

Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council - Annual Activity Report 2014



RREAC Secretariat Note

In March 2015 a new Chair was appointed to RREAC and RREAC reviewed and refined the 2015 focus areas foreshadowed in the Annual Activity Report 2014. RREAC's 2015/2016 focus areas may now differ in some respects from those envisaged in this Report.

Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council (RREAC)

Annual Activity Report

2014





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Introduction

RREAC consists of representatives from various community groups who are consumers of, or have a strong vested interest in, rural and remote education in Western Australia.

Members of the Council are appointed by the Minister for Education. A list of members for this reporting period is provided at section 1.10.

The Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council (RREAC) was established in 1997 to provide advice to the then Minister for Education and Training with evidenced-based and solutions-focussed strategic advice on educational issues and developments in rural and remote areas of the Western Australian. In May 2006 the Council underwent a restructure, including the appointment of rural Members of Parliament as the Chair and Deputy Chair. New Terms of Reference were constructed to provide a more strategic focus.

The restructured RREAC separated the voice of the 'community /consumer' of education and training in rural and remote areas from the funders/providers of these services. The membership of the formal council includes the Cabinet endorsed-Ministerially appointed representatives and agents of the community and consumer interests. Providers and funders of education and training services are ex-officio members of the council. The RREAC secretariat comprises a part-time Principal Executive Officer and a part-time Administration Assistant.

In 2009-10 the then Minister for Education, the Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA, reconstituted the council: The Terms of Reference were reviewed, new members were appointed and specific 'Minister's Directions' were issued prior to the first meeting of the reconstituted council being held on the 6 August 2010.

The Hon Minister Peter Collier MLC was appointed Minister of Education in 2012. The Minister attended several RREAC meetings during 2013 and encouraged short self-initiated reports on rural, regional and remote matters.

In 2012 the two groups 'community /consumer' of education and training in rural and remote areas and funders/providers of these services unanimously agreed to meet together as it provides the opportunity for open discussion and feedback.

Following the State elections in 2013 Cabinet appointed the Hon Brian Ellis MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region and the Hon Jaqui Boydell MLC, Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively. The RREAC membership is drawn from various consumer/community and funder/provider groups with a strong interest in rural and remote education in Western Australia. The members use their experience, skills and attributes or qualifications to perform their advisory function. The funder/providers of educational services are ex-officio members of RREAC.



Functions of the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council

RREAC's Terms of Reference for this reporting period were:

- To provide the Minister for Education with evidence-based, and solution-focused strategic advice on education and training issues and developments in rural and remote areas of the State.
- To provide specific strategic advice on the education services that give senior secondary students in rural and remote areas equitable opportunities for compulsory participation in education and training.
- To advise about rural and remote community and consumer interests in education and training.
- To ensure strategic advice is provided from a cross-sectoral perspective across the schools, training and higher education sectors and encompasses both the public and private provision.



Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council Structure

The Council comprises a chairperson and deputy chairperson (Members of Parliament), representatives from community/consumer group and fund/providers. RREAC is responsible for providing the Minister for Education with strategic advice on education and training issues and developments in rural and remote areas of the State.

Community/Consumer Representatives:

- Aboriginal Education and Training Council
- Chamber of Minerals and Energy (vacant)
- Country Women's Association of Western Australia
- Department of Regional Development and Lands
- Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council of WA Inc
- Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA (Inc)
- Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia Inc
- Regional Development Council
- State School Teachers Union of Western Australia
- WAFarmers
- Western Australian Council of State School Organisations Inc
- Western Australian Local Government Association

Funder/Provider Representatives:

- Association of Independent School of Western Australia
- Catholic Education Office of Western Australia
- Department of Education
- Department of Education Services
- Department of Training and Workforce Development
- WA Universities



Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Member for Agricultural Region
CHAIR RREAC

Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC
Member for Mining
& Pastoral Region
DEPUTY CHAIR RREAC

Community/Consumer

Mr Stephen Albert
WA Aboriginal Education
and Training Council

Ms Wendy Newman
Regional Development
Council

Ms Kylie Catto
WA Council of State
School Organisations

Mrs Deborah Rice
Dept of Regional
Development: Community
Resource Network

Ms Kay Gerard
Food, Fibre &
Timber Industries
Training Council

Ms Natalie Gianoco
Parents and Friends
Federation of WA Inc

Mr Lincoln Rose
State School
Teachers' Union of WA;
Independent Education
Union of WA

Mrs Liz Sudlow
Isolated Children's
Parents' Association
of WA

Mrs Patricia Leake
WAFarmers

Mrs Brenda Williamson
Country Women's
Association of WA

Mr Christopher Mitchell
WA Local Government
Association

Vacant
The Chamber of
Minerals and Energy

Funder/Provider

Dr Tony Curry
Catholic Education
Office of WA

Mr Stephen Baxter
Department of
Education

Dr Ross Kelly
Department of
Training and Workforce
Development

Mr Gary Robinson
Association of
Independent Schools
of WA

Mr Richard Strickland
Department of
Education Services

Prof Sue Trinidad
WA Universities

Secretariat

Mrs Emilia Terry
Department of Education Services



Overview 2014

RREAC met on five occasions in 2014 which included a meeting in the Goldfields Region.

