

The Productivity Commission's Education Evidence Base draft report fails to pay adequate attention to international context. On page 4 of the report overview is a graph that reveals a simple fact about the effect of changes in spending on educational performance. Of the 19 countries on that graph, 15 have a better performance in mathematics scores as measured by PISA (they improved, or went backwards by less than we did, from 2003 to 2012). Of those 15 better-performed nations, 11 had increased their education spending per student by a greater amount than had Australia. Yet the usual suspects will tell us that more money doesn't solve the problem. Of course it doesn't, but clearly it would be a big help.

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