



# Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland

## Portfolio

# Tertiary, Trade & Training

## What we're working on (Tertiary)

- Promoting Rural and Remote Teaching Careers, highlighting the unique opportunities and experiences available in rural and remote areas to inspire and attract prospective teachers to consider and commit to careers in these regions.
- Advocating for tertiary rural scholarships to ensure students from geographically isolated areas have equitable opportunities to pursue higher education comparable to their urban counterparts.
- Showcasing the achievements of rural students who have overcome obstacles with the assistance of scholarships, emphasising the positive impact that access to higher education has on individuals and the benefits to the rural communities they work within.
- Collaborating with the Department of Education [DoE], Universities, Qld College of Teachers and other stakeholders to improve the teacher attraction and retention strategies .
- Offering incentives to preservice teachers who undertake their practicum in selected rural and remote areas in collaboration with local ICPA Qld branches.
- Advocating for the introduction of an accredited program to be offered to Distance Education Home Tutors and/or Teacher Aides in small rural schools, whereby their skill set, and experience may be recognised as prior learning to support their pursuit of gaining formal qualifications.
- Advocating Universities for the inclusion of rural and remote specific subjects into initial teacher education curriculum
- Ensuring that Universities tailor Initial Teacher Education units to address the growing need to support neurodiverse learners and diverse disabilities in inclusive classroom settings.
- Advocating for paid practicums to reduce the effects of placement poverty and to ensure the experience diversity that rural practicums offer is not negatively affected due to financial barriers.
- Collaborating with relevant stakeholders to support the establishment and expansion of Country University Centre's [CUC's] in rural and remote areas.
- Collaborating with local communities and LGAQs to attract and retain a quality workforce to ensure sustainability of rural and remote areas.

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## What we're working on (Trade & Training)

- Supporting key Government Department initiatives that promote the "Grow your Own" workforce that is crucial to addressing the need for developing training and trade opportunities within the regions that aim to attract, educate and retain a qualified workforce required for traditional and emerging industries.
- Collaborating with Key Government Departments to ensure that apprentices and trainees, who are required to relocate to undertake their training, receive adequate pastoral support.
- Addressing the low completion rate of apprenticeships and traineeships through targeted interventions and support
- Advocating for the provision of virtual classrooms to support Vocational Education Training [VET] course delivery in regions with a shortage of suitably qualified teachers.
- Seeking greater flexibility in VET programs from all RTOs to ensure students in rural and remote locations are not disadvantaged when accessing practical components of their training.
- Advocating for accessible and timely professional development and upskilling opportunities for VET teachers in rural and remote areas to ensure they meet qualification requirements for course delivery.
- Collaborating with relevant stakeholders to ensure hours accrued whilst undertaking rural and remote In-Home Care programs are credited toward aligned study programs.
- Advocating for Vocational Education Training in Schools (VETiS) programs that target school-aged students to introduce them to the various career pathways in traditional and emerging industries.

## What we've achieved (Tertiary)

- Represented ICPA Qld at the DoE Teach Rural Queensland Careers Fair and Queensland College of Teachers (QCT) TeachX awards, to expand ICPA Qld's statewide network and provide support to teachers who embark on teaching careers in rural and remote communities.
- Promoting ICPA Qld through the delivery of a keynote address at the Qld College of Teachers (QCT) Professional Standards Board meeting.
- Contributed to the introduction of the Remote Area Incentive Scheme, designed to attract teachers to rural and remote schools by utilising a variety of compensation packages.
- Contributed to the joint ICPA advocacy for the development of Country University Centres (CUC's) in rural and remote areas to address the disparity of access to higher education opportunities.

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## What we've achieved (Trade & Training)

- Collaborated with key government departments for the refurbishment of the Big Red Truck and the return to the provision of training.
- Upgrades to key apprentice/training website platforms.
- Contributed to the Queensland Training Ombudsman review of VET delivery to enhance program effectiveness.
- Implementation of Social Behaviour Training [SBT] for Regional Apprentice Offices to provide enhanced pastoral care programs.
- Submissions and representation at Local Government Association Queensland [LGAQ] forums to address regional trade and training needs.
- Collaboration with key government departments to develop and launch the Apprenticeship information Digital Card and App in February 2024.
- Participated in the Education, Employment and Training Committee (EETC) Parliamentary Hearing held in Roma to raise awareness of rural education and training concerns and provide insight into educational barriers experienced by VET students in rural and remote Queensland.

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