

Note: It is recommended that this Policy be read in conjunction with other ICPA Qld Inc Policy documents.



BOARDING SCHOOLS and HOSTELS POLICY

POLICY: TO ENSURE THE CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT OF BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS IN PROVIDING LIVING AWAY FROM HOME FACILITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED CHILDREN.

BOARDING SCHOOLS

OBJECTIVES:

That Boarding Schools have:

- a. Adequate financial support that is sustained for capital and recurrent expenditure. (2012: S2, A9)
- b. Recreational Officers and/or Recreation Programs that develop extra-curricular activities for boarding students to participate in outside of school hours.
- c. Behaviour Management Policies which minimize the harmful effects of bullying.
- d. Ensure that boarding families are informed of all relevant allowances. (2017:A1)
- e. Establishment of more hostels/and or boarding facilities in isolated communities (2021:A1, F2)
- f. That all schools that offer boarding ensure that potential students are not disadvantaged by online pretesting and providing of results to compliment enrolments (2022:S2)
- g. A 'Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences' is compulsory for all school boarding facilities in Queensland and reviewed every three years. (2023:S1)

1. BOARDING SCHOOLS:

- a. Produce child orientated, print and video-based information about their school, aimed at easing the transition from home to boarding school.
- b. Provide educational and pastoral programs for children with specific learning and/or physical difficulties and disabilities, with financial assistance from State and Federal Governments.
- c. Promote information outlining practical strategies to prepare children prior to boarding.
- d. Implement a standardized Accredited Program for residential carers. (2018: S1) (2020 S1; S2)
- e. That the 'Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences' is compulsory for all school boarding facilities in Queensland and reviewed as per the code every three years. (2023: S1)

2. BOARDING SCHOOL STAFF

- a. That staff involved in pastoral care have some background knowledge, training, or experience of the isolated student's environment.
- b. That boarding staff be trained to detect and take appropriate measures when children show signs of mental health problems.
- c. That counsellors be available to guide students, particularly new boarding students.
- d. That boarding schools without 24-hour health facilities manned by a trained nurse, ensure that all boarding supervisory staff have the equivalent of a Senior First Aid Certificate and access to regular upgrading and training.
- e. That there be a formal liaison between the school's Support Unit staff and the Boarding House.

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HOSTELS

OBJECTIVES:

School Term Residential Hostels shall have the ability to provide:

- a. Adequate hostels/boarding facilities for all students. (2021:A1, F2)
- b. Access to schools in regional centres.
- c. Adequate financial support that is sustained for capital and recurrent expenditure. (2012: S2, A9)
- d. Recreational officers and/or recreational programs that develop extra-curricular activities for hostel students to participate in outside of school hours.
- e. Behaviour management policies which minimize the harmful effects of bullying.
- f. Ensure that boarding families are informed of all relevant allowances. (2017:A1)
- g. Establishment of more hostels/and or boarding facilities in isolated communities (2021:A1, F2)
- h. A 'Boarding Standard for Australian Schools and Residences' is compulsory for all school boarding facilities in Queensland and reviewed every three years. (2023:S1)

1. HOSTEL STAFF

That ALL hostel staff:

- a. Be provided with regular and on-going Professional Development as an accountability requirement.
- b. That special attention be given to the employment of pastoral care staff.

2. FUNDING

- a. That per capita subsidies of a realistic level be available to operating bodies. (2014: A29)
- b. That additional funding is available to assist hostels to remain open during periods of low enrolments. (2014: A29)
- c. That capital funding allows for planned maintenance, upgrading and/or extension of the facility. (2014: A29)

MISCELLANEOUS

- a. An establishment of an Isolated Children's Pandemic Advisory Group made up of State and Federal Education Ministers and relevant authorities, the Australian Boarding Schools Association and ICPA representatives to ensure consistent decisions are made specific to the needs of geographically isolated children who must cross State borders to access education. (2020: A2)