In March 2014 RREAC finalised and forwarded to the Minister for Education its report on the Great Southern Regional Meeting that was centred in Albany. Three key recommendations that focused on the role Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers and technology were included.

Recommendations within the report endorsed by the Minister have been actioned with responses received from all education sectors/providers. RREAC continues to progress these actions.

In 2013 RREAC initiated a regional meeting in the Great Southern Region in partnership with the Aboriginal Education and Training Council (AETC) that fostered the sharing of information between Councils. As a result of the success of this combined meeting RREAC and AETC committed to hosting a regional meeting annually.

Inherent to the Western Australian Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Education and Training 2011-2015 is the realisation and acknowledgement that the achievement of our progress towards attaining outcomes/goals/targets contained therein are much dependent upon joint meetings with education providers, or their representatives including the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council (RREAC). The joint meeting between RREAC and WAAETC contributes to "Closing the Gap" by both Councils jointly building individual and community capacity suited to Aboriginal learning, parent and family engagement in rural and remote schools. Long term involvement of both Councils is a means of achieving coordinated state-wide Aboriginal advisory structures in all education/training sectors.

The 2014 RREAC and the AETC regional meeting was held in Kalgoorlie from October 29 – 31 October.



Meetings 2014

During 2014 RREAC met on the following occasions:

21 March 2014

Meeting attended by Ms Sharyn O'Neill, Director General, Department of Education and Ms Jacqueline McGowan Jones, Executive Director Aboriginal Education, Department of Education.

Meeting Focus:

1. Educational Aspects of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee. Ms O'Neill provided a brief historical overview of the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC). AACC was established under section 19 of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act (1972). Discussion continued on the composition of the AACC; overview of the Education component which has a range of priorities including: Vocational Education and Training; Early Years; Intervention; Change in Legislation re Attendance; Cultural Standards / Framework; and Promoting "closing the gap".

The Minister agreed to two priorities, namely:

1. Development of Cultural Standards (this will take 18 months in development; will be highly consultative – reference group).
2. Early Intervention - much research in this area – concept for the future and range of options to get 3 year olds engaged in informal schooling. A range of 3 year olds are already engaged – further options for considerations.

Further discussion focused on Otitis media, three year old education, Cultural Standards Framework and the role of AIEOs.

2. Year Seven (7) transition.

16 May 2014

Meeting Attended by Ms Lesley Street, A/Managing Director Institute for Professional Learning, Department of Education; Professor Celia Hammond: Vice Chancellor, University of Notre Dame; Mr Julian Smith, Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Notre Dame; Ms Pam Moss – Assistant Executive Director, Statewide Planning and Delivery; Mr Noel Chamberlain – Principal, Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Department of Education; Mr Jonathan Bromage – Deputy Principal, Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Department of Education; and, Mrs Linley Taylor – Head of Learning Area, English, Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Department of Education.

Meeting Focus: Meeting held at the Schools of Isolated and Distance Education.

1. Digital learning opportunities in the delivery of education programs to regional and remote students in WA.
2. Transition of Broome Campus into an Educational Pathway, Professional Training and Research hub.
3. Year Seven (7) transition.

15 August 2014

Meeting attended by Ms Juanita Healy, Director Policy and Planning SCSA; Mr Terry Boland, Program Director, Role Model & Leaders Australia; and, Ms Louise Morrison, Principal Consultant K-12 Coordination, Department of Education..



Meeting Focus:

1. Overview of the role of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority in reforming the structure of the Western Australian Certificate of Education and the implementation of minimum literacy and numeracy standards in secondary school reform. 23 August 2013
2. Role Models and Leaders Australia Programs - Indigenous Girls Sporting Academies Up4it Leadership Development Programs; Remote Community visits; and, Perth Leadership Camps - focus on attendance, retention and achievement
3. VETIS programs, policies and practices particularly in terms of regional and remote students. DoE priorities and focus for 2014-2015.
4. Year Seven (7) transition.
5. Geraldton Accommodation.

29-31 October - Regional Meeting in Goldfields (Kalgoorlie/Coolgardie).

