
Distance Education Report – March 2023

Dear 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 2023 year.

Firstly, I would like to thank Central West Branch for hosting the 2024 Conference, having grown up in the area it is great to be back.

Over the last couple of years many of the distance education motions have been around NBN Sky Muster and the implementation of new computers. We are excited to finally say that the first stage has been completed, although not without a few hurdles. For Broken Hill School of the Air, it has meant that they are now using TEAMS as their main video platform. This has been an adjustment for both teachers and students with all students now required to have their cameras on. We are also aware that all students now have headphones that are supplied with the computers. We would continue to encourage our members to ensure that they are contacting the Help Desk when issues arise, or they have concerns.

With Stage One complete, ICPA-NSW will continue to work with the Department of Education on Stage 2, to review the scope, cost and timing, to expedite this process. This process will also include the review of portable devices and printers.

Broken Hill School of the Air has priority with its new satellite studios, and ITD is working with the school to upgrade the studios.

ICPA-NSW has been working with RRREP team through monthly meetings, to convey any concerns that come up. We would like to thank them for including us in meetings with the appropriate departments. We were also included in discussions for the Distance Education Preschools review at the end of 2023.

During our Deputation in Sydney we continued to advocate for our members within the Distance Education space particularly for Geographically Home Isolated children. A motion in 2022 at Bourke Conference around a review in Distance Education is still something that we are strongly advocating for, particularly with all the changes to technology and the learning curves since COVID-19.

We have also attended some P&C Meetings at Broken Hill School of the Air and given updates on the technology roll out. If any other Distance Education centre would like us to attend their P&C Meetings, please get in touch.

Laura Stalley and Bree Wakefield

Distance Education Convenors