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

Online Submission

28/04/08

Mr Thomas Hall, Year 11 Student, Ouyen Secondary College

I'm Thomas Hall and this is my story, I live on a small farm about 37km away from where I go to school in Ouyen. At my house I have pretty good phone service, I cannot get broadband internet, but I can get satellite.

I travel by public transport (bus) every morning to go to school. This involves getting up at 7:00am and catching the bus at 8:00 getting to school at 8:30. In my year 11 classes there is about 14 students and in the whole school there are 160 students which travel up to 50km to come to school heir, and 22 qualified teachers. In Ouyen there is a population of around 1,500. I live about 500km away from Melbourne which is our closets major city.

People the area are very active with a range of sports being offered in this small town such as football where you are required to drive up to an hour away to play a game, netball which is the same, tennis where you are required to travel about an hour, golf where you could go any where you wanted, basketball where you travel anout half and hour, cricket up to and hour, table tennis, shooting, motorbike racing could be any where in Australia if you were really committed, BMX riding, swimming are just a few.

People in the area are more likely to go to FAFE and Uni. When I finish school I want to get an apprenticeship in the building field. I did my work experience in Mildura (at True Style Kitchens) which is 100km away from Ouyen and that’s 137km away from where I live. I'm also thinking about trying my luck at being a stock agent which involves getting up early in the morning working all day and than going home late at nite, the work involves looking at sheep, cows and property.

The only really major things that stop me from getting the apprenticeship that I want is that in the local area (about 100km around) there isn't many jobs left because of the drought and the rising property price and the cost to build your own home. I'm hoping that by the time I decide to leave school we have a few good years and that people wont to live in the Mildura area so there will be more jobs on offer.
Im not really worried if I have to move away from home as long as im in a town where I have a few people I no and I could go there if I got really stuck and needed somebody to talk to. There is only one problem that if I move away from home I wont be making enough money to pay the rent and to bye food and that to survive. And if I was going to I would have to get a hole heap of people to live with so I would be able to play the rent and be able to by food.

Regards Thomas Hall