

CURRICULUM PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2024

During delegations held in Brisbane in August, ICPA Qld met with the Department of Education, Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (QCAA) and other relevant bodies to discuss the motions that were passed at the 2023 Julia Creek State Conference. During face – to – face meetings with QCAA we were able to have honest, open discussions around some of the issues pertaining to our members. The mutually respectful and close working relationship that has been formed with QCAA has allowed us to comfortably ask questions enabling us to hopefully shed light on these issues.

The motions passed asked for lobbying the Department of Education and the Minister of Education for adequate funding of a full time Curriculum Resource Review position within each School of Distance Education and the decluttering and realignment of the Australian Curriculum with a focus on stronger outcomes in core subjects, having particular emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

Following discussions ICPA Qld was informed that the decluttering of the Australian Curriculum – is that version 9.0 (introduced progressively from next year) and terms of reference included the 'decluttering' and reduction of content with a clearer focus on Mathematics and English. Multi-age setting discussions included reference to the P-6 Curriculum Planning Model which is a suite of materials to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum, ensuring accessibility and equity for all students in diverse school contexts, including small schools with multi-age classes. Curriculum review positions were advertised however were not filled. Currently the Curriculum team is working with the Western Alliance Schools of Distance Education to align independent learning materials for P-6 and stand-alone year levels.

When meeting with QCAA it was reiterated that literacy is an important general capability. QCAA has written learning plans to support teachers and literacy needs to be built into all areas of learning and not just structured lessons. QCAA has suggested the advocacy be for building literacy into learning within a context and not have it as a stand- alone item. A part of this is that Schools need to be clear to families that the core learning areas are also built into learning and not stand-alone lessons.

The Curriculum Portfolio has also been working with the Joint Parent Network and QCAA with the quickly evolving and expanding Artificial Intelligence (AI) area in education. An informative online webinar "Artificial Intelligence in the Home and at School" was held with over 700 attendees and it has received very positive feedback. It is available for viewing via the ICPA Qld website under Curriculum.

Also on the agenda at delegations was NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) which was held this year on March 13th – 25th. Schools were informed of the need to have provided individual advisory information re variance in NAPLAN requirements for their students. ICPA Qld has not received any feedback this year re the outcomes of this.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) – QCAA are conducting an independent evaluation of the new QCE system and its processes. The QCE is Queensland's Senior Secondary schooling qualification. The final report is due mid-2025. The evaluation is to focus on the development and implementation of the new QCE system to assess its efficacy and make recommendations for future improvements.

It was pleasing to hear of the consistent statewide approach to teaching reading in schools announced in October 2023 with a strengthened focus on phonics.

I would also like to thank Mrs Tammy Bailey who was the Curriculum Portfolio Leader prior to me stepping in, in the latter part of the Council year. Your contribution to ICPA Qld, and your time and effort are truly appreciated.

Sancia Fegan
Curriculum Portfolio Leader

