

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



COMMUNICATIONS POLICY 2021

POLICY: TO ENSURE THAT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IS UTILISED TO THE BEST POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED STUDENTS.

OBJECTIVES:

- That information technology be utilised to:
 - a. Achieve optimum learning outcomes for all students.
 - b. Improve personal contact between students, Home Tutors and teachers.
 - c. Address the needs of isolated students.
 - d. Complement the importance of human interaction.
- That with the implementation of information and communication technology, adequate funds be allocated as an enhancement to current school budgets.
- Key stakeholders are genuinely consulted.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- That:
 - a. SDE students are provided with affordable communications capable of carrying clear, reliable two-way voice and data.
 - b. Geographically isolated students have communication infrastructure and maintenance, internally and externally, that gives access to and encourages extension of all services offered by Education Queensland. (2018:A1,A2)
 - c. Adequate and affordable data plans and internet capacity be available for all students to allow for full participation in the curriculum. (2015:A15,A16,A17) (2019:A2,A3)
 - d. DoE provide sufficient bandwidth to SDE's to support remote learning (2020:A5)
 - e. Variations in the operations of individual Schools of Distance Education is recognised.
 - f. Download and upload services to all schools remains compatible with industry standards.
 - g. Realistic sizes of email attachments at SDE's allow acceptance of all students' work electronically.?
 - h. All Distance education material be trialled with delivery via satellite technology to ensure compatibility as they are developed.
 - i. Qld Education advise the relevant Federal Ministers of the projected requirements of communication systems for the delivery of education.
 - j. Priority of access to the NBN satellite system be given for any existing services that deliver distance education to rural and remote students.
 - k. The installation of secondary phone lines in Geographically Isolated DE classrooms is subsidised and timely. (2017:A13,S1) (2021: A3)
 - l. The best connectivity service available is utilised in small schools. (2019:S1,S2) (2020:F2,S3)
 - m. Mobile towers providing 3G are upgraded with 4 or 5G in a timely manner ensuring no reduction in service footprint (2021: S1)

SUPPORT

- That Technical ICT support be maintained and extended to include:
 - a. Full time technical officers' assistance in Schools of Distance Education and small rural schools.
 - b. Regular maintenance and setting up of equipment in rural schools. (2016:A9,A11,FM4)

Updated July 2021

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- c. A realistic internet subsidy be made available to all geographically isolated SDE families. (2021: A5)
 - d. A computer hardware subsidy to all geographically isolated SDE students being paid per student.
 - e. That ongoing financial assistance be available to support the costs of IT implementation and upgrading.
 - f. Increase in technical personnel available to rural band 5 & 6 schools.
 - g. A dedicated service support line be established within the service center to support staff experiencing technology difficulties specific to Apple devices in schools. (2015:S9)
- That support services include:
 - a. In- servicing of staff in Rural Schools.
 - b. Tutorial support.
 - c. Program awareness.
 - d. Home Tutor in-servicing.
 - e. Regular communication with ICPA (Qld) Inc.

GENERAL

- That research and trials investigating the optimum platforms and techniques for Distance Education Students continues.
- That there be equitable consideration given to the needs of geographically isolated Non-Government SDE students. (2016:A10)
- That a Universal Services Obligation is retained for all members to have reliable access to voice communication. (2017:A2)
- That the Federal Governments Mobile Black Spot Program rollout prioritises small rural schools that have no existing mobile coverage. (2017:S2) (2021: S2)
- Investigate and develop best practice guidelines for screen time for students in Schools of Distance Education. (2019:A1)