

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PORFOLIO MOTIONS 2024

A 16. FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

“That Far North Qld ICPA Branch thanks State Council for its advocacy of motion A17 presented at the 2023 State Conference regarding “introducing a Home Tutor Distance Education Teaching Allowance as financial remuneration for the essential work the distance education Home Tutors perform in geographically isolated home classrooms. We look forward to working with State Council in 2024 and beyond to continue advocating for this campaign.”

CARRIED

A 17. RICHMOND BRANCH

“That ICPA (Qld) lobbies the Minister for Education to provide an annual subsidy to geographically isolated families to assist with the cost of supplying a supervisor in the Geographically Isolated Distance Education schoolroom.”

Explanation:

The Fee Exemptions Policy of the Department of Education (DoE) in Queensland states, ‘the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 stipulates that state education should be free for individuals who are either Australian citizens or permanent residents...’

For families who educate their children in the geographically isolated distance education schoolroom, the cost of receiving a Qld state education is far from free. The GI family not only funds the tangible items associated with a fully operational, full-time classroom; it also bears the full cost of provision of the essential tutor/supervisor.

As per the enrolment application, GI students are required by law to be fully supervised throughout the school day. This role is either undertaken by a family member, most often the mother, or a governess. When this role is fulfilled by the mother, she is removed from her earning capacity in the workforce or family business and the unseen cost is critical.

Regardless of who fills the role, the significant cost of labour to deliver ‘free’ state education to the GI student is solely borne by the GI family! This is equivalent to the state government sending a bill to a family for education access in a mainstream school. Would that be considered equitable?

Case study: A mother to two children had to cease working in their owner/ operated Contracting business to tutor / supervise the children. As the mother was no longer able to contribute to their business the family was under financial strain, additionally to this, the family then had to carry the burden of paying someone to replace her. Not only did her supervision in the schoolroom lessen the family income; it cost the family a Replacement wage.

CARRIED

S 12. MT ISA BRANCH OF THE AIR

"That ICPA Qld requests the Qld Government create a category within the FairPlay voucher programme, for Geographically Isolated (GI) children, which waives the requirement for a Services Australia Healthcare Card or Pensioner Concession card to be eligible, in recognition of the cost imposts those children face to access registered sporting activities/organisations."

Explanation:

Currently children participating in approved sporting programs by registered Activity Providers can access a \$150 voucher annually towards the cost of membership, registration, or participation fees if that family has a current Services Australia Card. For GI families the travel associated with committing to regular club/sports participation is significant. GI families can be anywhere from 50km to 300km one way from their nearest local sporting club. In order to get the most out of a sport participation in training, games or competitions many 100's of km's are travelled at the family's personal expense. GI families should have the requirement to be a concession card holder removed and the FairPlay Voucher program made available to these families.

CARRIED