

A SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR EACH AND EVERY CHILD

Learning Differences Convention, Sydney, AUSTRALIA

28th May 2018



pasi_sahlberg

What's up in Australia?

Wake-up call: Australian students fall behind Kazakhstan in maths and science rankings

PISA-shock in Australia



PISA-shock: how we are sold the idea our PISA rankings are shocking and the damage it is doing to schooling in Australia

Australia's 'tolerance of failure' behind declining PISA results, says test co-ordinator

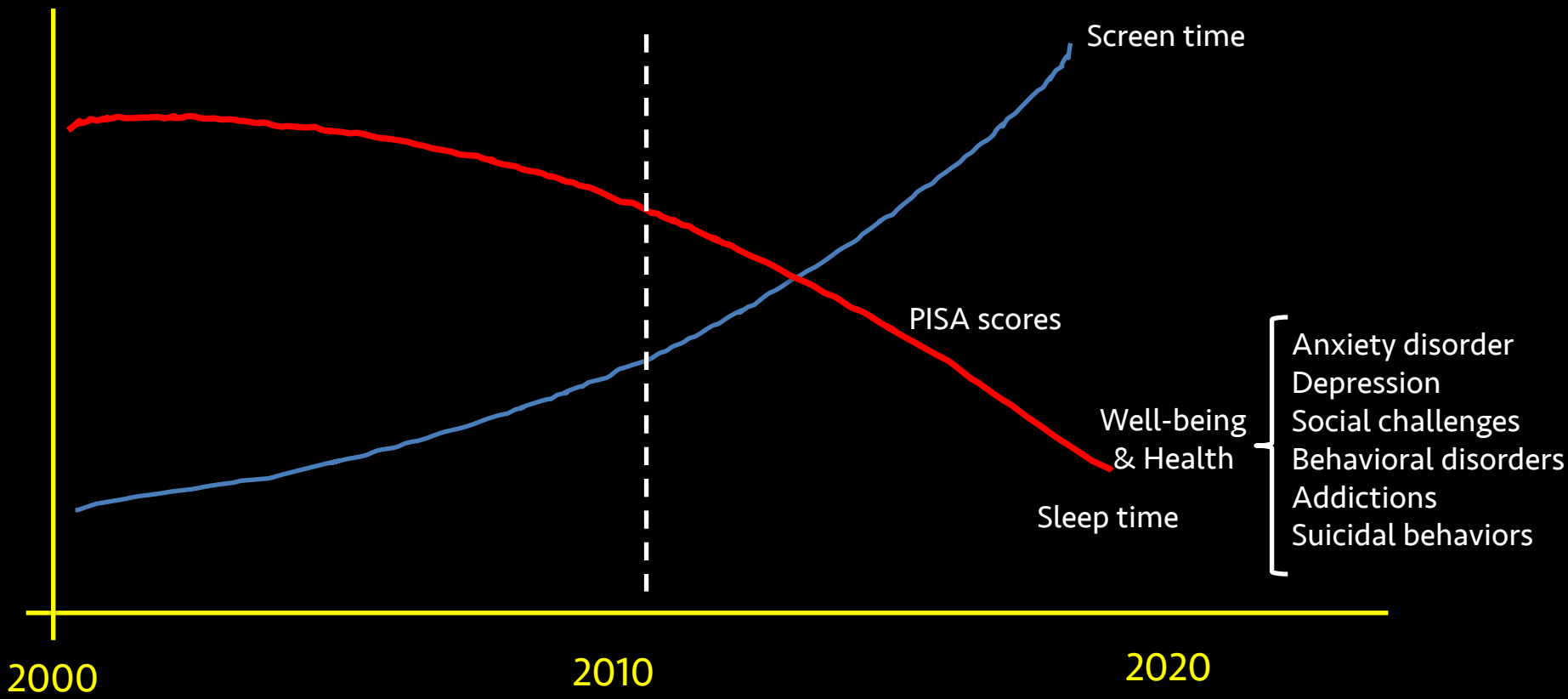
NEWS 16/06/2017 5:32 PM AEST | Updated 16/06/2017 6:31 PM AEST

Australia Is Falling Behind When It Comes To Quality Education

The numbers are in and it doesn't look good.



