

TEACHER EDUCATION PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2022

The Teacher Education Portfolio has continued to work towards ensuring that rural and remote areas, in all areas of schooling, are attracting and retaining quality educators. With Covid still in our presence and vaccinations being made mandatory for Queensland teachers it has been a trying time with teacher shortages being felt all over Australia.

At March delegations with the Department of Education, ICPA Qld were very happy to hear of the success of a number of programs initiated to attract and retain teachers in rural and remote areas. The uptake for the Take the Lead program, which provides participants the opportunity to develop their professional capabilities in order to become effective school and system leaders in our communities, continues to be strong. The Turn to Teaching Internship program has also been popular. This program is offered to those who are looking at changing careers and as the name implies, Turn to Teaching. Whilst there is no guarantee that these students will choose to teach in rural and remote areas, it is an increase in the pool of candidates.

The Aspiring Teacher Grant which provides financial support and permanent employment to students in Year 12 that are committed to studying an Initial Teacher Program is one that ICPA Qld hope can be extended to students in independent schools as well as State schools. State Council has also highlighted the need to create a similar grant to the Beyond the Range – Professional Experience grant, whereby students studying in rural and remote areas can access funding if they wish to undertake a Practicum in a city.

ICPA Qld continue to build and maintain connections with several Higher Education facilities ensuring that ITE (Initial Teacher Education) students are encouraged to complete at least one of their practical experiences in a rural and remote area. Many ICPA branches around the state have offered incentives for Preservice teachers and this list has been distributed to several universities to share with their students.

State Council continues to work closely with many key stakeholders around Teacher Education and are often approached for our feedback and advice regarding 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 equity in education for our children.

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