Attention: Executive Officer, Education and Training Committee

I would like to take the opportunity to contribute to the Victorian Parliament's Education and Training Committee's Inquiry into the Education of Gifted and Talented Students. I have previously provided comments to the committee.

The school I send my son to is an excellent school and he has had wonderful teachers and they supported my nomination to have him assessed. The assessment has helped me to have the confidence to discuss his needs as a gifted child with his teachers. The teachers however are surrounded by children with all sorts of varieties of needs and my son is cruising along at the top of his class and he is bored. He is also not meeting similarly minded peers. The teachers seem to not understand his educational needs. I am also not exactly sure what I should be asking for from the school. As a parent of a gifted student I have been provided with very little information and support about what I should be asking for.

I would like to see:

Teacher support and education concerning educating primary aged gifted students. Systematic identification of primary aged gifted students rather relying on than parent nomination. Clear policy on and procedures on educating primary aged gifted students across schools. Similarly minded children together in multi-aged groupings, and provision of inquiry based learning with a strong focus on primary school science.

We are currently investigating opportunities for secondary schooling. He is a boy that does best with girls around and would not do well in a single sex selective entry school. Science is a passion of my son that is not nurtured at school. We live in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. There is no co-education selective entry school. I have noticed however a number of under performing schools closed in the northern suburbs and amalgamated into larger schools. There are sites available for new schools. I imagine there are also other opportunities for new schools.

I would like to see:

A selective entry coeducational school like the John Monash Science School established in the northern suburbs of Melbourne located near Latrobe University.

Sincerely,