



FINNISH LESSONS

Increasing equity in Australia's education through research

The NSW Science & Research Seminar

The Parliament House, Sydney, NSW

28th November 2018



Gonski Institute for Education

What have we learned from the international research?

Equity in education and why it matters

Lessons from Finland and beyond

Discussion



2001



PISA

Program for International Student Assessment

2000		2003		2006	
Reading literacy		Mathematics		Science	
1.	Finland 546	1.	Finland 544	1.	Finland 563
2.	Canada 534	2.	South Korea 542	2.	Canada 534
3.	Australia 528	3.	Netherlands 531	3.	Canada 531
4.	Australia 528	4.	Japan 534	4.	New Zealand 530
5.	Ireland 527	5.	Canada 532	5.	Australia 527
6.	South Korea 525	6.	Belgium 529	6.	Netherlands 525
7.	United Kingdom 523	7.	Switzerland 527	7.	South Korea 522
8.	Japan 522	8.	Australia 524	8.	Germany 516
9.	Sweden 516	9.	New Zealand 523	9.	United Kingdom 515
10.	Austria 507	10.	Czech Republic 516	10.	Czech Republic 513
11.	Belgium 507	11.	Iceland 515	11.	Switzerland 512
12.	Iceland 507	12.	Denmark 514	12.	Austria 511
13.	Norway 505	13.	France 511	13.	Belgium 510
14.	France 505	14.	Sweden 503	14.	Ireland 508
15.	United States 504	15.	Austria 506	15.	Hungary 504
16.	Denmark 497	16.	Germany 503	16.	Sweden 503
17.	Switzerland 494	17.	Ireland 503	17.	Poland 498
18.	Spain 493	18.	Slovakia 498	18.	Denmark 496
19.	Czech Republic 492	19.	Norway 495	19.	France 495
20.	Italy 487	20.	Luxembourg 493	20.	Iceland 491
21.	Germany 484	21.	Poland 490	21.	United States 489
22.	Hungary 480	22.	Hungary 490	22.	Slovakia 488
23.	Poland 479	23.	Spain 485	23.	Spain 488
24.	Greece 474	24.	United States 483	24.	Norway 487
25.	Portugal 470	25.	Italy 466	25.	Luxembourg 486

What have we learned?

THREE KEY LESSONS

Competition



Collaboration

Accountability



Trust

School choice



Equity

EQUITY AS A POLICY PRIORITY

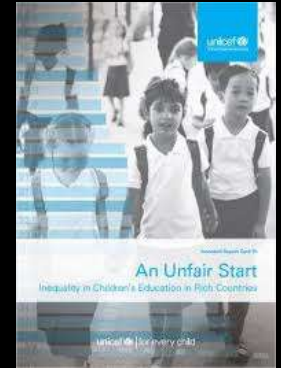
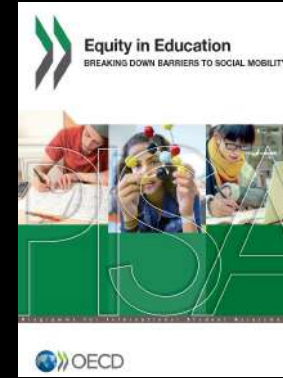
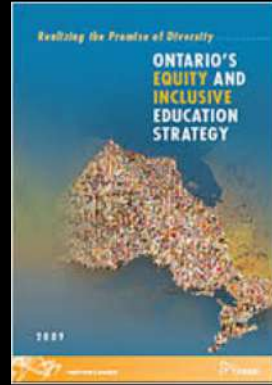
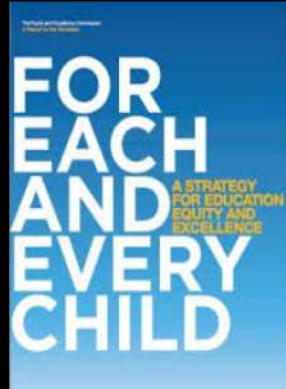
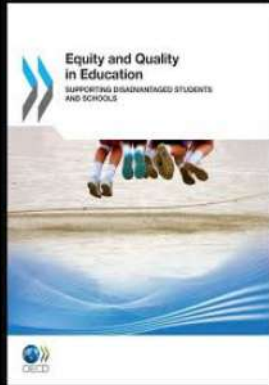
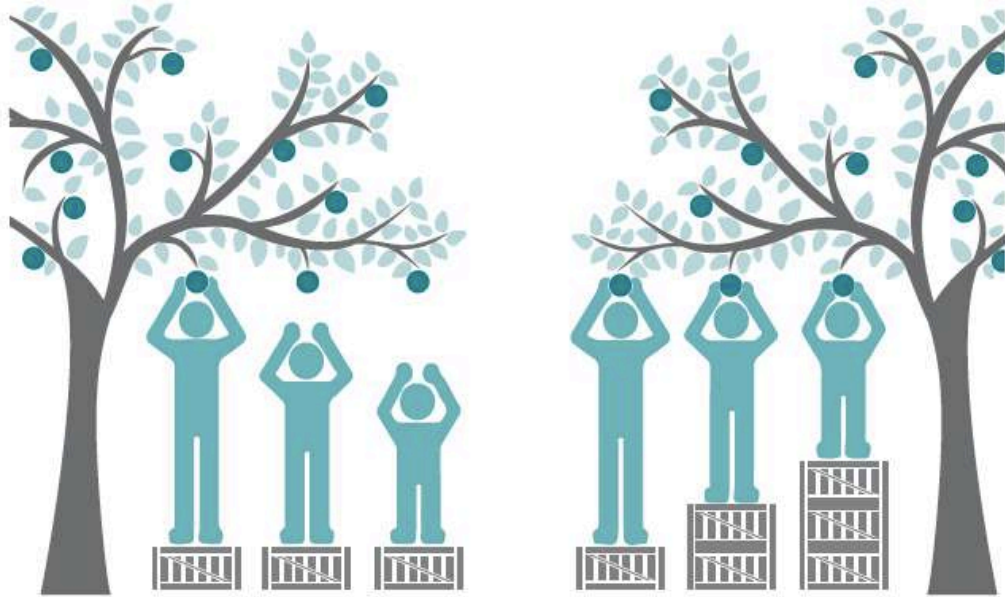


