To whom it may concern,

At my school in semi-rural Drouin I believe there are two main things that stop students from admission into higher education. There is a lack of access to learning aids such as lectures and seminars on particular subjects. And there is great expense in moving out of home.

A lack of access to learning aids is a cause of lower marks in rural areas. For example I want to get into medicine so I need to achieve a fairly high ENTER, if lectures on my subjects were available locally I would be able to achieve better results as it would reinforce what I was learning at school. However, this is not possible for me because all the lectures and seminars are in Melbourne; I do not have the time for even one trip to Melbourne a week. I believe that a solution to this problem would be for podcasts of lectures, and lecture notes to be made available for all subjects on the internet. This would be a great help to those willing to do a bit extra to get higher marks.

Another big difficulty that rural students face is moving out of home, which is inevitable for a lot of rural students whose course is only offered in the city. This is quite an expensive endeavour, compared with those students from the city who often have the cheaper option of living at home. I believe two things would help students with the move to the city. Financial support would go a long way to ensure that money isn’t the only thing keeping talented students from going to university. Also advice, maybe in the form of a website that can aid students on the difficulties that come from moving away from home and how to overcome those difficulties.

It is desirable for rural students to go to University, because often they will return to the country and be rural professionals, which is always needed.

Your Sincerely,

Chris Williams