By Luke Cooper



Growing Up Digital

(Alberta Teachers Association &

Harvard Medical School)

DISCONNECTING

Alberta teachers have observed dramatic changes in their student populations over the past three to five years.

EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES



of teachers say that the number of students with emotional challenges has increased.



of teachers say that the number of students with social challenges has increased.

85%

of teachers say that the number of students who need behaviour support has increased.



“ Is a student's increasing online presence decreasing real-world satisfaction and positive peer-to-peer interaction? ”

— Elementary school teacher

MOOD DISORDERS

3 out of 4 teachers say that the number of students with cognitive challenges has increased.



STUDENT CHALLENGES

ANXIETY DISORDER **85%**

DEPRESSION **73%**

What should the schools do?

Three ways to help all kids learn



From standardized test data to Small Data.

BIG DATA

small data

Big trends

Processed by machines

Algorithms and analytics

Reveal correlations

Tiny clues

Predict the future

Processed by humans

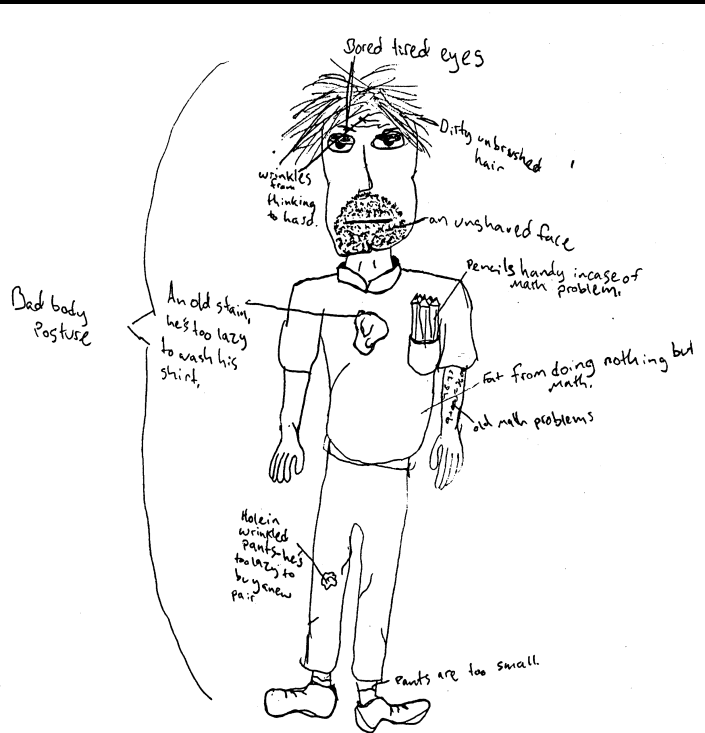
Collective professional voice

Reveal causations

Understand the present

Example: "Why kids don't like mathematics?"

"Imagine a mathematician at work"



