

TRAVEL PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – 2020

It is a privilege to be able to deliver this report for the first time as leader of the Travel Portfolio. Despite many challenges across the past 6 months, ICPA Qld has continued to advocate for those with travel requirements to attend their places of education.

At the ICPA State Conference in Charters Towers last year 2019 there were 5 motions carried, these motions were specific to:

- Seek change to the Transport, Main Roads and TransLink's policies and regulations to enable small bus run extensions and changes to be approved on a case-by-case basis, not by restrictive kilometre based and approved cost components
- Have an increase to the current Young Athletes Travel Subsidy for students residing in rural and remote areas, who are accessing state level sporting opportunities or higher
- Liaise transparency with local communities when considering revision of school bus routes in rural and remote areas
- Approach commercial bus companies to allow free travel for chaperones on all bus service routes for rural students using bus transportation to access education
- Update the current School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS) policy to include kindy students as recognised allocations on school buses

At Brisbane delegations in August 2019, and March 2020, ICPA met with representatives from TransLink and DET (School Transport) to discuss the motions that were carried. With the COVID-19 restrictions the majority of meetings in March were held via teleconference in our motel room, still allowing us to have those discussions. ICPA have also maintained regular contact with representatives from TransLink to again discuss the motions from the Charters Towers 2019 conference.

TransLink have advised that kindy students are not currently recognised by DET (and are therefore unable to gain STAS eligibility). Affected families may be able to negotiate reasonable fares and or kindy student travel with local bus operators.

ICPA believe that the transparency between the Department of Transport, Main Roads, TransLink and ICPA Queensland is a huge success that has filtered down to the affected families and relevant branches. ICPA will continue to monitor the situation.

The Young Athletes Travel Subsidy remains the same as previous years with the website receiving a facelift. We continue to lobby for increased funding.

TransLink and Main Roads have made relevant changes to their policies to allow for small bus runs to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

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