

Recipient Details

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Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: Vic

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Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Rating: 3

Teachers and teaching

An absolute common theme when talking to teachers is that children today have many more challenging behaviours making education an increasingly complex job. Those challenges are shared in urban areas, the key difference is we often don't have the specialised skills on the ground.

We have a huge base of talent, but as with many things in rural and regional Australia that talent is isolated. We are working to improve education and the lives of our young people, but without the support that those initiatives would have in an urban environment. The following paragraph is a direct quote from an email and sums up some of the challenges we're facing.

From a professional 'on the ground' 'observation' perspective I have seen a number issues which appear to be impacting our young people's and families' mental health, learning and educational outcomes in homes and schools. The most obvious appear to be..... overstimulated nervous systems, behavioural concerns, anxiety, low social/emotional intelligence and most commonly poor attention/organisational skills..... Children in general appear highly distracted as a result of how stimulated and busy we are in our lives/amount of platforms we function on. Those that fit into diagnostic categories/with trauma histories are at even more a disadvantage.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Using the talented people we have to their best advantage is key. There are many under utilized people in rural and regional areas, and this review should look at how this resource can be best brought together to improve education

Rating: 2

School and Community

In context of transition to further study community is important. However the main focus of community needs to be brought to be bare earlier in their school life, to make ensure that children are support and nurtured into the learning environment.

Rating: 3

Information and Communication Technology

The job opportunities in rural, regional Australia are different from urban. For instance working as a Data Analyst, there is a lot of local work but it is often contracted to city based consultants. I on the

other hand work for city based organisations, even though I'm based in regional Victoria. In the main IT is an urban pursuit and the ABS figures confirm that.

However, the knowledge economy of which I'm a part, can now be highly distributed. This trend will increase rapidly, especially as professionals realise that you can live and work outside the urban environment. Increasing house prices, space to raise children, and aging population are all strong trends that may help to move talent from the cities to the regions. These are areas that need to be investigated, and policy put in place, so that the skills that we need, can be delivered, maybe families with part time work/child raising responsibilities or older Australians very happy to work, but with no need for a standard 5 day 37.5 hour week.

These knowledge jobs underline the absolute need for good internet connectivity. The NBN for those on fibre is a good innovation, sky muster on the other hand is already over subscribed with over 80% of users reporting performance issues.

Rating: 5

Entrepreneurship and schools

Ag Tech and Innovation

The innovation opportunities in AgTech, especially the use of IOT, drones, sensors, and automated machinery is huge. As a learning opportunity these are the skills that rural/regional and more so TAFE and Universities can offer. These skills are transferable to many other industries and are great opportunity for economic growth in rural and regional areas.

I have recently been contracted to look at the future of work in Australia, and how the external (online) courses offered by Universities can support the new jobs. That has given me further insight into the demographics of Australia, how the jobs are changing and where they are. From that work there are some clear trends, job growth for professionals, where the university analysis focused, is dominated by education and health. Those two fields employ 50% of professional Australians and are growing quickly – far more quickly than the mining boom, and much better distributed in the non-urban areas.

The numbers of external university students in rural and regional areas is increasing rapidly. The rise of MOOCs and online campuses means that for university education access is now very good and getting better. The use of technology by the universities should be used as a role model for health, government and other services. The universities offer an identical online experience regardless of location, be it urban or rural. They do this because their students want convenience, which online offers and many urban students do not make use of the physical university infrastructure. We would also like similar equal access from health, which is lagging far behind in it's use of online technologies.

Rating: 4

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 0

Rating for clusters: 4

Rating for distance education: 7

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

We need diversity in staff, immigrants arrive and often stay in cities. Providing incentives to move rural/regional would help this greatly - not just in education but across the board.

Rating: 6

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 0

Additional Comments

I had created a report based on interviews, data and my own experience not realising that the response was only in these narrow text boxes. I will email that report seperately.