Figure 2: League Table
Inequality across three stages of education

Rank	Country	Preschool (rank)	Primary School (rank)	Secondary School (rank)
1	Larvia	4=	2	1
2	Ireland	33	16	2
3	Spain	22	4	3
4	Denmark	17=	12	4
5	Estonia	31		5
6	Poland	4=	16	6
7	Croatia	24=		7
8	Japan	34		8
9	Canada	27	18	9
10	Slovenia	26	17	10
11	Finland	14	3	11
12	Portugal	8	8	12
13	Italy	15	6	13
14	Romania	39		14
15	Lithuania	1	13	15
16	United Kingdom	20	23	16
17	Republic of Korea	35		17
18	Switzerland	4=		18
19	Hungary	32	19	19
20	Norway	17=	7	20
21	Greece	29		21
22	Iceland	2=		22
23	Germany	23	20	23
24	United States	40	22	24
25	Sweden	16=	11	25
26	Netherlands	10=	1	26
27	Czech Republic	38	10	27
28	Belgium	10=	9	28
29	Austria	10=	5	29
30	Australia	36	25	30
31	Cyprus	26		31
32	Slovakia	37	21	32
33	New Zealand	30	28	33
34	Luxembourg	13		34
35	France	2=	14	35
36	Israel	4=	27	36
37	Bulgaria	24=	28	37
38	Malta	17=	29	38
	Chile	21	24	
	Mexico	9		
	Turkey	41		



WHAT IS EQUITY?



