

## Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [I] Addison, Rachel

Reference Type: Parent - School

State or territory: WA

Serial Identification Number: 475051

## Responses

Curriculum and assessment

Rating: 3

Teachers and teaching

Rating: 6

Leaders and leadership

Rating: 5

School and Community

Rating: 5

Information and Communication Technology

Rating: 5

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating: 4

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 7

Rating for clusters: 4

Rating for distance education: 4

Rating for boarding: 6

Diversity

Rating: 6

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 7

## Additional Comments

We were fortunate enough to be able to study in the city as university students in the early 1990's due to being able to access Austudy. Both myself and my husband were from farms in the South West and Wheatbelt regions of Western Australia. There is no way that we could have moved to the city and support ourselves personally. Our parents were not in a position to support us in Perth – although without their help in times of need ( to provide food, medical cost or to help out with servicing our cars ) most likely we would have starved.

The allowance at that time was I think \$110. This was barely enough to pay for a share house rent, power, water and meagre food. Anything above this was paid for by holiday and part time work. We are very grateful for this allowance. What was vividly obvious for us then and now is the divide between country and city kids. We were studying with many city kids who were receiving Austudy and still living at home with their families. Their money was spent on holidays to Bali – paying their student fees up front ( something that we could never dream of ) and driving nice cars.

We are now looking at our oldest child moving to Perth in the near future to study at university. Again we are not financial enough to afford to pay for this outright. We have started to research what will be required for her to access Youth Allowance. It has made me so upset to see the ridiculous hoops that these kids are made to jump through to make themselves “independent”. Why this necessity to work for 18months ( meaning that they have to defer their study ). Once again country kids are SO disadvantaged. Why is this so????? Why do they have to prove themselves when city kids can live at home catch the train to uni and not have to face any of the pain and financial disadvantage that country kids do? Away from home – social and employment networks ( that makes part time work hard to find ). I just think it is UNFAIR. Surely there could be set up some sort of thought given to the hardships of kids that MUST move to study. As in there is not an option close to home ( like city kids ).