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

Online Submission

23/04/08

Mr Dean McLean, Parent, Alexandra

I am writing as a resident of a small country town and a parent of 2 tertiary students. By now the committee will be well aware of the financial strain of trying to keep a student at university. For our son who is in Sydney the cost is nearly $20000 per year. Our other son who attends university in Melbourne was very keen to keep his local friends and close contact with his parents. As there is no public transport, this means we have to run an extra car, which all considered again comes close to $20,000 with all of his expenses. Needless to say very few of their friends go straight to university from school, if at all. The other flow on effect is that our family no longer has discretionary funds to spend in the local community. Money that would have been spent locally on tradespeople and retail now gets spent in Melbourne and Sydney. If equalisation of opportunity is to be achieved the first criteria has to be the cost of transport and accommodation.