Usually fat male

Unstylish

No friends - except other mathematicians

No romantic relationships or social life

Wrinkles in their forehead from thinking so hard

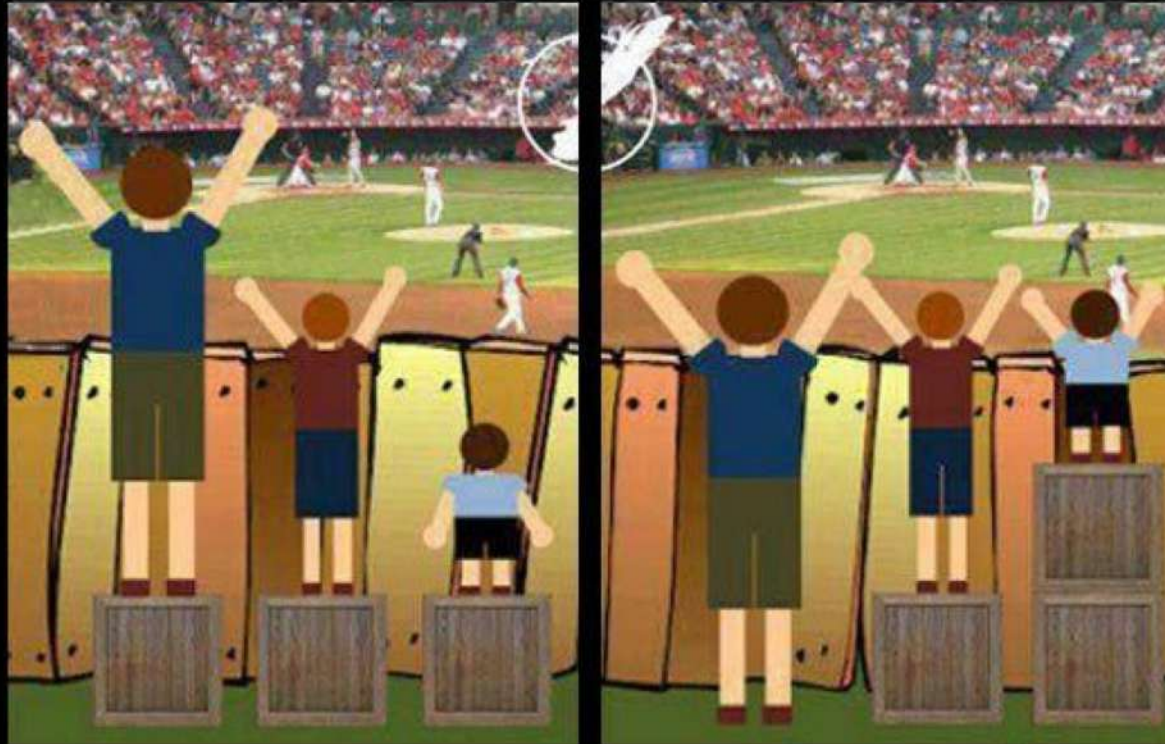
Very short tempers

Teach by Small Data,
or you'll be led by Big Data.

