Department of Education

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Department of Education acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands from across Queensland and pays respect to the Elders – past, present and emerging – for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state.

***Advancing rural and remote education in Queensland state schools***

**An action plan to support every rural and remote student to succeed**

We know quality education changes lives for the better. Our priority is to support young rural and remote Queenslanders to develop the skills they need to be successful local and global citizens actively engaged in the knowledge economy.

Every day our rural and remote state schools are creating and promoting a culture of high expectations. Our focus on improving students’ literacy and numeracy is helping to make sure they are engaged in all aspects of their learning. Our schools are also providing a range of inclusive learning opportunities and promoting resilient and respectful relationships to ensure every rural and remote young person is succeeding.

We are supporting our skilled and dedicated staff to benefit from the life changing opportunities of working and living in rural and remote communities. Our focus continues to be attracting, retaining and developing the professional expertise of our teachers and school leaders to improve the quality of teaching and lift learning outcomes in rural and remote state schools.

Central to our future is supporting regional Queensland through building positive partnerships with families, the community, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, universities, industry and other service providers. Working together to advance rural and remote education, we are inspiring our students to become lifelong learners, pursuing their dreams with confidence.

* More than 630 Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in rural and remote areas
* More than 600 state schools in rural and remote areas
* 115,000 students in rural and remote areas
* 44% of remote state school enrolments are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
* 16,000 full-time equivalent staff working In rural and remote areas

**We will measure our success by:**

* increasing the number of students at or above the National Minimum Standard in Year 3 reading in rural and remote state schools
* increasing the retention of teachers and school leaders in remote state schools
* making sure all rural and remote state schools have a strategy in place to create positive partnerships with students, families and their communities

*“In rural and remote areas where healthy partnerships exist, the result is a vibrant, sustainable community.” – Tammie Irons, Queensland State President, Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association*

**Every rural and remote student succeeding**

* targeting initiatives and resources to lift performance in reading, with a focus on Year 3
* increasing children’s access to and participation in quality kindergarten programs through initiatives such as the Remote Kindergarten Pilot
* supporting teachers to develop strategies to lift learning outcomes for students with disability, and to extend gifted and high-achieving students, including through the Solid Pathways program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
* using digital technologies to reach beyond the classroom and improving broadband connectivity for rural and remote state schools
* supporting transitions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in remote communities to secondary schools through Transition Support Services
* expanding the boarding facilities for Tagai State College
* implementing a targeted school refurbishment program to improve the physical environments of remote schools

**Valuing our people**

* piloting new Centres for Learning and Wellbeing focused on professional learning, teaching excellence, developing cultural capability and creating inclusive school environments that nurture student and staff wellbeing
* preparing preservice teachers in partnership with higher education institutions, and providing ongoing mentoring for beginning teachers, to teach in rural and remote locations
* extending inductions for new and beginning rural and remote principals and piloting a shadow peer review program to continue to build their capability
* developing emerging leaders through the Take the Lead program
* implementing a refurbishment program and improving connectivity in rural and remote employee housing
* revitalising the teacher transfer process and rural and remote benefits scheme to ensure it keeps pace with the changing needs of teachers, school leaders and communities
* offering targeted scholarships and opportunities to attract preservice, early career and experienced teachers to rural and remote communities
* providing a new Rural and Remote Teacher Experience program for teachers from urban schools to live and work in rural and remote communities

**Building positive partnerships**

* trialling a Partners in Learning program for parents/ home tutors of distance education students on how to teach reading
* placing successful school, community and key stakeholder partnerships at the centre of every rural and remote school’s improvement agenda
* strengthening partnerships with school support services, health professionals and other agencies to nurture the wellbeing of staff and students
* informing future strategies by continuing to capture the views of staff, parents and the community living in rural and remote locations
* continuing to engage in culturally appropriate ways within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
* acknowledging outstanding achievements in rural and remote school communities through the annual Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools

Stay connected with Advancing rural and remote education at http://education.qld.gov.au/ruralandremote/