

EARLY CHILDHOOD PORTFOLIO MID-YEAR REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018

REMOTE KINDY PILOT PROGRAM

ICPA Qld acknowledge the work of the Early Childhood and Community Engagement Team and were pleased to hear on 2 August 2018, during estimates, the Honourable Grace Grace, Minister for Education announced the continuation of the Remote Kindergarten Pilot until the end of 2019 for the existing 38 schools. ICPA Qld were invited to have input into a Cabinet Submission being prepared to propose further expansion of Remote Kindergarten and for it to transition from a Pilot to an ongoing program.

The Early Childhood Portfolio Leader has attended the Remote Kindy Pilot Working Group meetings and the Early Years Forums.

ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALIFIED TEACHERS

ICPA Qld continues to hold discussions with the Department in the area of attraction and retention of teachers and the qualification requirements for Early Childhood Teachers. At this stage the qualification requirements are a National Standard and as such we look to Federal Council to continue to lobby on behalf of Rural and Remote education. ICPA Qld will attend meetings shortly discussing the National Review of Teacher Registration – Early Childhood Recommendations and will keep members informed of any outcomes.

IN HOME CARE

There have been many enquiries regarding the changes to the In Home Care Program and its effects on geographically isolated families. ICPA Qld understands that there are difficulties with waiting times and the new restrictions around legislative changes with qualifications and age. As this is a National Program ICPA Qld have been communicating with ICPA Australia on many of these issues and will continue to provide case studies in support of their lobby.

A Brief Overview....

The new program improves consistency in service delivery and provides more equitable distribution of places for child care delivered in the family home. The program is targeted at those families that need this care the most, with a focus on quality early childhood education and care provided by qualified educators.

To better support families, the IHC service type is delivered through a brokerage model of IHC Support Agencies that advocate for families, particularly those with complex and challenging circumstances, and help them find care that meets their needs. IHC Support Agencies are the primary conduit between families and services, while increasing assurance in the care type and supporting national consistency in program delivery. IHC Support Agencies service families in each state and territory and distribute IHC places to Child Care Subsidy approved services. Up to 3000 places are available throughout Australia.

LONG TERM FUNDING FOR PLAY BASED MOBILE SERVICES

ICPA Qld together with ICPA Aust. continue to work with both State and Federal Education Departments in this area to assist mobile services that are unable to transition to the new Federal Government (centre based) Child Care Funding. No new funding has been identified for play based mobiles unable to transition and without funding these services will be lost from rural and remote communities.

Mrs Louise Winten

Early Childhood Portfolio Leader