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Q. Brief submission

R. Tasmania is unique in that 50% of the population lives in and around Hobart (radius 20km). The college system in this region has successfully survived in comparison to other colleges in more regional areas. Retention in these colleges is significantly worse. The year 7-12 model will work (as it does elsewhere) if schools consider themselves campuses within a particular region working together, rather than little principalities that compete with other for resources. Even Hobart including all sectors could have six Year 7-12 schools with 1500 students in each school, each of these schools might have a particular focus. An idea mooted in the Barrington District several years ago that did not see the light of day was that each of the regional high school specialised in a particular area (Maths/Science, Humanities, Arts and Trade/Agriculture (VET)) and Don College would provide both Academic and Trade education (Cert3,4 and Diploma).

We need to ask the question, is there a better way for students achieving the TCE? Perhaps just completing year 11/12 with some useful educational experiences is enough to keep them engaged through to completion. The vast majority of students passing year 10 studies in Mathematics, English have more the satisfied the minimum Numeracy and Literacy requirement. The use of ICT in years 7-10 also more than cover this requirement. It is only the previous TQA administration that could not bring itself to accrediting the Australian curriculum. A decision made by a very small group of people that were more concerned with bureaucratic process than student's educational outcomes. Year 7-10 programs are moderated just as the Year 11/12 programs are moderated.

Q. Declaration

R. This is a public submission - it does NOT contain 'in confidence' material in the main submission or its attachments, and can be placed on ACER's website.