
Tertiary report 2024

Distinguished guest's fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure I present the 2024 tertiary report.

At the Moree Conference in 2023 just the one Tertiary motion was presented to conference by the Louth Branch, the motion read as follows:-

“That ICPA-NSW requests University Administration Centre (UAC) to look at the way credits and advance learnings could be transferred from one academic transcript with recognition of prior learning when students move from one university to another.”

This was a great motion from the Louth Branch. This motion is a common-sense motion, and one would think that it should be able to be achieved very easily. Unfortunately, with universities all being separate entities with different business models and practises, it is not straightforward. NSW State Council met with UAC to see what could be done to aid in allowing students to move their credits and transcripts with them if they needed to. We learnt that some of the universities have already started talking about this subject and are willing to look at what arrangements could be put in place to facilitate this. We also met with Steve Whan MP, minister for skills TAFE and tertiary education, he also sees this as a commonsense approach that should be encouraged for all the universities to adopt.

This motion in 2024, is more important than ever. Students are finding the cost of living in major cities and the rental crisis is having a catastrophic impact on their ability to support themselves to live and study away at university. This is even more pronounced when the students are from geographically isolated locations having further to travel and limited accommodation options. Resulting in many students having to drop out or relocate for financial or other reasons.

We will continue to advocate strongly for this motion in the coming year and hope to have a strong influence in this area.

Apprentice Travelcards

We were saddened last year when the Young Persons Travel Card was withdrawn from apprentices and trainees and didn't actually get launched for university students. This was a \$250 travel card to assist with travel costs to attend Tafe or off the job training. The NSW state government decided that the card was inappropriate as it was found to be able to be used to purchase items other than petrol in service stations and was also deemed to be too expensive to administrate. We will work with the government to find an alternative so that students will be able to access increased funding for travel and accommodation for attending off the job training.

NSW VET Review

A complete review of TAFE is underway and should be completed by the middle of 2024. It is being undertaken by a panel of experts and the areas of focus are:

- 1 To rebuild and strengthen TAFE NSW, recognising its vital role in serving our community.
- 2 Address the current and future skills needs of NSW.
- 3 Examine the challenges faced by disadvantaged individuals and explore recommendations to promote equity, particularly in regional and remote areas.
- 4 Restore confidence in our high-quality vocational education and training system.

ICPA NSW has made a comprehensive submission to the review, and I would like to thank Libby McPhee for preparing our submission in my absence.

It is great to see that equity is an important part of the review focusing on regional and remote students. We hope to see some real progress and solutions to breaking down the barriers for geographically isolated students from this review.

Condensed Training Opportunities

ICPA NSW will continue to advocate for courses to be condensed where appropriate. We believe it is advantageous for students living in remote areas to be able to complete their courses quickly, reducing the living costs and relocation expenses. This financial support is generally provided by parents.

Assist Tertiary Students find Placements & Deliver a higher level of Support.

ICPA NSW will continue to seek greater partnership between universities and businesses to assist students find placements as part of their work/university load.

ICPA NSW will continue to work with universities to ensure that a higher level of support is provided to students by university/tertiary educators.

We look forward to working on these motions and any new motions that are submitted to assist tertiary students with their studies.

Robin Beckwith
Tertiary Convenor