

SPECIFIC NEEDS

A21. MOONIE BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld lobby the Department of Education to organise more Speech and Specific Needs through online learning for rural and remote students.”

CARRIED

Explanation: In the past learning online has been a second option due to service and connectivity. During the COVID 19 pandemic all students were learning online, it has been proven it can be done. Moonie State School has access to a Speech Therapist coming to the school one day per term to see/assist and work with children, staff and parents. There is only enough time to view or review 2 children per day. Which means that it then becomes a priority issue as in most needs goes first. While some children then miss out on the extended help they require. They have had 3 Speech Therapists in 4 years, one year with no speech therapist at all. Families are currently paying \$189/ hr for their children to get the assistance they need. This is either online or travelling long distances, also meaning children then need to take time off school to travel to these appointments. Getting access to speech therapists and other health professionals to assist with a child's learning in rural and remote areas is hard then, they have to travel long distances between schools. If the Department put focus into all forms of therapy online more children could be helped and seen in one day. Also school staff and parents could also get the support they need to help these children reach their full potential. Online learning would also mean that Allied Support Staff would spend less time travelling and more time with the students themselves. Appropriate support for the students in need.

A22. TAMBO BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld lobby the Department of Education to provide consistent specialist services in rural and remote schools to support student learning.”

CARRIED

Explanation: For much of this year there has been no one in the role of guidance officer in our local area. I must wonder, are we the only area? Or are there many others missing staff from various other Allied Health roles across rural and remote Queensland.

When my child did not get help in the state system, I travelled great distances, at great cost to get help. There are two problems with this:

1. What about the family that cannot afford to go out of the district and pay for access to private health professionals.
2. When we do come back armed with reports and information to help our children there is no one to help implement it and support its delivery.

The Department of education needs to prioritise filling all the Allied Health roles and realise the value of these professionals to rural and remote QLD.