

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Taylor, Joan

Reference Type: Parent-University

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 478131

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Rating: 5

School and Community

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

Rating: 5

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating: 5

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 7

Rating for clusters: 5

Rating for distance education: 4

Rating for boarding: 6

Diversity

Rating: 5

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 7

Additional Comments

1. Aspiration-Regional children need opportunities to get to the universities and feel comfortable in that environment and to build their aspirations.
2. Finance-The issue of the financial cost of attending metropolitan universities cannot be underestimated. Families need to plan in advance with residential college costing approximately \$20 000 per year. Although costly, residential colleges assist country kids in the transition from home to the big city. More emphasis needs to be placed on teaching children financial literacy at school. The

challenges of living away from home on a limited budget, grocery shopping, planning and cooking meals can be overwhelming.

There are scholarships available, but you have to know what you are doing in the application process, this could be covered at school. Young people need to know how to write their scholarship applications and what grades they are expected to maintain and the commitment they are making when they accept a scholarship.

3. Proximity-Distance from family and support networks is a huge challenge for RRR students. As parents, we know our children are vulnerable when they leave home and we try and equip them with all the skills and values to keep them safe. University campuses are target areas for predators and there is a culture of non disclosure to avoid tarnishing the university or colleges' reputation. This puts regional students at greater risk due to limited support networks in the big city. We need to ensure that our children have the resilience to cope away from home as well as access to emotional support and mentoring when they make the move to the city.