

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

TEACHER TRAINING REPORT

Jasmine Carmody – Portfolio Leader, March 2025

At the 2024 State Conference, one motion was received advocating for universities offering a Bachelor of Education to allow or encourage preservice teachers to gain experience as home tutors on stations as part of their practical placements.

Following this, a letter was sent to universities, reiterating the request for governing work to be endorsed or encouraged as part of practical placement. The letter also asked universities to consider recognising the credits earned through the Charles Darwin University program.

No responses have been received in relation to these letters; however, at the June face-to-face meeting Paul Mathews, Principal, School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) showed an interest in the model and was open to seeing if a pathway could be created with SIDE. An email was sent to Paul outlining what Charles Darwin University had implemented and following on from that email he attended the October face-to-face meeting.

Jim Bell (Deputy Director General), Douglas Cook (Director of Education Wheatbelt and Lead of Regional Education Strategy) and Paul Mathews (SIDE) attended a meeting with us together with Pam Moss (Director of Public Schools Planning), Stuart Percival (Assistant Executive Director, Service Delivery) and Jeff Brooks (Dean of Education at Curtin University).

Much was discussed including:

- Teacher Supply Challenges, the number of registered teachers who are not teaching in schools but are available for relief positions is very high and has been identified as an area for improvement.
- The reintroduction of the one-year Graduate Diploma program in 2024 and the positives this can achieve in improving teacher numbers.
- The proposal to establish outreach programs at university hubs e.g. Geraldton
- The most significant challenge identified for practicum placement of Diploma of Education students in rural areas has been the availability of affordable accommodation. Upon discussion of this issue ICPA (WA) recommended developing a partnership between the Department of Education and Universities to allow students to stay in residential colleges and/or camp schools. An option is to also include private boarding school facilities.

Following this meeting an email was sent to Pam Moss in November asking if she had made any progress with the option of Diploma of Education students using camp schools for accommodation when completing regional practicums. Pam stated that this would be on her agenda for 2025.

An email was also sent to Jeff Brooks to see if he had reached out to boarding houses or residential colleges to see if they could assist with accommodating Diploma of Education students.

No response has been received yet.

TEACHERS REGISTRATION BOARD OF WA (TRBWA)

In December 2023 the TRBWA re-defined the term educational venue as below:

“The term ‘educational venue’ will be replaced with ‘educational institution’ to recognise teaching can occur off-site or online.”

A letter was sent to TRBWA requesting clarification on whether, under the new definitions, home tutors can now use the home classroom to maintain their registration.

A response was received from TRBWA stating that ‘while the term ‘*educational institution*’ is now used rather than ‘*educational venue*,’ this list has not changed. The term ‘*educational institution*’ was introduced to better reflect that teaching may occur in connection with these venues but outside the classroom. In general terms, and in brief response to the enquiry, while the legislative amendments do afford greater flexibility to meet professional engagement requirements, that flexibility does not extend to considering the activity of teachers working as home tutors as meeting those requirements.