Equality doesn't mean **Equity**

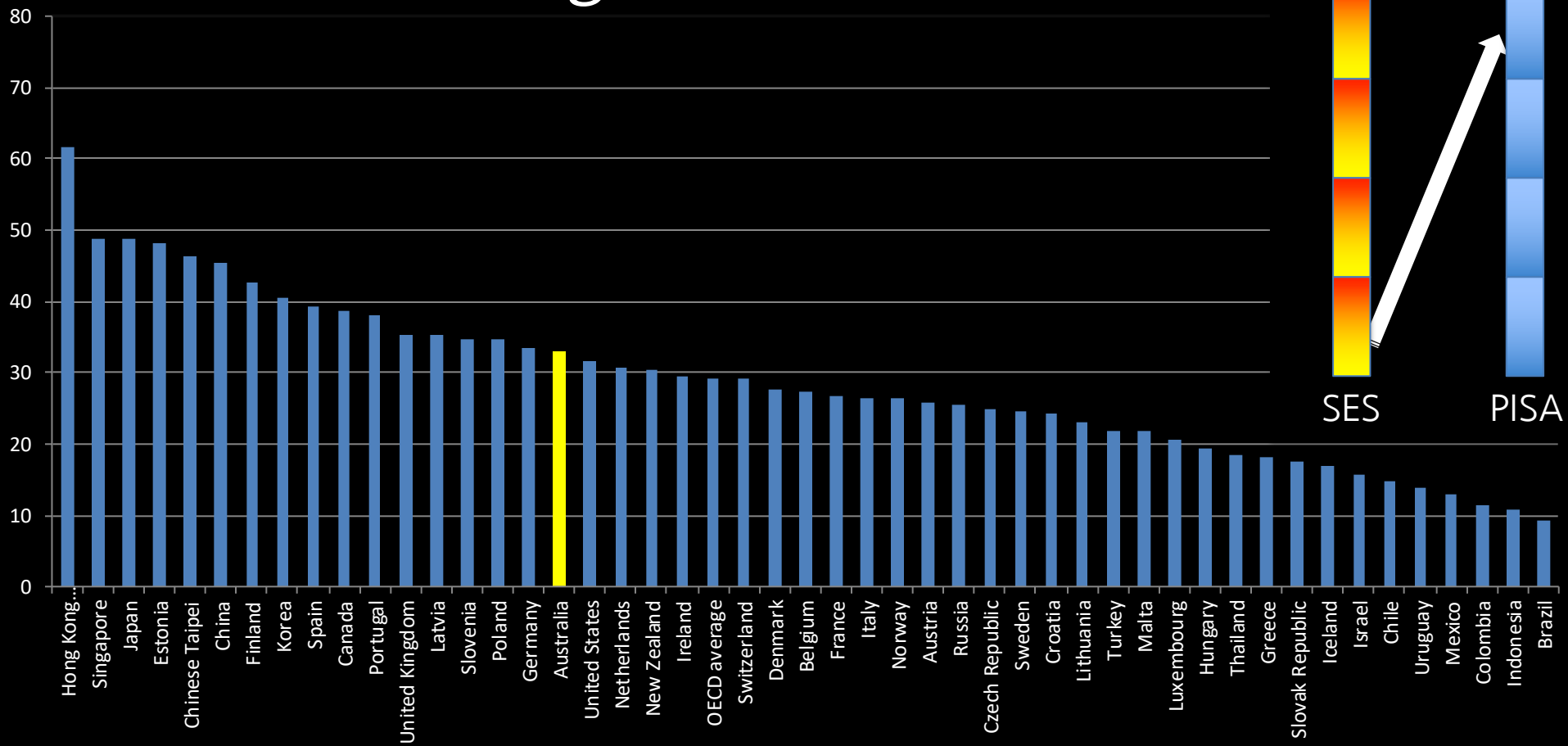
WHAT IS EQUITY?

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

- Review of Funding for Schooling (2011)

