

Dear Minister Boyer,

I'm writing to you today as a student of South Australia currently studying at Open Access College (OAC). In my position having gone through the unnecessarily prolonged and excessive enrolment process of South Australia's **only** online learning alternative to mainstream secondary schooling, I strongly believe that it's in SA's next generation of student's best interest that another alternative be offered.

Over the last few years of my public education, I was in and out of the classroom primarily because of the pandemic, instead opting to complete my years of schooling from home where possible. Unfortunately, as you know, that's not the way that the system is designed. Public schools are unable to cater to students that may need to complete their studies online.

As I went through the channels of getting into Open Access College, I discovered that my situation of staying home to protect myself and my immunocompromised grandmother who I live with from what would have been a fatal illness, didn't satisfy the eligibility criteria for the institution. This meant that I either risk my life, the life of my family, and the lives of everyone around me or give up on getting my education.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the few that, after months of missed content and 3 missed terms of school, was able to find another circumstance that allowed me to enroll in OAC.

I understand that the state government doesn't get a say in how private institutions such as OAC operate and select their enrolment criteria, but that doesn't mean the Department for Education can't help students.

I propose that an online alternative be offered to students who need it that runs within most, if not every public schools with enough demand so that students engaging with online learning be able to stay at the same school as opposed to uprooting themselves from their current school and enrolling in Open Access. This in turn means that the students can switch to remote learning for both short and long periods of time without the red tape of our current system.

I look forward to your reply and hope that you'll do everything in your power to ensure that students across South Australia can get the education that they deserve.

Regards,
Luke Skinner.