Inquiry into Geographical Differences in the Rate in which Victorian Students Participate in Higher Education

Online Submission

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Hello my name is Sophie Elliott and I attend Ouyen Secondary College. I am currently in year 11. I live on a farm with my mother, father and brother. Because I live on a farm it is hard to go to places, my nearest town is Walpeup there is around 120 people living in this town. In my primary school there were 16 students and two teachers. In my current Secondary College there are 160 students attending and 22 teachers.

To get to school I travel 40 kilometers everyday by bus, my day starts at seven o’clock in order to make it to the bus on time. School finishes at 3.13 but I do not arrive home until 4.30.

Most of the students would like to attend uni but as we live so far away from everything this may be hard. Tafe and apprenticeships seem to be the easier choice. Although half do attend uni it is sometimes hard. On average every few month’s a representative from universities or tafe comes and talks to our school in hope to encourage people to attend there facilities. Every now and then passed students return to tell us about Uni life which helps make up our mind.

The community have a big part in the choices we make. Because I live on a farm I do not want to leave the small town I live in. moving to a city really scares me and I also have another problem, I will not have my license until half way through the year so it will make traveling hard.

My goals for the future involve uni to further my education. I’m not 100% on what I wish for my future career but when I make that choice I hope there will be enough opportunities to help me fulfill my choice. But as this is such a small community I might not have the chance.

I would like more courses on line so I don’t have to attend university as much. My family could use help on the farm so it would be good to give them a hand while attending university and furthering my education.

Sophie Elliott