

Message from Chair and Deputy Chair:

The Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council (RREAC) was established in 1997 to provide advice to the Minister for Education and Training on the education and training needs of rural and remote Western Australians. In May 2006, it underwent a 'restructure' with the appointment of rural Members of Parliament as the Chair and Deputy Chair. The appointed members are Hon Matthew Benson-Lidholm, MLC, Member for South West Region and Mr Terry Waldron MLA, Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary National Party (WA) and member for Wagin. These appointments reinstate the original approach taken by the previous Government when RREAC was first established. New Terms of Reference have been constructed and indicate a more strategic focus of RREAC with the Government's priorities. The restructured RREAC separates the voice of the 'community' and the 'consumer' of education and training in rural and remote areas from the providers of these services. The membership of the formal Council includes the ministerial endorsed representatives and agents of the community and consumer interests. There is a RREAC secretariat, which comprises of a Director and an Administrative Assistant.

Terms of Reference:

1. To provide the Minister for Education and Training with evidence-based, and solutions-focussed, strategic advice on education and training issues and developments in rural and remote areas of the State.
2. To provide specific strategic advice on the education and training services that give senior secondary students in rural and remote areas equitable opportunities for compulsory participation in education and training.
3. To ensure strategic advice is provided from a cross-sectoral perspective across the schools, training and higher education sectors and encompasses both Government and non-Government provision.
4. To advocate rural and remote community and consumer interests in education and training.

Representatives who make up the Rural & Remote Education Advisory Council:

Community/ Consumer Representatives

- Aboriginal Education and Training Council;
- Chamber of Minerals and Energy;
- Country Women's Association of Western Australia;
- Independent Education Union of Western Australia /State School Teachers Union of Western Australia;
- Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA (Inc);
- Parents and Friends' Federation of Western Australia Inc;
- Regional Development Council;
- Telecentre Advisory Council;
- WA Farmers Federation;
- WA Primary Industries Training Council;
- WA Council of State School Organisations Inc ; and
- Western Australian Local Government Association.

Funder-Provider Representatives (Ex Officio)

- Association of Independent Schools in Western Australia (AISWA);
- Catholic Education Office of Western Australia;
- Department of Education & Training;
- Department of Local Government and Regional Development; and
- Universities.

Purpose of this Survey:

With the restructure of RREAC, it is opportune to canvass the views of the representatives of the Community/Consumer organisations. Such views need to be considered within the Terms of Reference (as above). With the collation of the data, a position/perspective will become apparent for each organisation as will the commonalities and differences. This information will be valuable in assisting RREAC address the Terms of Reference issued by the Minister of Education and Training.

Responses need to be submitted by Friday 8 June 2007.

In addition to assisting RREAC with its work, a brief report on the data collected will be provided to each of the organisations participating in the survey.

Hon Matthew Benson-Lidholm JP, MLC & Mr Terry Waldron JP, MLA

RURAL & REMOTE EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL SURVEY 2007

Organisation: _____

1. What do you see as the critical issues for education and training in rural and remote Western Australia?

2. What are the priorities in rural and remote education and training for your organisation and your community?

3. How can these issues and priorities be best addressed?

4. What are the positive things/aspects of rural and remote education and training?
