

### TEACHER EDUCATION PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2021

With 2020 in the past, the Teacher Education portfolio has been busy ensuring that our key issue of attracting and retaining quality educators in all areas of schooling in rural and remote communities is high on the agenda! ICPA Qld State Council has been lobbying this issue for many years now, and whilst we congratulate the Department of Education on their ongoing initiatives to Teach Rural, we all agree there is more work which needs to be done in this area.

Connections with Universities are a focus within this portfolio in 2021, with a letter written to the Queensland Council of Deans of Education being tabled and distributed at their meeting in March. Encouraging feedback has been received from a number of universities who already offer elements of the unique challenges of teaching in rural and remote small schools within their Education programs. Several Zoom meetings have also been conducted regarding how ICPA Qld can work together with these institutions to further the profile of teaching rural and remote, including taking part in panels presenting to students. The portfolio will continue to communicate with the universities around how there can be more effective strategies implemented to ensure preservice teachers feel encouraged and supported to take up placements in rural and remote communities.

An issue that continues to come to light throughout the year is that of quality Principals, Teaching Principals and teachers in our schools. The Department of Education have several programs which aim to ensure the experience, knowledge and support of Principals and their staff, both old and new. These include the Take the Lead program, one strand of which is targeted solely to those in rural and remote schools. This program provides participants the opportunity to develop their professional capabilities in order to become effective school and system leaders in our communities. The Department also offers a Rural and Remote Teacher Experience Program which provides urban teachers the opportunity to experience living and teaching in a rural or remote community for one week – the hope is that this experience will lead to highlighting the opportunities for upcoming vacancies and career progression for these experienced teachers. New rural and remote Principals who may not have experienced a School Review are also now being offered the opportunity to shadow a reviewer throughout the process, giving them a thorough understanding of the process and assisting them in leading their school's improvement journey. It is the intent that all of these programs will continue to work together to ensure quality teaching staff are keen to live and teach in outback Queensland.

ICPA Qld continue to work with the Kelvin Grove Teacher Education Centre for Excellence (Rural and Remote) as in previous years. Through this partnership we appreciate the opportunities provided to speak with preservice teachers and support them in any way we can to enjoy their experience in rural parts of Queensland.

State Council continues to work closely with many key stakeholders in the area of Teacher Education and are often approached for our feedback and advice in regard to rural and remote education. As the key representative of rural and remote families in education across Queensland we look forward to maintaining this presence and advocating for equality in education for our children.

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