

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Whitehorn, Danielle

Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: SA

Serial Identification Number: 473866

Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Students in regional, rural and remote communities often have issues accessing additional tutoring where there are learning difficulties. Smaller schools struggle to support students with issues as they 'stand out' and are unable to get SSO time as the time available to SSOs can be quite limited. Acceptance of 'outside of curriculum' subjects of interest particularly in strong industry based communities such as farming, mining or aquaculture to embrace the community to support the schools and industry. All assessments should be based on the individual student not on a Nationally Based Standard.

Rating: 3

Teachers and teaching

Teachers can make or break a students desire to attend school and be open to learning. Enabling Teachers to be able to create, inspire and work with students is key to building a solid foundation between the students and peers. An uninspired Teacher can hardly inspire a room full of children.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Leadership starts in the school with Principals, often in regional, rural and remote areas due to locality and school numbers it is difficult to attract leaders with a passion for the area and community.

Rating: 7

School and Community

Community is everything to regional, rural and remote schools. If the school and its leaders are not part of the community and support the community the students will become disengaged and separated from the school.

Rating: 7

Information and Communication Technology

Providing our regional, rural and remote schools with state of the art technology is imperative. Whilst this can be quite a challenge it should be a focus of the future to ensure that it is improved. This would open up opportunities for distance learning, remote tutoring and more opportunities to connect with other students.

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Students who have ownership of a project remain engaged and inspired to see the project through. In this day and age there is no limit on age to start a successful business, being able to teach in schools would be a solid foundation for their future opportunities.

Rating: 6

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

The cost alone for private schools is often debilitating for regional, rural and remote students and families. Whilst scholarships exist it is not necessarily an option for all students, if technology were improved then there would be better opportunities for students to remain within their communities. Having several small schools in a region is often frustrating as the students opportunities for learning can be hampered when teachers are faced with R-7 classrooms instead of being able to have 3 - 4 classes of similarly aged students.

Rating for enrolments: 7

Rating for clusters: 7

Rating for distance education: 7

Rating for boarding: 7

Diversity

Students that are able to learn a diverse range of subjects, interests and lifestyles are better able to adapt to life outside of the learning environment.

Rating: 6

Transitioning beyond school

In regional, rural and remote areas it is often community Field Days and Show Days that bring opportunities beyond school to the forefront. Businesses and people from many and varied fields and lifestyles depend upon the communities to promote their businesses, often this can be the start of opportunities for regional students.

Rating: 7

Additional Comments