Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Menz-Dowling, Carey

Reference Type: Teacher - School

State or territory: NSW

Serial Identification Number: 472656

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

For country students access to equitable professionals and settings is limited.

All students require good transitions from prior to school settings to primary school and then at each important transition point after that.

For country students transition to high school often results in more travel or isolation from family. Also transition to work is another area where there is great disadvantage in rural areas. Students going to University are at a greater financial disadvantage and family support as that usually need to live long distances away.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Teachers who are achieving well in their craft and passionate.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

It is difficult to provide great leaders in rural settings.

Incentives to live in rural settings are required to maintain good quality leaders and teachers.

Targeting of successful students at university and providing the above incentives may support greater interest in rural placements.

Rating: 7

School and Community

The school and community are essential and it improves outcomes for students where this community believes and values high expectations for their students.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

Again important to have great technology and people with current information about all the possible learning pathways VET, Cert 1,2, TAFE, University with mixed loads of learning online and face to face.

Online learning is amazing but many country students need a community of learners to interact with to extend their learning.

My greatest concern is that more blended learning options make the isolation of student learners in rural settings worse. Pedagogy improvement with support and challenge remains a relationship and communication based learning style requiring some human face to face for successful outcomes.

Rating: 6

Entrepreneurship and schools

I am not sure who benefits here . Students not business should be paramount .

Rating: 4

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding Access and therefore enrolments are important but small cohorts should be able to run using blended learning with online and face to face learning.

Rating for enrolments: 5

Rating for clusters: 5

Rating for distance education: 5

Rating for boarding: 5

Diversity

Student need across all cultural groups a consideration but more important to provide diverse service models in rural settings.

Indigenous communities require high levels of parental and community engagement for student success .

Rating: 5

Transitioning beyond school

For rural students it is essential as this impinges on choice beyond school.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

An independent study line this one needs a broad lens to meet varied needs of our students.

If the federal government wants successful

Learning outcomes for all students look for ways to provide excellent well trained and passionate teachers in rural settings.

Many initiatives appear one off and knee jerk with a program or funding.

These communities need long term commitment of communities and educational

Opportunities that are flexible and allow for small cohorts with blended learning and supportive leaders who understand the country.

Students are often disadvantaged by family

expectations, distance and lack of experienced practitioners in schools, TAFE or apprenticeships

Student scholarships could be a way that worked well previously or support to attend or complete VET style course post and in school.