

SCHOOLS PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2022

Several motions were passed at State Conference last year in the following areas:

Small Schools Water Supply

With regards to the water issues at schools, the Department have introduced a Water Security & Quality Program. 120 schools across Queensland have been identified as having water issues and are being assessed, as each school's circumstances are different. This process will take the rest of the year to be completed. To date thirty-six of these schools have been assessed and completed, with some receiving extra rainwater tanks, gutters cleaned and fixed etc. If our members know of any other schools with water issues, contact the small school's portfolio leader and ICPA will forward the information onto the Department. We will be following this Program with the department for any further updates over the next year.

Small School Staffing

With some small schools heavily weighted in the K-2 area, it was highlighted that School Principals can apply for additional funding to provide extra staffing when enrolments are higher in this K-2 area. Schools can put in a submission to the Early Childhood Branch and outline their current situation and request staffing needs.

Student Wellbeing Package

The Student Wellbeing Package was released on the 1st of July 2021, the program involves the wellbeing of students and the introduction of GPs in schools. The wellbeing & GP program is being endorsed by the Minister and is regionally driven.

- The program will be delivered as a cluster approach
- Remoteness & Diversity is challenging in the recruitment process, but currently sixty-four positions have been filled out the 109 required (so 59%)
- The department is investigating with stakeholders to secure the likes of the RFDS in rural areas to help with the implementation of the programs.

Wellbeing in schools will be delivered Face to Face and virtual, but the aim is to have mostly Face to Face. It will provide assistance with mild mental health concerns such as anxiety, depression, and reluctance.

The GPs in schools program kicked off in early 2022 and is aimed at getting GPs into schools

- A clinic would be funded and set up and a nurse would be assigned to the facility as well as a doctor once a week. With the funding being distributed on a need's basis
- The school must apply to the Department and have a doctor willing to service the school weekly

There have been fifty schools apply, a number have started with Murgon State School up and running. There are also 2 Boarding facilities using the program in Mt Isa (Spinifex State College) and Western Cape College (Weipa). ICPA QLD will continue to follow this program to monitor its progress over the year.

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