
Distance Education Report

Madam President, distinguished Guests, fellow State Councillors, Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to present the Distance Education Report for ICPA-NSW for the 2024 year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Balranald branch for hosting the 2025 conference in Euston.

We have had a big year within the Distance Education portfolio, starting with the NSW Department of Education (DoE) announcing a review into Distance Education. This was exciting news, as at the 2022 conference in Bourke one of the motions was for a review into Distance Education. ICPA-NSW has been working with the Department of Education and presented the recommendations from our members. One of our focuses with this review is to enlighten and explain to the Department of Education the unique circumstances that geographically isolated children are facing, which is very different to any other category of Distance Education across NSW.

Since the review was announced, the Department of Education has visited all Distance Education sites across NSW and engaged with key stakeholders including ICPA-NSW. ICPA-NSW will continue to work with the Department of Education and make sure our members are aware of the review findings once announced later this year.

We also met with the Hybrid Education team from the Department of Education. This has given us an opportunity to and shared our members experiences and concerns, we hope that our contribution will help shape the future direction of this style of education.

Upgrades to School of the Air Broken Hill studios commenced last year, which has also included some additional studio to help the school with the increase in satellite lessons students are receiving daily.

Before Distance Education rolled onto the NBN Sky Muster network, students were unable to attend Aurora College. In 2023, the first School of the Air student was accepted and commenced at Aurora in 2024, and another student is attending in 2025. Aurora College is an amazing resource for students to expand their knowledge and excel in the areas of Maths and Science for Year 5 & 6.

During our Deputation in Sydney, we continued to advocate for Geographically Isolated Distance Education students. We look forward to hearing the results from the review and direction that Distance Education will move towards in the future.

We would like to encourage members to please contact us with case studies, so we can continue to give these examples to the Department, government and stakeholders. Case Studies give our motions bigger voices and make it real.

Laura Stalley and Tegan Barton
Distance Education Portfolio Leaders