Attended by the Hon Peter Collier MLC Minister for Education; Aubrey Lynch, Wongatha Goldfields Elder; Mr Kevin Doig, Managing Director Goldfields Institute; Mr Ken Perris, Regional Executive Director, Department of Education; Sarah Fletcher, Goldfields Esperance Development Commission, Mr Bill McKenzie, Goldfields Esperance Tertiary Education Alliance; Mr Darren Cooke, Goldfields Education Mining Industry Alliance Inc; Ms Chris Boase, Northern Goldfields and Industry Perspective; Kurtis Leslie, Principal Coolgardie CAPS; Mr Stephen Delfs, Principal, O'Connor Primary School, Ms Sandi Fielder, Deputy Principal, O'Connor Primary School; Ms Eloise Jansen van Vuuren, Principal, Kalgoorlie School of the Air; Mr Les Crawley, VET Coordination Goldfields / Participation Officer Esperance.

Meeting Focus:

1. Discussion with Minister Collier on the role of AIEOs; ATAs and AEWs, difference in roles across sectors. Issues, challenges; and, Child and Parent Centres.
2. Combined meeting RREAC / WAAETC - discussion on session with the Hon Peter Collier Minister for Education; pathways to higher education in the Goldfields re WACE changes.
3. Goldfields Institute – historical overview; training in the Goldfields; Hall of Fame training venue; managing outreach programs; the future.
4. Overview education in the Goldfields/Esperance Education Region; issues; challenges; impact of year Sevens (7s); Cultural Awareness – school self-assessment; PALS program; Schools of the Air/School of Isolated and Distance Education; choice and access by regional students; retention of teachers; Lands Schools – success, sustainability; and, workforce management.
5. GEMIA Volunteer Alliance - Mining Industry Professional Government Agencies, Educators, Carers, Advocates and likeminded community organisation aiming to provide a coordinated approach to the interaction between the mining industry and local students and community members by bringing together key stakeholders. 4 Key Strategic Pillars - Addressing skill shortages, demonstrating local opportunity for local people; encouraging understanding of mining industry and participation of women and aboriginal people
6. Goldfields Esperance Workforce Development Alliance – Focus: education as a tool for retaining people in the town.
7. Coolgardie Christian Aboriginal Parent Directed School (CAPS) – historical growth; students; improving confidence and student self-esteem; expectations; programs; challenges.
8. Partnering Education and Training in the North East Goldfields.
9. Attraction and retention program focusing on pre-service teachers experiencing rural life; Stories to be shared.
10. Overview – Kalgoorlie School of the Air – staffing; resourcing; supervision; role of home tutors; location of students, issues and challenges.



11. Availability of VET programs in the Goldfields; access to RTOs; Issues with teacher qualifications; viable class numbers; and, workplace experience.

21 November 2014

Meeting Focus:

1. Accommodation at Murdoch;
2. Unmet Demand for Higher Education in Regional Western Australia
3. Geraldton Accommodation.
4. Actions arising from Regional meeting in Kalgoorlie regarding VETIS.
5. Membership of RREAC and Strategic Planning for 2015; identification of priority issues and focus for 2015.
6. Year Seven transition
7. Reports from stakeholders.



Outcomes 2014

The following report was presented to the Minister during 2014:

Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council Regional Meeting in the Great Southern Region

The Chair, Deputy Chair and Councillors of RREAC affirmed that, as part of the Council's core business, the opportunity to experience first-hand education in a regional context is paramount. RREAC investigated a number of options for its 2013 regional meeting. Investigation confirmed that the Great Southern Region (centre Albany) offered opportunities in terms of regional development, education provided by a range of systems and sectors plus opportunity to experience in real time, education and training in the regional context.

As an innovation RREAC worked with the Aboriginal Education and Training Council (AETC) to co-host this regional meeting.

1. Program:

A comprehensive program was provided for the Council and meetings and visitations included a range of relevant stake holders involved in education and training including:

- Chief Executive Officer, Great Southern Regional Development Commission
- Regional Executive Director, Great Southern Education Region;
- North Albany Senior High School (Department of Education);
- Mount Barker Community College (Department of Education);
- CARE School – ALTA-1 (AISWA);
- St Joseph's College (Catholic Education Office);
- Parent and Community Engagement program;
- The University of WA (Albany Campus);
- Reconciliation WA;
- Great Southern Employment Development Committee In;
- Partnership Brokers – Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations.