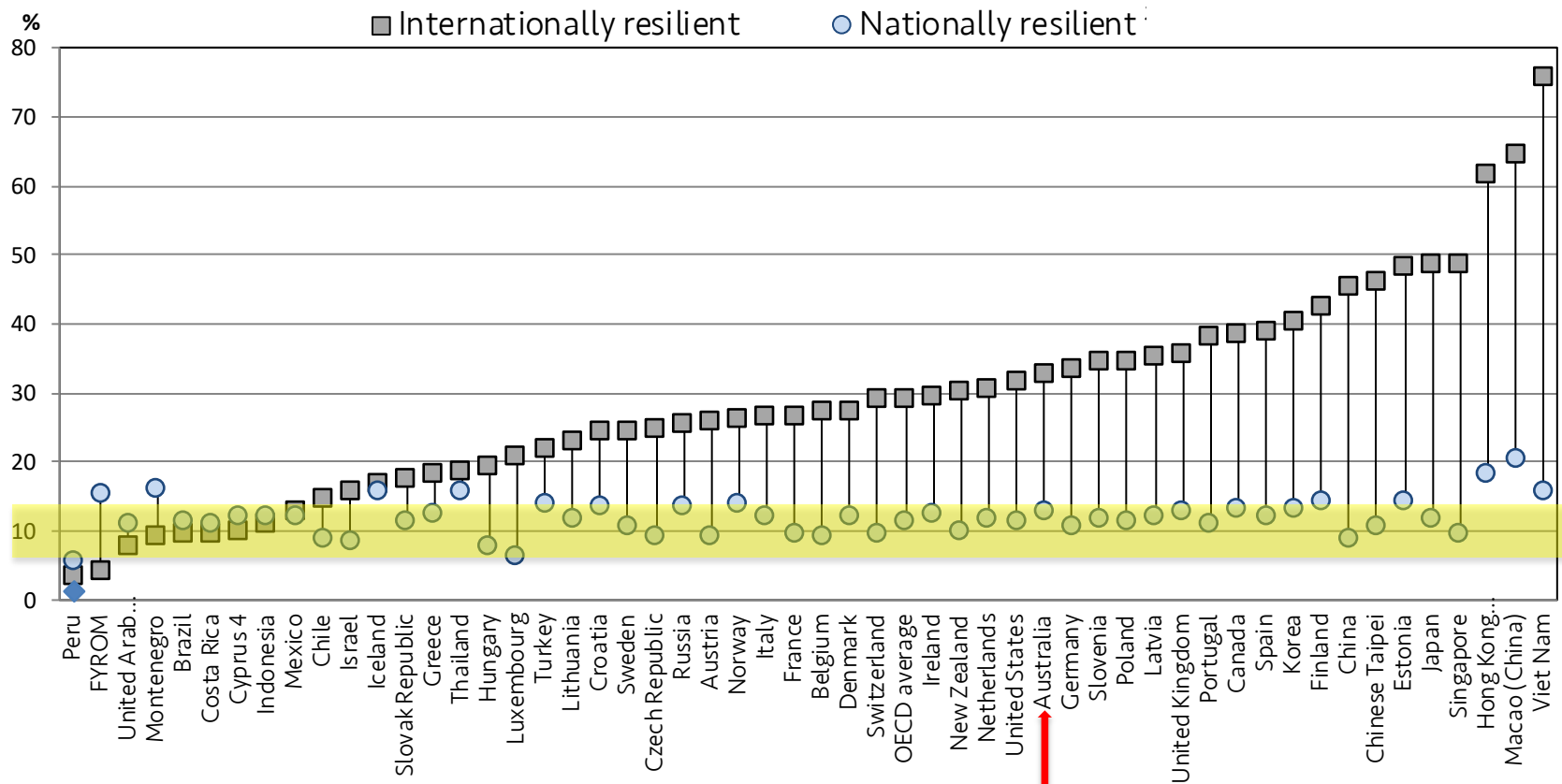
What does research say?

Percentage of resilient students



ACADEMIC RESILIENCE

Types of academic resilience	What are these students able to achieve?	How do we measure it? <i>Socio-economically disadvantaged students in their own countries who score...</i>
International	Academic performance in international standards	...in the top quarter of performance among all students participating in PISA, after accounting for socio-economic background.
National	Academic performance in national standards	...in the top quarter of performance among in their own country.

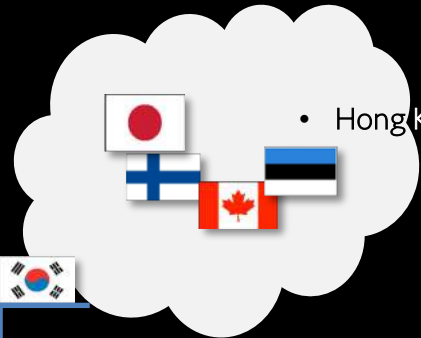


Equity vs. quality of educational outcomes

Student achievement in reading, mathematics and science (PISA)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Singapore
- China



EQUITY OF OUTCOMES

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

RESEARCH FINDING #1

“School choice advocates often argue that the introduction of market mechanisms in education allows equal access to high quality schooling for all...However evidence does not support these perceptions, as choice and associated market mechanisms can enhance segregation.”

–OECD, 2012

RESEARCH FINDING #2

“There is no consistent evidence that private schools deliver better learning outcomes than public schools. Numerous risks, such as the exclusion of disadvantaged or less able or desirable students, social segregation, exploitation of families for profit and the undermining of public education.”

–World Bank, 2017

CONCLUSIONS

LESSON #1

Make fixing equity as a policy priority

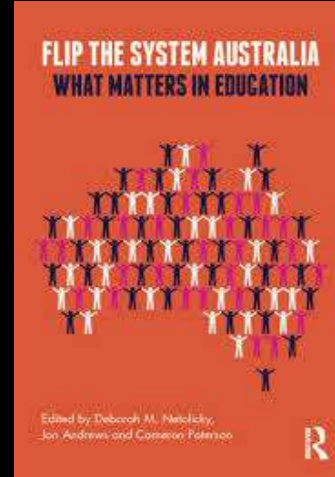
LESSON #2

Trust the teachers

LESSON #3

Let the children play

Thank you!



 pasi_sahlberg