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

Online Submission

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To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to see that an issue that is close to my own personal circumstances is being addressed on a larger scale.

As a 19 year old that has completed year 12 in Melton (Melbournes western suburbs) with aspirations of going to uni, I have recently experienced personally what challenges are faced when the hard study in year 12 does not pay off as well as it would have if I were living in another region of Melbourne.

I was personally saddened that by achieving an enter score that was the peak of my secondary education that I would not be able to live locally and study with the best facilities and opportunities that I would have been had I not lived in Melbourne’s west. This is the main reason that I have not been able to continue with tertiary education after enrolling; as work, personal commitments and choosing to live locally because of an affection to the area and people residing in it. These reasons affect many of my peers, and they have chosen the option to move out or to commute an hour or more each day both to and from uni, and with petrol prices not being so affordable, public transport is often the only affordable way, which is often indirect, unreliable and infrequent.

So what then can we say to those who live in the western suburbs of Melbourne? That uni isn’t a viable option if you want to stay local? Well hopefully one day I will be able to be proven wrong when I state that to live in melton is a disadvantage in regards to receiving equal access to quality and diversity in university education that is easily accessible and local.

This lack of investment in the tertiary needs of those in the west has underlying implications to the skills shortages in the area. The most obvious one is doctors and GPs being outstripped by demand in suburbs where populations are booming. The facilities for equipping the next generation to deal with demand for professionals requiring tertiary qualifications is vital to a sustainable future. As a young person in this position I am only able to hope that equality will be a little closer through this inquiry and that the opportunities and facilities available to me in my local area will act as an incentive for encouraging young people of Melbourne’s west to take up
university study in future where geography does not play a role in the decision.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of the people of victoria
Cassandra Phillips Melton, Victoria.