2. Purpose:

- Verify the work RREAC completed on early childhood education and care, the delivery and access to higher education and the future uses of technology in the delivery of education;
- Ensure that council members were attuned to the many issues and challenges facing regional students, staff, families, communities, and the strategies employed to overcome disadvantage and maximise outcomes; and to
- Expose the council members first hand to the varied educational environment in the Albany region (early childhood; primary; secondary; tertiary; agricultural education; alternative education for disaffected youth) and enable them to receive reports directly from those engaged in the delivery of education on the many issues and challenges facing regional and remote students, staff, families, communities and the strategies employed to overcome disadvantage and maximise outcomes.

3. Key issues as noted by RREAC

- Nature of Funding Projects - RREAC noted that, in many instances, projects were initially dependent on seed funding. As a result of the unpredictable nature of sustained funding it has proven difficult to gain long term commitment from project officer and personnel and to fully engage and build trust with key stakeholders. Due to the nature of projects most cannot deliver measureable key objects and outcomes within a twelve month period and the expectation is there that ongoing funding will be available.
In a regional context, rarely will such progress be financially sustainable beyond the "pilot".



Increasing demands on local groups means they must make hard decisions on what they can or cannot do.

- **Regional Education Plans** - One of the key capacities in delivering economic growth for the regions is human capacity. Education obviously is a key underpinning to building this capacity. RREAC has over many years documented issues and strategies to address gaps in regional education. Specifically, recent RREAC reports on technology, early education, higher education and remote education have been forwarded to Commissions for consideration in their Blueprint development.
- **Education for the disengaged** - RREAC noted the importance of education for disengaged youth in the Albany region. The Auditor General Western Australia Report 'Every Day Counts: Managing Student Attendance in Western Australian Public Schools' highlighted attendance as a key factor resulting in disengaged youth. The report concluded that of the more than 177 000 students in Years 1 to 10 in WA's public schools in 2008, almost 49 000 (28 per cent) are at educational risk because they are not attending school regularly. Poor school attendance is a significant problem among Indigenous and non-Indigenous students:
- **Community College Model** - RREAC members spent half a day with staff and students at Mount Barker Community College. The college is a Kindergarten to Year12 public school, situated 50km north of Albany. Students come from Mount Barker and the surrounding rural communities. Approximately 7% of students are indigenous and a similar number from Afghanistan.

RREAC endorses the community college model at Mount Barker and noted its success in engaging both students and the wider community. Similarly, Merredin College operates in a similar manner. Key factors leading to success include strong leadership, capacity building, inter agency networking – people working together (health and education), and partnerships.

- **On-line learning** - The biggest impact over last number of years in the Great Southern Region has been video conferencing. North Albany Senior High School (NASHS) is the lead school with the Great Southern Cluster comprising 6 schools. 8 senior school courses are taught via video conferencing with positive face-to-face interaction taking place. A significant advantage is the interaction between schools and teacher involved e.g. professional development conducted from NASHS throughout the year. Revision seminars are also delivered to regional towns such as Katanning.

Recommendation:

RREAC recommended that the Minister notes this report on the issues raised during RREAC's regional meeting in the Great Southern Region (centred in Albany) in September 2013.

Ongoing Report: Regional Meeting Broome 2012

The following Discussion Question was provided to Minister Collier to respond to in Kalgoorlie

"Minister Collier, we are aware of the newly announced 'Indigenous Advancement Strategy' by the Federal Government. RREAC is particularly interested in the 'Indigenous Advancement - Children and Schooling Programme' – and what will this mean for Western Australia given RREAC has made recommendations regarding AIEO's, AEWs and ATAs and the importance of these roles. We are aware that Denise Craig from the Perth Indigenous Affairs Network - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is the contact person. How will this new Federal program work through/with your Department?"



We are concerned that the roles of AIEOs, AEW's and ATA's risk becoming 'people dependent' not system dependent. In that the roles (and subsequent services provided) at each school is dependent on the person in the role. "People dependent" services are not sustainable whereas 'system dependent' ones are.

Background

In 2013 RREAC submitted a report, as part of its core business, on the RREAC Council's Regional Meeting held in Broome from the 9-11 May 2012. The report noted the following recommendation relating to the role of (AIEOs), (AEWs) and (ATAs), namely:

- *The critical role AIEOs play well beyond their support to teaching staff, including examining ways in which this work can be better acknowledged, supported and experience and professionalism shared across communities; embracing, fostering and developing Aboriginal leadership in the school; enhancing quality teaching and learning programs around Two Way practices to cater for ESL needs of the learner; developing respectful partnerships with the community around their priorities including attendance.*

Through the Minister RREAC sought information on AIEOs, AEWs and ATAs from the catholic Education Office of Western Australia (CEOWA), the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) and the Department of Education (DoE). The three sectors provided comprehensive responses covering the role of, and support for, these staff. In addition DoE's AIEO program was reviewed by Edith Cowan University.

