

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Matson, Aiden

Reference Type: Student - School

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 474601

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Rating: 0

Teachers and teaching

Rating: 2

Leaders and leadership

Rating: 3

School and Community

Rating: 4

Information and Communication Technology

Rating: 2

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating: 0

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 1

Rating for clusters: 0

Rating for distance education: 3

Rating for boarding: 1

Diversity

Rating: 3

Transitioning beyond school

The major concern for rural, regional and remote high school students transitioning to university is the lack of support they have during their first year in the 'big smoke'. Along with the steep cost of university, rural students have to front the cost of accommodation and food each week, where as students from the metro can live at home for a few more years. The lack of support goes beyond this financial obstacle, moving out of the family home means that rural students won't have the emotional support from our parents that we have had all our lives thus far. This is evident in the 'drop out' rate of university students from rural/remote backgrounds; last year 30-40% of rural/remote students left university without achieving even a bachelor degree (ABS, 2016 Data Snapshot).

As a high school student living in a West Australian regional centre, I feel that the current systems in place for rural students are sub-par. A relocation scholarship was a fine start, but having to wait 18 months to be eligible for an independent living allowance? That seems counter intuitive to me. Why are regional students encouraged to delay their educational pursuits? I have seen a number of older friends move to Perth for university, only to give up and leave when they simply couldn't afford their tertiary education anymore.

I suggest a counselling or mentoring program for those students transitioning to major cities in pursuit of tertiary education. Having an older student who has been through the transition themselves would be reassuring and beneficial for the wellbeing of my peers and I.

Please consider my suggestion thoughtfully. This is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments