

FIRE UP! A STUDY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE IGNITE PROGRAM FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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The Ignite Program is a South Australian Government initiative which commenced in 1998 and operates in three metropolitan secondary schools, where each school has a selective class of 30 gifted students.

This current research, still in its early stages, will be the first time a formal evaluation of the program has been conducted through the eyes of the students themselves, celebrating their abilities, aspirations and achievements, and evaluating their school provision from their perspective of how it met their needs and interests. The study will map the paths of one cohort of Ignite program students, from entering the Ignite program in Year 8, through to graduating from school and during the four years since leaving school.

The insights gained from interviewing a cohort of gifted young adults will give voice to this group and help to remind educationists about the students on whose behalf we advocate and make provision: their aspirations and fears, their successes and failures. It is hoped that this study will add a more personal face to the students we identify as being gifted, and aid in our understanding of the diverse group of students we call the gifted and talented.