

REVIEW OF SELECTIVE EDUCATION ACCESS

STUDENT JOURNEY



Do I apply?

PROBLEMS

- Fewer applications from educationally disadvantaged students, Aboriginal students, students with disability, and girls
- Rural and remote-area students face distinctive barriers to access
- Not all gifted students are aware of the test or encouraged to apply

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Improve communications and other prompts to encourage more applications from under-represented groups
- Work with schools and families in rural and remote areas to make the selection process more relevant
- Provide supportive materials to schools to help their communications with families



Do I sit the test?

PROBLEMS

- Rigid test schedules and locations
- Some current disability provisions are unsuitable

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Investigate flexibility in test schedules and test centres
- Work with families, schools and advocates to ensure appropriate provisions and adjustments for gifted students with disability



Does my score reflect my ability?

PROBLEMS

- Weaknesses in test design reduce its effectiveness in assessing ability
- Not all students know what to expect
- School Assessment Score introduces inconsistencies and imposes a considerable workload burden on schools

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Improved 2019 tests
- New test design from 2020
- Improve department's communications about appropriate test preparation so students feel confident to do their best
- Partner with schools and communities to ensure a transparent, equitable process for determining the School Assessment Score



Am I offered a place?

PROBLEMS

- System of school placement is confusing
- More places are available for boys than girls

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Investigate improvements to school nomination process (e.g. transparency)
- Investigate ways to close the gender gap



Do I accept?

PROBLEMS

- Girls decline offers more often than boys, contributing to a gender gap in selective schools
- A student's selection test results could help inform learning plans, but students cannot easily choose to provide that data to their school

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Investigate the causes of girls' under-representation and ways to close the gender gap
- Enable students and their families to choose to link selection data to their current and future school

