

TERTIARY TRADE AND TRAINING PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2022

The Tertiary, Trade and Training portfolio encompasses a wide variety of policy areas concerning the future careers and the pathways to accessing them, for students living in Regional Queensland. The extensive nature of the courses, facilities, skills, training and assistance available in Queensland is rapidly expanding and in many cases far surpasses that of other states. I am happy to report that while many young people from rural and remote areas face obstacles in accessing, undertaking and completing various forms of TTT they are some of the most employable young people and highly sort after by employers.

QCAA

The QCE 2021 Outcomes Report is due to be released in the next few weeks. The Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking (ATAR) 2022 is tracking well and schools seem to have grown in confidence, supporting students accordingly. QCAA believe that the system is robust and flexible enough to respond to challenges. ICPA will regularly meet with QCAA offering feedback and guide the significant reform as it continues to roll out.

AgForce: School To Industry Program (SIPP)

The School to Industry Program (SIPP) continues to be the successful conduit between Queensland primary producing agribusiness and schools, with 67 schools now engaged in the program. It offers programs for students, teachers and parents. The program is currently funded by the Queensland Government through the Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools Project and the Australian Government Kids2Farm Project and is supported by AgForce Queensland,

The Big Red Truck

A motion was presented at the 2021 conference relating to a 2.6 million dollar funding package allocated to the Big Red Truck and a commitment that it would be spent on upgrades to the Truck to ensure its vital ongoing operation. At March delegations the Department updated that tenders for the refurbishment of the Big Red Truck were released in late February, with work contracts awarded in late March. Completion is due by June 2022. \$600,00 will be spent on the truck, including works such as hydraulic upgrades, overall general maintenance and ongoing fees.

Ag Colleges

At March delegations ICPA met with Minister Furner and Agforce. In late March Longreach Ag College assets were sold online, including their string of horses. Concerns were highlighted with Minister Furner around a widespread lack of agricultural training and the significant void that the closing of the colleges has left, along with the apparent impacts that this has had on the viability of rural communities and businesses through staff shortage. The relevance of the 2019 Coaldrake Report was also questioned in such a robust and quickly evolving Ag sector.

Apprenticeships

In response to the 2021 motion presented regarding the lack of support offered to apprentices, particularly in the area of pastoral care, ICPA met with DESBT's Glen Brown (Ed Service Delivery) and Wayne Stephens (Director/Qld Apprenticeships and Traineeships) at March Delegations. Discussions centred around the specific barriers faced by students from rural areas undertaking apprenticeships and the low completion rates across the board for apprenticeships. Currently The Queensland Training Ombudsman is preparing a report into support provided to Qld apprentices and trainees. The recommendations from the report will be made publicly available. The needs of young people from rural areas having to relocate to access apprenticeships or training are unique and will remain on ICPA's radar.

TAFE

In 2022 ICPA met regularly with TAFE for updates. As Qld's largest Vocational Education Trainer (VET) training provider, they offer entry level certificates (often through the TAFE at School Program) through to bachelor degrees, across more than 50 sitewide locations. Completing a qualification through the TAFE at School Program can give direct entry into most TAFE courses, access to a variety of university pathways, or a trade qualification. They offer two types of scholarships that could benefit members, "Access and Equality" and "Merit." Applications for scholarships open in November.

Australian Industry Trade College (AITC)

Several opportunities arose throughout the year to meet with the Australian Industry Trade College (AITC). AITC is an industry driven senior school with six campuses across the South East. It provides a two-to-three-year program for students in years 10-12 that focusses on developing character and values, academic and enterprise skills, employability skills and industry readiness while still meeting the criteria to obtain a QCE. They are presently investigating the possibility of expanding into regional areas. Earlier in the year ICPA met with AITC and various other stakeholders in Mackay to offer feedback on members behalf.

TEC-NQ, Townsville

During the year ICPA toured Tec-NQ on two occasions. It is a Senior Secondary Education facility offering students a QCE, outside of a mainstream school and completing their senior education in a trade-based environment. Tec-NQ also offers fully supervised, newly constructed, residential care for regional students.

Tec-NQ core trade areas being offered include: IT, construction, automotive and engineering.

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