

# COUNTRY AREAS PROGRAM



## **POLICY:**

*ICPA supports equity programs which improve educational participation and achievements of students disadvantaged by restricted access to social, cultural and educational activities and services as a result of their geographic isolation.*

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. The provision of adequate Commonwealth funding to allow CAP to continue.
2. The supply of guidelines, recommendations and reports to all equity committees including ICPA and community members, charged with developing and implementing programs.
3. Priority funding which recognises the extra costs associated with implementing innovative programs in isolated areas.
4. Recognition that the Country Areas Program funding should be weighted more heavily for small and remote school communities, or where normal services are unavailable.
5. Programs which place equal emphasis on students in all years K–12 unless specifically funded to address issues such as the years 11-12 retention rate.
6. Continuation of the inter-systemic administration of funding and programs through community based regional committees, wherever this would be the most effective and appropriate structure.
7. Encouragement of community participation in local, regional and state committees with ICPA representation on all appropriate levels of management within the programs.
8. Encouragement by the Commonwealth for State Education Departments and non-government systems to adopt and fund successful program initiatives which have become recognised as essential educational support services in rural schools.
9. Encouragement of parents on local school based CAP committees by the CAP consultants and school Principals to participate in the formulation of network initiatives.
10. Programmes that involve student participation in the network initiatives.

**[Ratified 2008]**