

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

1. **A16.** CLARKE CREEK BRANCH

**“That ICPA (Qld) Inc lobby relevant authorities to ensure that small schools are adequately resourced to develop and deliver kindergarten programs in a multi-age setting.”**

Carried

Explanation: The delivery of a kindergarten program as part of a composite class of Prep and other lower primary aged children continues to be trialled in small, remote communities without centre-based kindergarten programs.

Children in selected remote communities can attend kindergarten at their local state schools as part of the Remote Kindergarten Program.

For children in geographically isolated communities who have no access to a kindergarten, the opportunity for them to attend kindy at their small school has many benefits and is an initiative that has been welcomed by families and school communities. It is also an initiative that requires additional human and physical resources to cater effectively to the needs of the kindy cohort. It is essential that the workload for all teaching and auxiliary staff is manageable, sustainable and ensures best learning opportunities for all enrolled students. It is also essential that sufficient funding is provided for age-appropriate physical resources.

2. **S7.** ARCADIA VALLEY

**“That ICPA Qld Inc lobby the Department of Education to ensure that all small schools who are not eligible or where requirements cannot be met for the State Delivered Kindergarten program, be given the opportunity to provide e-Kindy to their community.”**

Carried

*Explanation: Still to come*

3. **S8.** CLERMONT BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc. lobby the Department of Education to ensure that appropriate Infrastructure is provided on all school sites offering State Delivered Kindergarten taking into consideration current and projected enrolment figures.”**

Carried

Explanation: State delivered kindergarten will be commencing at Kilcummin State School, which is located 68 kilometres from Clermont in Central Queensland, in 2020.

There are 5 children in the area eligible for kindy in its first year. This will mean Kilcummin will have 7 Prep students, as well as 5 Kindergarten students.

In total, when the Kindy kids are in attendance, projected numbers for 2020 at the school will sit around 24 to 25 kids, JUST in the K-2 classroom. Currently, the infrastructure is only just coping with the number of students at the school. In the foreseeable future it is projected that total k-6 enrolments at Kilcummin could sit around 50 students.

At present teaching space is already an issue, with all available areas at the school being used for more than one purpose. In order to accommodate the Kindy students, the school has been told by a Kindergarten auditor that they will need to move their library into what is the current Staff Room. At present, the Staff Room is already shared with the Year 3-6 classroom. The library being moved to this room will leave the Year 3-6 students shorter on space than what they already are, with the library infringing on them. It will also leave the Staff with no designated area for themselves. The children in Years 3-6 currently use the staff eating area for additional workspace when required. There is also currently no appropriate area for craft or wet activities for K-2 students. The only usable space is in the Front Office which even now it is part of the P-2 building it is also where the schools BSM is expected to try and administrate. This space is far too small for the expected 12 students in kindergarten and prep that may be using the area from next year. Furthermore

with the current numbers of students at the school, there are already not enough toilet facilities -currently only 2 toilets for girls, 1 toilet and trough for boys and 1 toilet for staff that males and females are expected to share, and there are no wheelchair-accessible toilets on site. With extra Kindergarten children attending the school in 2020, this limited current infrastructure will be further under pressure. The school has been told that they will not qualify for any new buildings, UNLESS their K-2 numbers go over the magic number of 25 and even if this does happen, the advice that Kilcummin has been given is that “there may” be some funds to either modify existing buildings or possibly bring in an additional teaching building. There is no guarantee that if enrolments go over 25 that the improvements and upgrades will be done.

4. **S9.** ARCADIA VALLEY BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc lobby the Department of Education to ensure that all schools offering State Delivered Kindergarten employ two teachers regardless of enrolments and that one of these teachers is Early Childhood Trained.”**

Word change

**“That ICPA Qld Inc lobby the Department of Education to ensure that all small schools offering State Delivered Kindergarten employ at least two teachers on kindergarten days, regardless of enrolments and that one of these teachers is Early Childhood Trained.”**

Carried

*Explanation: Still to come*

5. **S10.** CLERMONT BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc. lobby the Department of Education to fully cover the cost of employing teaching staff in schools that are offering State Delivered Kindergarten.”**

Carried

Explanation: State delivered kindergarten will be commencing at Kilcummin State School in Central Queensland in 2020, with 5 children in the area eligible for kindy in its first year. This will mean Kilcummin will have 7 Prep students, as well as 5 Kindergarten students. In total, when the Kindergarten kids are in attendance, projected numbers for 2020 at the school will sit around 24 to 25 kids. This is JUST in the K-2 classroom.

It is projected that student numbers at Kilcummin could sit around 50 in total in the foreseeable future. Currently the school is only eligible for two teachers and unless the school enrolments go over 25 in K-2, they do not qualify for any additional teaching time from a qualified teacher. The school have been told however that if Kilcummin was to receive *some* additional teaching allocation because their enrolment numbers are high, the additional teaching time allocated will not be equivalent to a full-time teacher. The School will have to find/fundraise the additional funds to hire a full-time teacher. This cost would need to be covered by school funds and the P&C.

6. **S11.** DIRRANBANDI BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc support ICPA Federal Council in their lobby with the Federal Education Minister regarding the transitional provisions for Early Childhood Teacher’s (ECT) which expires on 31 December 2019.”**

Carried

Explanation: These provisions relate to: individuals ‘actively working towards’ their ECT qualifications; educators who have been continuously employed as an educator in a service for at least 15 years to be included in the educator to ratio requirements for remote and very remote services; and the ability for remote and very remote centre-based services to have access to an ECT via information community technology

Due to the difficulty of sourcing appropriately qualified staff this 2019 deadline will force yet another barrier to access of appropriate Early Childhood programs for rural and remote families.

7. **S12.** TAROOM/WANDOAN BRANCH

**“That ICPA (QLD) Inc. lobby the Qld Minister for Education to align the QKFS (Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme) guidelines with the Education and Care Services National Regulations in regards to funding.”**

Carried

Explanation: Taroom Kindergarten currently has a Staffing Waiver in place which allows the kindergarten to operate without an Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) 20% of the time. QKFS Guidelines state that Services that have applied for and hold a temporary staffing waiver under the National Law are not eligible to claim QKFS funding for the period that a qualified ECT is not delivering the kindergarten program.

While we do not have a qualified ECT in the kindergarten, we are meeting the national requirements for staff and aim to keep up to date with these requirements to ensure the kindergarten is operating accordingly. We do not meet QKFS requirements to receive full funding while this is our situation and only receive our guaranteed funding/subsidies; this is considerably less per term.