

PORTFOLIO REPORT – STATE COUNCIL

Post Compulsory Report

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There were no Post Compulsory motions raised at the 2019 ICPA (WA) State conference, however it was still an interesting year for the Post Compulsory portfolio.

TERTIARY/TRAINING DOCUMENT

A document was made available to ICPA members containing useful websites and resources for students to help plan their futures, whether that be through university, VET courses, apprenticeships and heading straight into the workforce.

https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/files/beyond_school_study_guide.pdf

REGIONAL HUBS

In November 2018, the successful grant recipients of the Regional Study Hubs program: 16 Hubs in 22 locations were announced by the Western Australian Government. These Regional Study Hubs will deliver educational services and provide infrastructure such as study spaces, video conferencing, computing facilities and internet access, as well as academic support for students studying via distance at partner universities.

UNIVERSITY COURSE WEBSITE www.courseseeeker.com

A recommendation from the Admissions Transparency Implementation Plan is the new national Higher Education information website, *Course Seeker* launched late 2018, a one-stop website which will enable students to find, compare and apply for over 7000 HE courses. The information enables direct comparison of admission criteria and application processes across different courses and providers.

ABC NEWS

The lack of communications technology and digital literacy education investment in Australia is causing Australia to fall behind in the Global Ranking of Digital Competitiveness. Australia has dropped one place to 14th out of 63 countries. Universities have had funding cuts and a lack of support from the Federal Government when it comes to digital education. Australia's communications technology is ranked 54th out of 63, our internet bandwidth and speed is ranked at 38.

CHEAPER TAFE FEES

On the 14th October 2019, the West Australian Government announced a \$53 million package that will cut TAFE fees for 34 high priority courses to make training more affordable. Some of these courses include nursing, aged care, disability support, hospitality, tourism and engineering. The cuts are designed to coax young people back into training to fill emergency skills shortages.

- TAFE fees for 34 high priority qualifications will be halved from January 1, 2020.
- The fee reductions will make training more affordable for thousands of students.
- The 50 per cent fee reductions have been targeted to align with emerging skills shortages, the State's economic diversification strategy and important sectors of the local economy including aged and disability care, METRONET and civil construction, defence, hospitality and tourism.

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/10/McGowan-Government-reduces-TAFE-fees-by-50-per-cent.aspx>