

TEACHER EDUCATION PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – 2020

Whilst 2020 has certainly been a difficult time for everyone, ICPA Qld has continued to maintain relationships and forge new ones with relevant stakeholders in order to progress member motions and raise awareness of teaching in rural and remote areas of Queensland. Opportunities to address and influence decision makers are highly valued and we are passionate about ensuring the future teachers of geographically isolated kids are well versed in the unique attributes of 'teaching rural'!

2020 has been a unique year in many ways and unfortunately COVID-19 has led to many preservice teachers being unable to undertake practicum placements in the majority of schools. It remains to be seen how this situation will impact those who were due to graduate this year and enter the workforce as a shortage of teachers will also have an effect on our small schools. Thank you to those branches who continue to offer a variety of incentives to assist preservice teachers to undertake their placements in rural and remote schools. In our experience, every little bit is helpful and opportunities to share the unique beauty of outback Queensland are certainly valued.

With only a few motions at our 2019 State Conference, the Teacher Education portfolio has remained busy working with the Kelvin Grove Teacher Education Centre of Excellence (KGTECE - Rural and Remote). 183 students have graduated from this program since its inception in 2016, with all but two of these students retained in the State Schooling system as at March this year. Every single student has indicated that the program delivered at KGTECE supported their transition and prepared them for working in a regional, rural or remote location. 57% of these graduates will not be applying for a transfer after their 3-year minimum service period with leadership opportunities, strong school support networks and personal relationships impacting on their decisions. There remains strong support from graduates and other stakeholders for the future of the KGTECE and the program it is providing which strengthens the quality of teachers heading west during the first years of their career, however funding from the Department of Education ceases this year. The program will continue to operate in 2021 due to the generosity of Kelvin Grove State College, partner schools and universities and already have over 200 Expressions of Interest. ICPA Qld will continue to actively promote the benefits of the KGTECE where possible and support them in their quest for ongoing financial support.

The Rural and Remote Centres for Learning and Wellbeing (CLAW's) continue to provide enhanced professional learning and wellbeing support to school leaders, teachers, students and families in rural and remote locations across Queensland. In particular, each centre has focused their work on supporting beginning teachers to develop their teaching capability and settle into their new communities. Experienced teachers offer virtual and face to face one-on-one coaching and mentoring which includes understanding the needs of learner groups, classroom management strategies, curriculum planning as well as the provision of personal support networks.

State Council continues to work closely with many key stakeholders in the area of Teacher Education and are often approached for our feedback and advice in regard to rural and remote education. As the key representative of rural and remote families in education across Queensland we look forward to maintaining this presence and advocating for equality in education for our children.

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