2

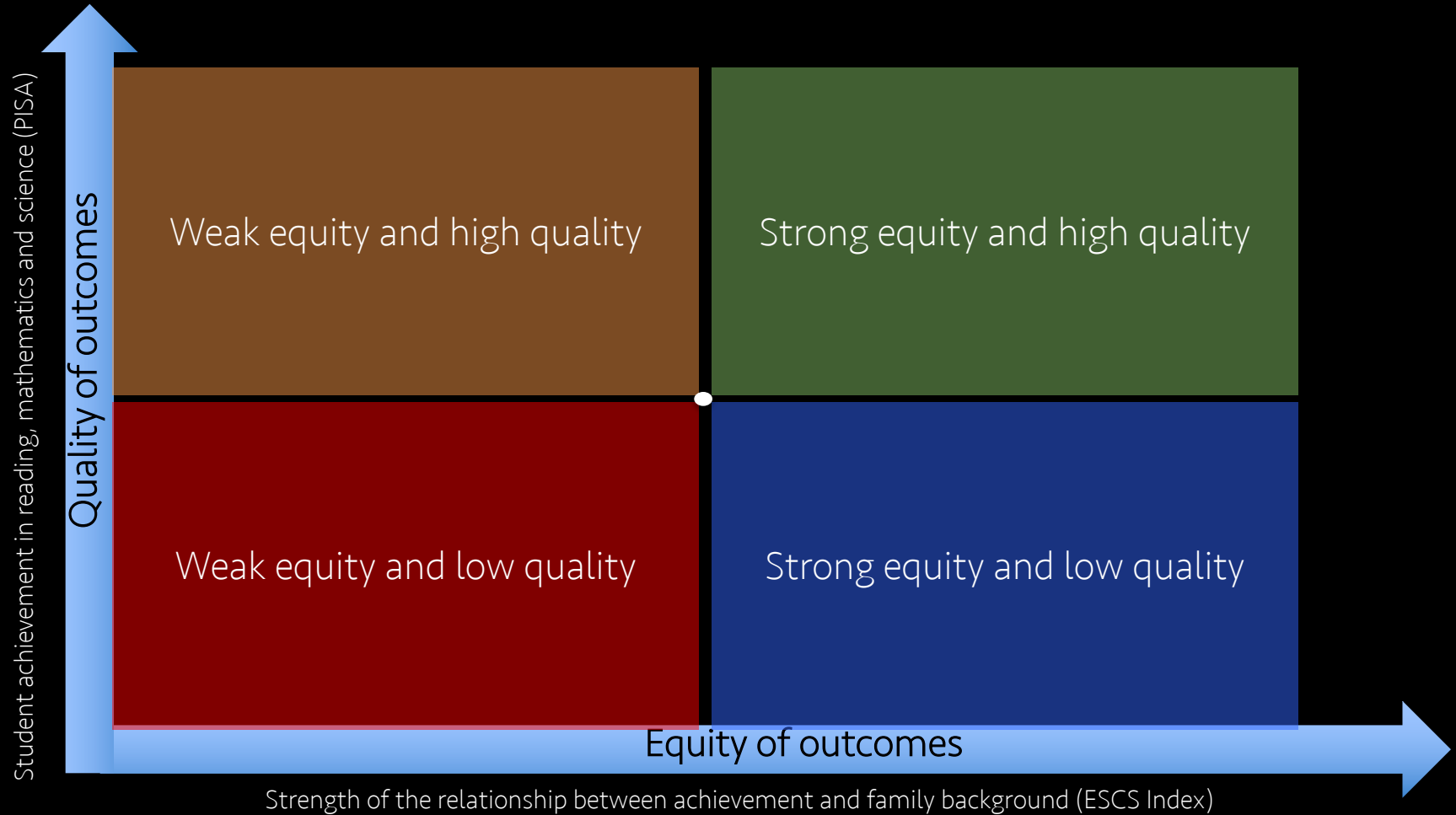
From spending equally to investing in equity.

Equality vs. Equity



“**Equity** in schooling means ensuring that differences in educational outcomes are not the result of differences in wealth, income, power or possessions.”

- *Gonski Review Report (2011)*



Student achievement in reading, mathematics and science (PISA)

