

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Mackay, Jade

Reference Type: Teacher - School

State or territory: Qld

Serial Identification Number: 472546

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Curriculum is repetitive and outdated.

Assessment is overwhelming and unnecessary. No support to complete. Does not fit into curriculum timeline requirements.

These both lead to reporting which is a stressful process which needs to be streamlined.

Rating: 6

Teachers and teaching

Huge turnover of teachers in rural/remote areas. The mindset is "get in, do your time, get out". This is so unfortunate. My husband and I are both Teachers in our 3rd year of rural teaching and we love the community and the kids.

The reasons we don't want to stay are due to extremely poor leadership at my school. I have an unsupportive Principal whom the school community, teachers and our P&C have made many complaints about, though nothing has happened.

Another reason we find it hard to want to stay out here is the lack of our family networks, and the LAC (housing committee). Whilst we are extremely fortunate to be provided with cheap housing during our time here, the houses/duplexes are very small and old with many maintenance issues.

We have some amazing Teachers out here, and it's sad for them, and the students, to constantly see them defeated due to workload and leadership.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

This is my 3rd year teaching in this rural town, and we are now onto our third Principal. Each is getting progressively more horrible than the last.

These families need some consistency and they are not getting it from anyone.

The Principal at our school is not a leader in any way, shape or form. There needs to be a review before too many more students and teachers leave.

We need quality leaders in rural and remote areas if we want to give these kids the chance they deserve to succeed!

Rating: 7

School and Community

The schools in and around our area are great. Our community is great. It has some issues, such as some troubled youth, both indigenous and non-indigenous. Recently there has been a few cases of depression and suicide in our town. There were a few pretty dark weeks.

However overall, it's a great community to live in.

Rating: 5

Information and Communication Technology

Resources seem to be overlooked in rural and remote areas. I have a class of 27 students, however we only have 21 working computers in one of the 2 computer labs at our school. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to meet the demands of the curriculum with the limited, outdated resources.

Rating: 5

Entrepreneurship and schools

My husband teaches at the high school in our town, I teach at one of the 2 primary schools. He constantly talks about how the year 12 students are not ready to join the workforce.

Because this is a mining town, many students are of the mindset that "dad will get me a job in the mines". Which is not possible anymore!

Only a very small percentage of students who finish school here are going on to complete further study.

Rating: 5

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

I am not sure. Sorry.

Rating for enrolments: 4

Rating for clusters: 4

Rating for distance education: 4

Rating for boarding: 2

Diversity

Thankfully, our town is quite diverse. With the mines now attempting to make the workforce more diverse, this is an opportunity for many students that did not once exist.

Rating: 4

Transitioning beyond school

There is very little being done to assist the transitioning of students into further study or the workforce once they have finished their schooling.

Rating: 4

Additional Comments

A serious look at leadership (not just data on a computer), needs to be conducted, in person, at schools, talking to teachers, students and the community.

The curriculum, assessment and reporting is overwhelming. Especially for the kids in rural and remote areas. A lot of it is not relevant to them.

Benefits for teachers/staff to teach in rural/remote areas are insufficient.

Thank you.