The Indigenous Advancement Strategy was announced by the Federal Government earlier this year. The education element, Children and Schooling Program, is one of five programs whereby schools/organisations could apply for funding to support and enhance education outcomes specifically related to attendance, Year 12 achievement and transition to higher education and/or employment. Submissions to the department of Prime Minister and Cabinet closed on October 17. Submissions will be considered by panels under each program element.

Through discussion with the Minister

Federal Government – the jury is still out regarding the funding model. \$5 billion in total funding will be streamlined but how it comes out in practice will be interesting. AIEOs, ATAs and AEWs roles are fundamentally similar in that they are assistants to Aboriginal students in the classroom. Issues across the 3 sectors also remain the same.

Currently there are 500 AIEOs in the state system. Retention within the school environment is a major issue.

The number of AIEOs was reduced by 97, but at that stage 85 positions had not been filled – currently there are 40 positions not filled. Attraction and retention are the two key prime issues that need to be addressed.

Retaining assistants has always been an issue – many positions are filled by younger members of the community who move on to other communities, other jobs or progress educationally into formal teaching. In some instance this may occur over a few weeks, a few months or maybe years. AIEOs perform a pivotal role; however, it is difficult to encourage Aboriginal people to remain in these positions.



Many AIEOs are under-utilised and are being given administrative positions rather than taking on home visits/intervention. This has happened in Hedland also with ATAs in Broome. The best way to handle this is to involve parents in discussions.

Funding is clearly identified for Aboriginal Education but it is up to the schools to determine if they will fund AIEOs.

Question: There is a difference within roles in each school – is there a way of making this more streamlined?

This could be done but potentially there is a problem regarding the difference in “mobs” – therefore there is a reluctance to develop a proforma. However, there is a set of criteria but we must retain a system that allows for individual system needs to be met. A holistic focus is necessary – must develop an understanding of status within the school community, relationships and teacher attitudes. Interaction within community and school is very important.

At this stage the biggest issue we have is that 38.9FTE are not filled. There is no doubt that the schools are not doing this intentionally. Schools also have the capacity to utilize funding to appoint more AIEOs.



Presenters / Guests: 3 May 2014 Meeting

The following people presented information at RREAC meetings during this reporting period.

Name	Position/Organisation	Topic
Ms Sharyn O'Neill	Director General, Department of Education	Education aspects of Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee
Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones	A/Executive Director, Aboriginal Education, Department of Education	Education aspects of Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee
Ms Kay Gerard	Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council (WA) Inc.	Report by Stakeholder on current status FFTITC WA
Ms Patricia Leake	WA Farmers' Federation	Report by Stakeholder on current status WA Farmers' Federation
Ms Kylie Cato	President, WA Council of State School Organisations	Report by Stakeholder on current status/issues of WACSSO
Mr Lincoln Rose	President, SSTUWA and representative IEU	Report by Stakeholder on current status/issues of SSTUWA and IEU
Mr Gary Robinson	Association of Independent Schools	Report by Stakeholder on current status AISWA
Mr David Lloyd	Department of Education Services	Report by Stakeholder on current status DES
Mr Michael Ciccarelli	Catholic Education Office, Kimberley Region	Report by Stakeholder on current status CEO
Hon Jacquie Boydell MLC	Deputy Chairperson	Jacquie noted that she had attended the ICPA conference.
Mr Lindsay Hale	Executive Director Department of Education	Report by Stakeholder on the current status/issues of the Department of Education; including brief update on the movement of public school Year 7s to secondary schools.
Ms Kylie Catto	President WACSSO	Report by Stakeholder on current status WACSSO
Mr Stephen Albert	WA Aboriginal Education & Training Council	Report by Stakeholder regarding NARIS program; tertiary education.



Mr Christopher Mitchell	Western Australian Local Government Authority	Report by Stakeholder on current status WALGA re attendance at meeting/workshop with Margaret Seares – review of WA VET and State Training Providers.
Prof Sue Trinidad	WA Universities	Report by Stakeholder on current status Regarding higher education in universities.



