Considerations for Rural and Isolated families

Many families across the State will be facing the prospect of having their child leave home for boarding school 12 months earlier than previously planned for. Whilst this can be concerning for parents and children, there are steps that families can take to ease some of their fears.

Residential Colleges

The Department of Education runs eight Country Residential Colleges and one City Residential College. Contact the College at which your child will boarding and arrange an interview with the Principal or Manager. The College’s websites offer valuable information on enrolments, fees, financial assistance and the boarding options for the incoming Year 7s.

Visiting the Hostel with your child and taking a tour of the facilities is an important step to help alleviate some fears. Write a list of questions and concerns before you go and encourage your child to do the same. Having specific questions answered before boarding begins will assist your child’s transition.

Some things to ask the Residential College:

- What are the room options?
- Do junior students have a relaxing space away from senior students?
- My child has special dietary requirements, how will these be managed?
- What educational support will my child receive with homework and school work?
- How many staff do you have on site during the day and night?
- What extra-curricular activities are available to boarders?
- How do I obtain financial assistance for fees?

Not Ready Yet?

If you have serious concerns about your child boarding away from home you may be able to obtain an exemption for your child to continue Year 7 at their current Primary school. This is an important decision and you must speak to the Primary school Principal and carefully consider the academic, social and emotional impacts of this decision.

The New High School

It is important to note that when you enrol in a Residential College it does not automatically mean that you have enrolled at the high school - you will need to do this separately. Make sure you inform the school that your child is a boarder.

Useful Links and contacts

- Dept. Education country boarding site: www.det.wa.edu.au/boarding/country/detcms/portal

Residential College websites:

Esperance:  www.erc.edu.au  Merredin:  www.merredinresidentialcollege.wa.edu.au
Narrogin:  www.narroginresidentialcollege.net.au  St James, Moora:  www.mooroboarding.com.au
Northam:  www.northamresidential.com.au