

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – 2022

#### 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 address 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 include kindy kids on bus runs. ICPA Queensland have provided the ECEI Team with case studies of children unable to utilise local bus services to get to their closest State Delivered Kindy in order to strengthen our position and we thank members for their assistance in providing these.

#### EKINDY

ICPA Queensland continue to meet and work with ekindy Queensland on a regular basis to ensure that our remote kindy kids have their needs met.

#### ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALIFIED TEACHERS

ICPA Qld are continuing to meet with the Human Resources Branch of the DoE to discuss issues with the 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 communities. 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.

#### 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.

#### IN HOME CARE

In Home Care continues to have its issues for families with the requirements to study making it extremely hard to source suitable educators. ICPA Qld understands that there are difficulties with waiting times and new restrictions around legislative changes with qualifications and age. As this is a federally funded service, 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 also with 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 appreciate any further case studies members can provide in regarding this issue.

State Council continue to investigate avenues to promote governing as a viable option for young people, as well as qualified teachers.

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