Presenters / Guests: 16 May 2014 Meeting

Name	Position/Organisation	Topic
Ms Leslie Street	A/Managing Director. PLI, Department of Education	Role of the Institute for Professional Learning in serving departmental staff.
Professor Celia Hammond	Pro Vice Chancellor, The University of Notre Dame	Transition of Broome Campus into an Educational Pathway, Professional Training and Research hub
Mr Julian Smith	Office of the Vice Chancellor, The University of Notre Dame	Transition of Broome Campus into an Educational Pathway, Professional Training and Research hub.
Ms Pam Moss	Assistant Executive Director, Statewide Planning and Delivery	Embracing digital learning opportunities in the delivery of educational programs to regional and remote students in WA.
Mr Noel Chamberlain	Principal, Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Department of Education	Embracing digital learning opportunities in the delivery of educational programs to regional and remote students in WA.
Mr Jonathan Bromage	Deputy Principal, Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Department of Education	Embracing digital learning opportunities in the delivery of educational programs to regional and remote students in WA.
Mrs Linley Taylor	Head of Learning Area, English, Schools of Isolated and Distance Education, Department of Education	Embracing digital learning opportunities in the delivery of educational programs to regional and remote students in WA.
Mr Lindsay Hale	Executive Director, Statewide Policy and Planning	Year 7 Transition; Auditor General's Report
Mr Michael Ciccarelli	Catholic Education Office of WA	Report by Stakeholder on the current status CEOWA
Mr Stephen Albert	WA Aboriginal Education and Training Council	Report by Stakeholder on the current status/issues of the AETC
Ms Liz Sudlow	Isolated Country Parents Association	Report by Stakeholder on current issues/status ICPA WA
Ms Deborah Rice	Department of Regional Development and Lands	Report by Stakeholder on current status DRDL
Mr Gary Robinson	Association of Independent Schools	Report by Stakeholder on current status/issues of AISWA



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Ms Kay Gerrard	Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council	Report by Stakeholder on current status FFTITC
Prof Sue Trinidad	WA Universities	Report by Stakeholder on the current status and issues of WA Universities
Ms Pam Moss	Assistant Executive Director, Statewide Planning and Delivery	Report on DoE Agricultural colleges
Ms Brenda Williamson	Country Women's Association	Report by Stakeholder on the current status issues of CWA



Presenters / Guests: 15 August 2014 Meeting

Name	Position/Organisation	Topic
Ms Juanita Healy	Director Policy & Planning School Curriculum and Standards Authority	Overview of the role of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority in reforming the structure of the Western Australian Certificate of Education and the implementation of minimum literacy and numeracy standards in secondary school reform.
Mr Terry Boland	Program Director, Role Model & Leaders Australia	Role Models and Leaders Australia Programs for Girls.
Ms Louise Morrison	Principal Consultant, K-12 Coordination, Department of Education	Department of Education, VETiS programs, policies and practices particularly in terms of regional and remote students. DoE priorities and focus for 2014-2015.
Mr Stephen Baxter	Executive Director, Department of Education	Year 7 Transition
Ms Liz Sudlow	Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA	ICPA Report to the Minister



Presenters / Guests: 29-31 October Regional Meeting - Goldfields

Name	Position/Organisation	Topic
Hon Peter Collier MLC	Minister for Education	Discussion and attendance at regional meeting on 29 October 2014
Mr Aubrey Lynch	Wongatha Goldfields Elder	Welcome to Country
Mr Kevin Doig	Managing Director Goldfields Institute	Overview Goldfields Institute and provision of Vocational Education and Training Certificate courses.
Mr Ken Perris	Regional Executive Director, Goldfields-Esperance Education Region	Overview of Education in the Goldfields Esperance Education Region; impact of Year 7's; school self-assessment -cultural awareness; School of the Air; Lands Schools, continuity/succession planning, retention of teachers; PALS Program.
Mr Darren Cooke	Northern Star Resources	Goldfields Education Mining Industry Alliance (GEMIA)
Mr Bill McKenzie	McKenzie & McKenzie Lawyers	Goldfields-Esperance Workforce Development Alliance
Ms Christine Boase	AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited	Partnering Education and Training NE Goldfields
Ms Sarah Fletcher	Goldfields Esperance Development Commission	My plan for the future Year 9 and 10 Survey 2013
Mr Kurtis Leslie	Principal Coolgardie CAPS	Historical growth; students; improving confidence and student self-esteem; expectations; programs; challenges.
Mr Stephen Delfs	Principal, O'Connor Primary School	Pre-Service Attraction and Retention program
Ms Sandi Fielder	Deputy Principal, O'Connor Primary School	
MS Eloise Juren Van Vuuren	Principal, Kalgoorlie School of the Air	Overview – Kalgoorlie School of the Air – staffing; resourcing; supervision; role of home tutors; location of students, issues and challenges.
Mr Leslie Crawley	VET Coordination Goldfields / Participation Officer Esperance	Availability of VET programs in the Goldfields; access to RTOs; Issues with teacher qualifications; viable class numbers; and, workplace experience.

