these initiatives continue. The University Open Days are also great.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

Thank you very much for conducting this review - I do hope that meaningful improvements to the delivery of regional, rural and remote education can be made as a result of this dialogue.