

SCHOOLS PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2023

The 2022 Blackall Conference saw 22 motions presented for the school's portfolio with 19 of these motions entering policy. The motions covered a wide range of aspects of rural and Remote schools, ranging from Staffing Allocations to State Delivered Kindy and Bypass Schools.

The water issues at some small school that were previously presented are progressing along with the Department continuing to improve access to long term potable water supplies. Some 50+ schools have had works completed, the delivery of site wide improvements (Remediation Works in Progress) is continuing in 30+ schools with some of this work nearing completion and the rest of the school's 100+ are in the current/review stage. This will take time to complete, but please know that ICPA QLD will continue to ask for updates as to how it is all progressing.

Housing shortages was another concern for the school's portfolio, with several Rural and Remote schools not having adequate housing to help attract and retain teachers in our Rural communities. The Department of Education (DoE) will continue to monitor the situation in regional areas via Local Principals and regional Directors. ICPA QLD has made this a key issue and will continue to advocate with the relevant bodies. Even though it is not a quick fix, ICPA QLD will continue to work closely with the Department of Education surrounding this issue.

Staffing allocations at small schools is still proving to be problematic, especially at our one teacher schools where the classroom is a multi-age setting. The Department of Education has asked if your branch, knows of a situation where this is a problem or where the P&C is financially supporting the wages for additional teacher or teacher aide hours, to notify them through the principal or alternatively contact ICPA QLD and we can forward the information for your branch. In some cases, depending on the individual school situation, ICPA QLD has been advised that additional funding may be available to the school. ICPA QLD will continue to work with the DoE in this area.

Through the remote Kindergarten resourcing model, a school with an SDK can receive additional funding above the standard Schools' allocation to deliver Kindy. This then includes 20 hours of teacher aide and 2 hours of admin support. If the kindy numbers exceed the departments class target size, consulting with the regional offices can result in extra hours being allocated. Principals are encouraged to contact their State Delivered Kindy (SDK) Senior Advisor at any time during the school year to discuss staffing needs. The SDK senior advisors are in each region of Queensland.

The schools' team is looking forward to another great year advocating for our rural and remote schools and children.

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