

POLICY: ICPA seeks to ensure that appropriate early childhood education programmes and support services are available for all children in rural and remote areas.

OBJECTIVES:

1. That where children do not have reasonable daily access to Early Childhood Education, appropriate programmes should be provided.
2. That Early Childhood Education be available for one year prior to the commencement of junior primary school and that enrolment be optional.
3. That parent education should be an integral part of Early Childhood programmes for rural and remote children so that parents will be aware of;
 - a. The importance of Early Childhood programmes for the child's intellectual development, pre-reading and pre-writing skills, social development and fine and gross motor development.
 - b. The importance of early detection and correction of learning disabilities.
4. That the appropriate technology be available for access to Early Childhood lessons.
5. That maximum opportunities for social interaction be available for all rural and remote children involved in Early Childhood Education.
6. That appropriate learning resources be available for all rural and remote children involved in Early Childhood Education.
7. That regular opportunities be available through workshops and playgroups for parents to meet with Early Childhood professionals.
8. That screening be carried out on all rural and remote preschool children and that parents have ready access to information as to where skilled professional help can be obtained if necessary.
9. That regular opportunity and funding be available for rural and remote mobile children's services to attend appropriate training and development.
10. That there be consultation with communities involved prior to any changes in existing preschool services, and that such services be maintained at their current level for the full calendar year.
11. That existing facilities in rural and remote areas be used to establish Family Day Care/ Rural Care.
12. That rural and remote families have access to child care services for children up to the age of 12 years regardless of where they reside.