

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [O] Stawell Secondary College (school council)

Reference Type: School

State or territory: Vic

Serial Identification Number: 478476

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Value authentic tasks that will challenge and extend regional students. Note: the assumptions made in metro centric curriculum / study designs that reflect the assumption of readily available and accessible resources.

Rating: 5

Teachers and teaching

Attract and retain is the mantra of this College as it relates to its teaching staff. Teachers in the regions should not be robbed because of distance of the opportunity to participate in stimulating networks or by reason of school size (with associated loss of promotion opportunity) be robbed of opportunity to advance their careers.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Rural regional schools are sometimes seen as "stepping stones" for leaders and this robs the schools in the regions of leaders whose career pathway has a focus on rural / regional; or in Victoria the 'small school'. (John Dewey was a dedicated pioneer of the 'small school!').

Rating: 6

School and Community

The community has a genuine role to play. This school council strongly believes that a coalition of shire, school and others could and should establish dedicated residential and other facilities to support rural / regional students from the district who transfer to metro areas for further study.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

Some current use of poly com and video conferencing supports breadth of options offered by schools - some providers are better than others - there is a need for specific training to empower teachers to offer video conference or remote delivery lessons. But there does need to be an infrastructure of alignment so that (for example) a class can be simultaneously experienced in multiple locations.

Rating: 4

Entrepreneurship and schools

- rural entrepreneurs will contribute to a vital rural regional scene. to develop through schools the appropriate and aspirational skill set in rural / regional youth.

Rating: 6

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding
Need to consider other models of clustering schools to support breadth and depth - three stand alone small scale schools could be melded to one larger consolidated school on three sites - as happens in Wodonga VIC. If the schools were clustered time tables could align specialisms be developed and ICT used to diversify options making them more widely available. DISTRIBUTION - one Physics teacher in one school teaches 12 senior students DISTRIBUTE the skill set to three clustered and aligned schools.

Rating for enrolments: 6

Rating for clusters: 7

Rating for distance education: 5

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

Rating: 6

Transitioning beyond school

See previous comment regarding community supports for relocated students post-school.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

The importance of rural regional education to the live - ability of rural regional towns cannot be overstated. It is not just about the present generatiuon - if a school has consistently high level outcomes families will be more inclined to remain in the district and this will encourage other families to the district.