Quality of outcomes

Weak equity and high quality

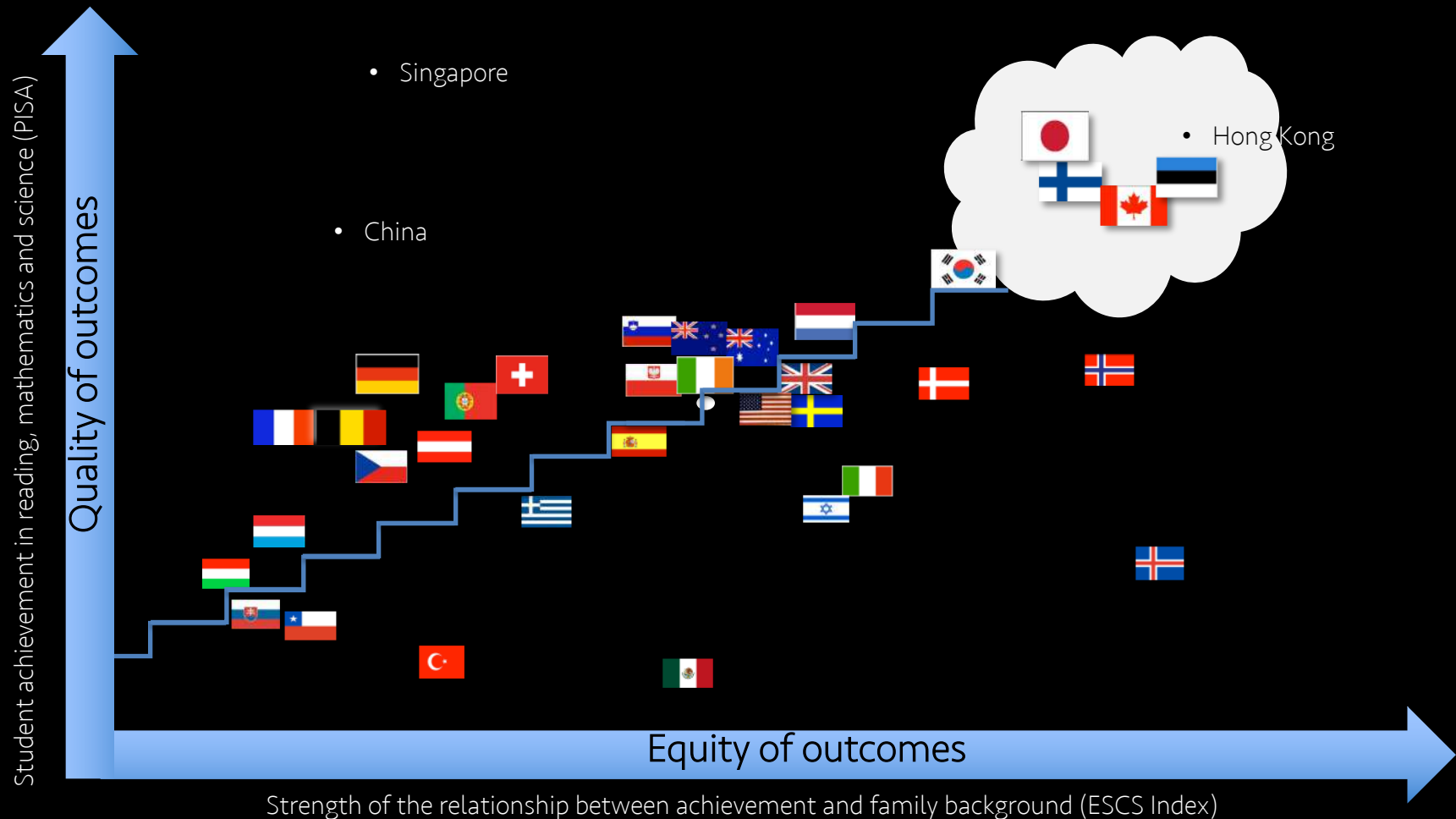
Strong equity and high quality

Weak equity and low quality

Strong equity and low quality

Equity of outcomes

Strength of the relationship between achievement and family background (ESCS Index)



3

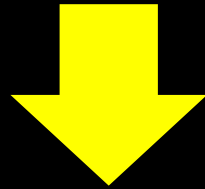
From state-directed to school-led
curriculum.

School-based curriculum

LOGIC: Schools design their own curriculum including: values, aims and syllabi

THEORY OF ACTION: Build learning on individuals' needs and schools' strengths

IMPACT: Professional empowerment & leadership to cope with learning differences

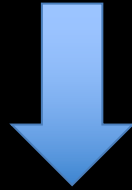


School that can be good for all

Three simple ideas for Australia to
address learning differences

1. School readiness

“Child is ready for school”



“School is ready for all children”

2. Measuring school quality

“How good is your school?”



“How is our school good?”

3. Curriculum

“Curriculum for Excellence”



“Curriculum for Equity”

The main challenge in Australian education...

...is NOT its teachers or children. It is the system that is not in coherence with collaborative professional cultures to empower schools to do what they could.

THANK YOU!

 [pasi_sahlberg](#)