



**TASA** The Australian  
Sociological Association

**TITLE: Contemporary challenges: Achieving *quality* education for all**

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Transition scholars have long pointed to the significance of education in the lives of young people. This conference presents an opportunity to draw attention to the challenges faced by young people in our region. There are important stories to be told. Earlier this year UNICEF (2015) reported that ‘...far too many of the world’s most disadvantaged children remain excluded from school, and many of the children in school do not learn the basic skills they need to lead productive lives’. Drawing upon illustrations from Nepal and Australia, this paper argues that the promise of ‘Education for All’ (EFA) can only be meaningfully achieved if we are able to move beyond measures of ‘presence’ (‘access’, ‘participation’ and ‘retention’) to an explicit focus on the provision of high *quality* educational opportunities. Further to this, we argue that whilst EFA is driven by a development agenda with a keen focus on basic/primary education, there are lessons to be learned across all educational systems. As importantly, there are opportunities for Australian youth scholars to work more actively with the contemporary challenges being negotiated by young people across our region.