**Presenters / Guests: 21 November 2014 Meeting**

Name	Position/Organisation	Topic
Ms Pam Moss	Assistant Executive Director, Statewide Policy & Planning	Year 7 Transition
Ms Pam Moss	Assistant Executive Director Department of Education	Report by Stakeholder on the current status/issues of the Department of Education; record number of students; sustainable education funding model; more autonomy for schools; year 7 move to secondary schools; exit of half cohort; the new WACE; Strengthening the capacity of regional schools to deliver excellent educational opportunities for their students; focus 2015.
Dr Ross Kelly	Department of Training & Workforce Development	Report by Stakeholder on current status of DTWD VET in Schools including: reform agenda; initiatives at improving the quality and outcomes of VETiS programs; work of the DTWD – reviews; work commenced on School and Industry Engagement Framework; key priorities for the VETiS reform agenda for 2015.
Ms Wendy Newman	CEO Wheatbelt Development Commission	Written report by Stakeholder on current status/issues of the Regional Development Council - Regional Development Portfolio in terms of: Youth, Higher Education and general education reform. Early days yet, but the blueprints identify these as whole of region issues.
Ms Brenda Williamson	Country Women's' Association	Verbal report - Boarding issue in Geraldton – two options: Option2 – no upfront fee – may be more attractive. Hope that CEO looks at Option 1 seriously. Interesting to see what pressures may merge down the track.
Mr Stephen Albert	WA Aboriginal Education and Training Council	Verbal report - Development of a DVD at Wangkatjungka (a large Aboriginal community, located 130 km south east of Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley region of Western Australia) about amputation due to diabetes; talk to students regarding diet; the World Health Organisation puts out information about diabetes – prevalent in the Pilbara – increased significantly. Eagle Bay and other schools in 2015. Candidates for blindness; heart attack; amputation.



Ms Kay Gerard	Food, Fibre and Timber Industries Training Council (WA) Inc.	Report by Stakeholder on current status FFTITC WA including: Vet in Schools – strategic audit; School, Industry Engagement Framework; National taskforce VET Reform; Muresk Institute – new diploma in Agricultural Technologies; new Certificate III Agricultural Skills Set; Muresk Noongar land Management Project; thin markets;
Ms Liz Sudlow	ICPA WA	Report by Stakeholder on current status of ICPA WA including: 2014 Federal Conference; WA State council Meetings; Current issues – Geraldton Residential college; distance education; NBN internet places; school closures; District High Schools.
Prof Sue Trinidad	WA Universities	Report by Stakeholder on current status WA Universities including: WA Universities student housing; Summary of UWA student accommodation; summary of Curtin University student housing; summary of ECU student housing; summary of Murdoch University student accommodation; University student accommodation overview 2014; updates of higher education in our regions – unmet demand in our regional WA report; UWA Pilbara feasibility study, Capes Higher Education Taskforce – pre-feasibility study; Commonwealth White Paper; from the newspapers.
Mr Norman Brahim	Catholic Education Office WA	Report by Stakeholder on the current status/issues CEO WA including: August census 2014; Aboriginal Employment Strategy; Kimberley ATA Up-Skilling; Aboriginal School Leadership project (Pilot); Indigenous Advancement Strategy; Goldfields, Esperance and Southern Cross; Kimberley Calling Program.
Mr Lincoln Rose	President SSTUWA and IEU Representative	Verbal Report by Stakeholder on the current status/issues of SSTUWA and IEU. SSTUWA working with schools; negotiating 2 EBAs that expire at end of the year. Impact of 2.75% and 2.5% increases over the next two years respectively. Impact of allowances particularly on regional teachers. Attraction and retention and impact of redundancies; redeployment issues particularly with Year 7 transition are issues. VETiS – funding for 2015 still unknown – big concerns for schools re staffing / funding – urging government to resolve.



Mr Gary Robinson	Association of Independent Schools	Report by Stakeholder on current status AISWA including: Year 7 changes; Aboriginal Education Workers; Teacher Training; VETiS; rural accommodation; Aboriginal Community Schools.
Ms Trish Leake	WAFarmers	Verbal Report - Many issues don't change – include: Tertiary Education; Accommodation; Year 7 issues; concept of brain drain in regional areas.
Ms Natalie Giancono	Parents and Friends Federation of WA	Report by Stakeholder on current status of PFFWA: representation and advocacy; parental engagement and community involvement; organisation development; forward focus 2015.
Ms Emmy Terry	Principal Consultant RREAC	Murdoch University: School Advisory Board; Secretariat Report & SPERA Conference 2015 at Deakin University: Geelong Waterfront Campus.



