

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2021**

Last year there was only one motion regarding Distance Ed which is a record. This motion was in regard to updating the links to the interactive activities and resources within the Distance Education papers. When we were finally able to make it back to Brisbane for delegations in February the Department assured us that these links had been updated and those that no longer work an alternative had been found. This list of links has been supplied to all DE schools.

Having only one motion certainly does not mean that things are quiet within the Distance Education Portfolio, we are continuing the lobby around lack of infrastructure and fit for purpose learning and teaching spaces to cater for increasing enrolments. When ICPA Qld met with the Infrastructure Services Branch we were told that a Design Standards Review is currently being completed. When this review is completed ICPA Qld are hoping the outcomes will be shared by the Department. ICPA Qld were also informed that all Queensland State Schools prepare a school strategic infrastructure plan based on their priorities. Principals are encouraged to work closely with their regional infrastructure teams to identify issues and infrastructure priorities. This plan is done to support ISB's prioritisation process. The Infrastructure Branch is also working through a Planning Guide suitable for SDEs. At present guides are available for primary and secondary schools but one has never been completed for Distance Ed schools. The guide for SDEs would address matters specific to their contexts such as space requirements. The Department recognises they have work to do in this area.

The Partners in Learning Program comes to a close this year which has seen some great professional development for Home Tutors in regard to early years reading. The suite of training videos to complete this program will remain online at the Department's YouTube channel so far it has had over 25,000 views. The program will continue but with reduced funding.

2021 has seen the rollout of the new Prep curriculum, updated Version 8 materials and also updated eteach resources. Thank you to those branches that have provided feedback on how this is going. Positive or negative feedback is appreciated.

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