

TRAVEL PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2022

Several motions relevant to Travel were passed at the 2021 Cunnamulla conference.

MOTION OF THANKS

The motion of thanks from Tambo was passed onto Translink who in turn expressed their thanks and appreciation for our working relationship.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Once again, concerns about the Conveyance Allowance methodology were raised up by members. Currently Conveyance Allowance is calculated from the property boundary to, depending on available transport options, either the school or bus stop. For some members this may mean that they receive minimal to no recompense for their private vehicle use.

ICPA has been advised by Translink, as the responsible body for this allowance, that they require detailed data from a large number of those families who are impacted by the current method in order to initiate any investigation into the scheme which may then lead to changes in the methodology. Without this data there will be no progress on this matter. To this end, we need YOU and others you know to supply us with that information to take forward. We have commenced a fact-finding mission but are significantly short of the detail and depth of data we need to try and effect a positive outcome. PLEASE make some time to respond if this issue is relevant to you and then share our request far and wide with others, members or not, to enable us to continue our advocacy.

KINDY KIDS ON BUSES

State Council would like to take the opportunity to thank members who responded to our survey late last year on your recent and/or upcoming kindy experiences in particular how you access kindy and concerns around this. We had over 100 responses which is fantastic! From this raw data, we are producing a professional presentation to utilise in our advocacy.

It is quite clear to State Council, that the failure to recognise that our young students require guaranteed regular, reliable access to a mode of transport that best meets their family's needs and circumstances is impacting on their learning. Given the considerable investment being made by the Department of Education into its State Delivered Kindergarten (SDK) programme, it is frustrating and disappointing that all eligible children are not being assisted to access this wonderful programme. It would appear that cross Departmental co-operation and collaboration will be essential to overcome this discrepancy and ICPA (Qld) is certainly advocating to both parties and requesting same.

STUDENT FARES ON ROAD AND AIR SERVICES

In prior years, there have been motions to State Conferences asking for the creation of student fares on both buses and planes as well as for chaperones where one is required such as for young children on buses who are unable, due to policies, to travel unaccompanied. In 2021, we undertook a survey of members and these formed part of our response to the consultation being undertaken by Translink's Commercial Partnerships division as part of preparation for the development (and awarding) of Next Gen contracts on all Qld Government subsidised services. Indeed, it was acknowledged our input was the most comprehensive and detailed - thanks to our members' contributions. These contracts were awarded late last year, and we are pleased to report there are student fares being offered on many of these services and chaperone fares are also available on some of these as well. Please check the webpages of the travel provider for details on these fares and any terms and conditions attached.

HEARTFELT THANK YOU

The last, but not least, section of this report is dedicated to you, our members. The past twelve months have seen us ask you for information on all of the above and you have responded and given us the much-needed data to engage, create opportunities to work towards, and hopefully gain, resolution on your issues.

Whilst being asked repeatedly to supply information may elicit groans of "Not again!" your lived experiences and evidence is what is needed to effect change. Data is essential as it provides a strong and irrefutable foundation on which we build our advocacy platforms.

In other words, we need you to give us the evidence to back up the motions you carry at conference, so we can go forward, fully armed, and fight the good fight on behalf of you and your students now and into the future.

So in closing: thanks, danke, merci, dak, grazie, arigato, ta.

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