Outlook 2015

Following discussion at the RREAC meeting held on 23 November 2014 RREAC Council determined that it would focus on the following priorities:

Key topics:

- Membership of RREAC – optimum size, relevance of current groups, appropriate other groups to be represented (e.g. Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry) – recommendations to Minister. What is the optimum size for a council – are we effective re-decision making? Should we consider other possible member e.g. regional Chamber of Commerce? In the past, RREAC had split meetings with stakeholders and funder providers. The Council decided in 2012 that it was more productive to have joint meetings. Is this still the case? Is there opportunity to break into sub-committees for various advice issues?
 - A planning day needs to focus on strategic priorities.
 - Do stakeholders feel they are getting their worth out of RREAC?
 - RREAC is an advisory body to the Minister? More reports to the Minister. Possible: Report on Accommodation?
 - More proactive: Feedback from stakeholders is essential.
 - Does the Council have enough input from Chair/Deputy Chair/Secretariat? Direction from the Minister? As deputy chair valuable to take back discussion to constituents and colleagues; also asked what RREAC thinks about it?
 - A unique council – no other State in Australia has stakeholders from such a wide group, with all education sectors/systems coming together with other stakeholders.
 - We had direction from Minister re attraction and retention of regional teachers. Past reports have been succinct where RREAC has identified issues, undertaken research /data analysis and then made a recommendation/s.
Brian Ellis will discuss with the Minister the composition of RREAC.
- School of the Air – discussion re SIDE and duplication of resources. Curriculum development team at SIDE – team of 8 – SIDE has just finished collaborating with the Schools of the Air. Teachers having to undertake a group of tasks not necessarily teaching duties.
- Difficulties of the internship stipend – all needed support from parents or partners in Perth. Allocation is \$260 - \$150 for rent not much leftover. Only people who were lucky enough to have support could participate in the internship program. Two programs - six week program; three term program.
- Attraction and Retention of staff in remote locations – internship stipend – listed as a priority for 2015
- Value of joint meetings with Aboriginal Education and Training Council – and opportunity for collaboration re reporting to Minister

Priority issues:

1. WACE – impact on regional schools – Minister has got together six Chief Executive Officer's to deal with the WACE issues and in particular – WACE – Certificate 2.
2. Higher education in the regions - needs to be more than just universities – post secondary provision / access / quality / how maintained.
3. The future of District High schools – the need for a new model of education for small communities. *Issue:* provision of regional secondary as a whole; gap between city and regions is getting bigger and bigger. Current model of DHS may not deliver – a model from the past. Include small schools with secondary tops.
Problems in the regions may also exist in the city.
Scope into 1 pager?
What happens in other state; regional development commission reports? Sub-committees?



Literacy and numeracy – many apprentices– drop out – this is an issue?

4. Potential Indigenous communities and closure of remote communities what impact this may have on schools? Impacts on education in a larger sense.
5. Potential Indigenous communities and closure of remote communities what impact this may have on schools? Impacts on education in a larger sense.
6. ECE – cessation of Commonwealth funding – sustainability

Focus 2015

1. Attraction and retention – stipend for internship program
2. WACE – impact on regional schools - Provision of regional secondary education. Note: DoE provides students with option of an additional year – individual decision.
Action: Pam has volunteered to obtain more information.
3. Post-secondary provision / access / quality / how maintained?
4. Literacy and numeracy



Financial Provision

The expenses of RREAC are provided from within the annual budget of Department of Education Services (DES).

RREAC has a separate line item within DES's accounts.

For the financial year 2013/2014 RREAC was allocated a budget of \$131 000 including salary costs.

Member's Re-numeration

No RREAC members receive a salary or sitting fee

Travel and accommodation allowances are provided to non-public sector members who live beyond the metropolitan area.

Travel is by air where possible (cheapest fare). A rebate is provided for those Council members who need to drive to meetings from country locations based on the size of the motor of the vehicle.
Executive

As part of the 2010 restructure the Council was provided with two part time officers –principal executive officer and administrative support.

RREAC's staff provides support to DES on a needs basis.

Financial Statement

RREAC reports under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997, through the Department of Education Services' Annual Report and Financial Statement.



Meeting Dates 2015

Date	Venue	Time
Friday 13 March 2015	Department of Education Services; Level 9 Training Room M.02	8:30 – 3:00pm
Friday 15 May 2015	Department of Education Services; Level 9 Training Room M.03	8:30 – 3:00pm
Wednesday 26 August – Friday 28 August 2015	Regional Meeting in Karratha	TBA
Wednesday 29 October - Friday 31 October	Department of Education Services; Level 9 Training Room M.03	8:30 – 3.00pm
Friday 21 November 2014	Wollaston Conference Centre Mount Claremont	8:30 – 1:00

