

EARLY CHILDHOOD PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2021

STATE DELIVERED KINDERGARDEN

State Delivered Kindergartens are continuing in Queensland. Earlier this year State Council met with the Early Childhood & Education Improvement Department and discussed the issues around infrastructure and resourcing. There are many options being considered to try and solve the infrastructure and resourcing problems with the department investigating flexible solutions and the possibility of a rotation of kindy classes in a 5-day fortnight. Currently the department is lobbying Translink to support ICPA Qld's lobby to have kindy kids on bus runs.

ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALIFIED TEACHERS

ICPA Qld are continuing to meet with the Human Resources Branch of DoE to hold discussions around the areas of attraction and retention of teachers and the qualification requirements for Early Childhood Teachers. At this stage, the qualification requirements are a National Standard and as such we look to Federal Council to continue to lobby on behalf of Rural and Remote education. ICPA Qld will continue to attend meetings where possible discussing the National Review of Teacher Registration – Early Childhood Recommendations and will keep members informed of any outcomes.

IN-HOME CARE

In-Home Care continues to have its issues for families with the requirements to study making it extremely hard for families to find suitable educators. ICPA Qld understands that there are difficulties with waiting times and the new restrictions around legislative changes with qualifications and age. As this is a national program, ICPA Qld have been communicating with ICPA Australia on many of these issues and will continue to provide case studies in support of their lobby. Despite most families returning to pre-COVID In-Home Care arrangements and the alleviation of some issues that were caused by the Relief Child Care Package, rural and remote families are still facing lots of challenges associated with accessing and utilising the In-Home Care system. Federal Council would love to have case studies given to them regarding this issue.

State Council are also investigating ways of promoting governing as a viable option for young people, as well as qualified teachers.

FUNDING

ICPA Qld continues to support ICPA Federal Council in their lobby with the Federal Education Minister regarding the transitional provisions for Early Childhood Teacher's (ECT). Registered teachers will need to complete their approved Early Childhood Diploma before the end of 2021 to continue to be recognised as an ECT from 2022. These national requirements continue to hamper efforts for many rural and remote Early Childhood Centres when sourcing staff.

LONG TERM FUNDING FOR PLAY BASED MOBILE SERVICES

ICPA Qld together with ICPA Aust. continue to work with both State and Federal Education Departments in this area to assist mobile services that are unable to transition to the new Federal Government (centre based) Child Care Funding. No new funding has been identified for play based mobiles unable to transition and without funding these services will be lost from rural and remote communities.

These services are being considered for future funding and will be informed of future funding opportunities well ahead of time.

Mrs Kasie Scott

Early Childhood Portfolio Leader

councillor12@icpaqld.com.au