

COMMUNICATIONS

1. A1. KINDON BRANCH

“That ICPA Queensland lobby the Queensland Department of Education and Training (DET) and continues to support ICPA Australia with their lobby, to ensure that all small schools in Queensland are provided with reliable, accessible internet services that meet the needs of the specific school both for education and administration.”

Carried

Explanation: The Kindon ICPA Branch would like to reiterate the strong need for reliable and transforming connectivity to ensure all students, regardless of their location, have the same learning opportunities as their city counterparts. The Australian National Curriculum is now more than ever reliant on consistent connectivity to deliver innovative and impacting pedagogy. Education Queensland has provided a dedicated and robust curriculum framework ‘Curriculum to Classroom’ (C2C) however, there is inadequate support, collaboration and implementation from Education Queensland in rural and remote locations to ensure that the curriculum can be accessed and implemented via the internet.

CASE STUDY: Kindon is a small one teacher school located in southern Queensland. The only access to the internet is via a very unreliable and slow mobile tower that continually drops out. When writing this motion, we were made aware that the school has recently received a new antenna which will hopefully assist in the drop out issue, however illegal repeaters and tower location still place this school at a risk of outages and issues. We urge Education Queensland to ensure all connectivity options for small schools are explored to ensure that students and teachers do not experience dropouts, outages and slow connections, and that there is enough data to participate in the curriculum. It is unreasonable that the teacher and students at Kindon State School are disadvantaged when nbn Sky Muster satellite is available at the location. Regardless of location and number of students it is essential that Education Queensland research best connectivity options for small schools, even if this means not placing all connectivity options in one basket. We would like to see nbn Sky Muster satellite investigated as an alternative option to unreliable mobile connectivity. We understand the concern regarding privacy, however we believe there should be collaboration with nbn and Education Queensland to overcome this.

2. A2. TAMBO BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld Inc. lobby the Department of Education to ensure small regional and remote schools have adequate dedicated IT funding enabling them to install the latest equipment to keep pace with technology changes and the increased use of technology within the curriculum and daily lessons.”

Carried

Explanation: Provision of more computers and electronic whiteboards into small schools is the way in which lessons are being delivered to our students. Having access to this technology is essential for rural and remote students to have an equal opportunity at the curriculum. The use of this technology, while great, is putting greater demand on the wifi systems within schools and the internet bandwidth that is available through existing small school’s systems. To maintain an equal pace within education settings technology systems, need to be updated as demand and changes occur. It is no good increasing just the bandwidth at these locations without providing sufficient budgeting to small schools to upgrade the servers and Wi-Fi capacity at the same time. Along with the budgeting, it is essential that the upgrades are done in a timely manner so that small schools can benefit from the up to the minute technology as this is an area of rapid change which needs to be used to its capacity quickly. For schools to utilize the full capacity of the upgraded and installed systems they have available, all the components need to be upgraded together. Full disclosure of what the costs are to school budgets needs to be clearly outlined to small schools in relation to the costs of delivering system capacity internet within their school.

3. S2. QUEENSLAND STATE COUNCIL

“That ICPA Qld Inc. thanks nbn local, for working collaboratively with State Council in ensuring our members are receiving the latest information from the nbn network.”
Carried

Explanation: Since the introduction of nbn local, ICPA Qld Inc. has been working closely with Ryan Williams, Head of nbn local Queensland, to improve communications between nbn and its users. Collaboratively we are putting together a series of Frequently Asked Questions, Q&A video clips, the first of which has been broadcast through our social media outlets. It is invaluable to ICPA Qld to have such great partnerships providing such up to date information for our members.