



## **BOARDING SCHOOLS and HOSTELS POLICY**

**POLICY:** TO ENSURE THE CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT OF BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS IN PROVIDING LIVING AWAY FROM HOME FACILITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED CHILDREN.

### **BOARDING SCHOOLS**

#### **1.OBJECTIVES:**

That Boarding Schools have:

- a. Adequate financial support that is sustained for capital and recurrent expenditure. (2012: S2, A9)
- b. Exemption from Fringe Benefits Tax.
- c. Provision of an appropriate education for all isolated students irrespective of academic ability.
- d. Recreational officers and/or recreational programs that develop extra-curricular activities for boarding students to participate in outside of school hours.
- e. Instruction for students from isolated areas in the correct skills and rules of their team sports before the season begins.
- f. Behaviour management policies which minimize the harmful effects of bullying.
- g. Ensure that boarding families are informed of all relevant allowances. (2017:A1)

#### **2. BOARDING SCHOOLS:**

That Boarding Schools have:

- a. Make every effort to coordinate holidays and recognise the travel problems of isolated children. (2015: S16)
- b. Produce child orientated, print and video based information about their school, aimed at easing the transition from home to boarding school.
- c. Provide educational and pastoral programs for children with specific learning and/or physical difficulties and disabilities, with financial assistance from State and Federal Governments.
- d. Promote information outlining practical strategies to prepare children prior to boarding.
- e. Implement a standardized accredited program for residential carers. (2018: S1) (2020 S1; S2)

#### **3. BOARDING SCHOOL STAFF**

That Boarding staff have:

- a. That ALL boarding staff members undergo the 'Working with Children Check'
- b. That staff involved in pastoral care have some background knowledge, training or experience of the isolated student's environment.
- c. That boarding staff be trained to detect and take appropriate measures when children show signs of mental health problems.
- d. That counsellors be available to guide students, particularly new boarding students.
- e. That accommodation is provided for resident married staff in order to extend the homely environment in the boarding school situation.
- f. That boarding schools without 24-hour health facilities manned by a trained nurse, ensure that all boarding supervisory staff have the equivalent of a senior first aid certificate and access to regular upgrading and training.
- g. That there be a formal liaison between the school's Support Unit staff and the boarding house.

*Note: It is recommended that this Policy be read in conjunction with other ICPA Qld Inc Policy documents.*

#### **4. STUDENTS**

That students have:

- a. Telephone facilities to enable students and their families to maintain regular contact.
- b. ID cards that remains valid until the reissue of cards for the following academic year.
- c. Speech therapists available for continued access for those who must be educated away from home.
- d. That the age of students playing in the secondary schools sporting teams be strictly policed.
- e. That the State Government grants a special per capita subsidy for students from remote areas.

### **HOSTELS**

#### **1.OBJECTIVES:**

School Term Residential Hostels shall have the ability to provide:

- a. Adequate boarding facilities for all students.
- b. Suitable supervision.
- c. Access to schools in regional centres.
- d. Facilities for students attending technical colleges.

#### **2. HOSTEL STAFF**

That ALL hostel staff:

- a. Undergo the 'Working with Children Check'.
- b. Be provided with regular and on-going Professional Development as an accountability requirement.
- c. Supervisory staff should have the equivalent of Senior First Aid Certificate.
- d. That special attention be given to the employment of pastoral care staff.

#### **3. FUNDING**

- a. That per capita subsidies of a realistic level be available to operating bodies. (2014: A29)
- b. That additional funding is available to assist hostels to remain open during periods of low enrolments. (2014: A29)
- c. That capital funding allows for planned maintenance, upgrading and/or extension of the facility. (2014: A29)
- d. That hostels be exempt from Fringe Benefits Tax.

#### **4.MANAGEMENT**

That Public Liability Insurance be available at a reasonable cost.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. That an establishment of an Isolated Children's Pandemic Advisory Group made up of State and Federal Education Ministers and relevant authorities, the Australian Boarding Schools Association and ICPA representatives to ensure consistent decisions are made specific to the needs of geographically isolated children who must cross State borders to access education. (2020: A2)