This OECD Report provides comparative analysis. It is combining the country quantitative and qualitative information available at the OECD with the international assessment programs like PISA (Programme for International Students Assessment), TALIS (Teaching and Learning International Survey), PIAAC (The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies), and with other OECD reports and studies.

Five different trends are outlined and interesting key findings are put in evidence: Equity and quality in education; preparing students for the future; schools improvement; evaluation and assessment to improve students' outcomes; steering education systems.

The second part focuses on the reforms undertaken, organized in five policy areas: (i) Evaluation and assessment reforms in schooling; (ii) Growing and sustaining innovative learning environments; (iii) Implementing school improvement reforms; (iv) Education union partnership in policy reforms; (v) Ensuring constructive co-operation with employers.

To finalize the book, country snapshots, where education policy is visually presented accordingly to an array of indicators:

- Ratio of lower secondary teachers' salaries to earning full-time, full-year tertiary educated adult workers, 26-64 year-olds;
- Principals engaging teachers in a culture of improvement (PISA 2012)
- Assessment used to improve aspects of instruction or curriculum (PISA 2012)
- Decisions taken at local and school level;
- Expenditure on educational institutions, all levels of education combined, as % of GDP

■Maximum value 
Average = 100 
Australia 
Minimum value 15-year-old students performing above Level 2 in mathematics (PISA 2012) 180 Expenditure on educational institutions, 160 16-65 year-olds' performance in numeracy (Survey of Adult Skills) all levels of education combined, as % of GDP (EAG 2014) 140 120 80 25-34 year-olds that have attained at Decisions taken at local and school level 40 least upper secondary education (EAG 2012) (EAG 2014) Ratio of lower secondary teachers' Assessments used to improve aspects of instruction or curriculum (PISA 2012) salaries to earnings for full-time, full-year tertiary educated adult workers, 25-64 year-olds (EAG 2014) Principals engaging teachers in a cul of improvement (PISA 2012) assrooms' conduciveness to learning: Most students can work well (PISA 2012)

Figure 12.1. Selected indicators compared with the average: Australia

Note: For each indicator, the absolute performance is standardised (normalised) using a normative score ranging from 0 to 180, where 100 was set at the average, taking into account all OECD countries with available data in each case. See <a href="https://www.oecd.org/edu/policyoutlook.htm">www.oecd.org/edu/policyoutlook.htm</a> for maximum and minimum value countries.

Source: The Australia Snapshot was produced combining information from Education Policy Outlook: Australia, (OECD, 2013) with OECD data and the country's response to the Education Policy Outlook Snapshot Survey (2013). More information on the spider chart and sources is available at www.oecd.org/edu/policyoutlook.htm.

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Wish you a fruitful reading!