

Recipient Details

Name of organisation or individual: [O] IMPACT Centre

Reference Type: School

State or territory: Qld

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Responses

Curriculum and assessment

IRRRRE Discussion Paper Question 6.1.4

Are there other examples of innovative ways in which curriculum is being delivered in regional, rural and remote schools?

The IMPACT Centre uses the power of technology to connect specialist teachers to regional, rural and remote school communities.

- Over 8000 students from 273 schools across Queensland have participated in an IMPACT Centre online curriculum program in 2017.

- Reading, writing, numeracy, critical thinking and STEM programs are available to Queensland state schools.

- Importantly, all programs align to the Australian Curriculum and our model is proven and successful.

DET's Strategy and Performance Branch have analysed the NAPLAN results of students who have participated in IMPACT Centre programs since 2012. "Evidence suggests that participation in the IMPACT Centre's reading, writing, numeracy and critical thinking programs is associated with observable increases in student achievement in NAPLAN. The increases were evidenced by larger relative gains for IMPACT Centre students compared with students who started at the same point in previous NAPLAN tests but did not take part in an IMPACT Centre program. In addition, a larger percentage of IMPACT Centre students reached the Upper 2 Bands in NAPLAN compared to the group described above who did not take part".

Quote from Dr Roland Simons

Director - Strategy and Performance

Department of Education and Training (Queensland)

We are an initiative of the Queensland Government's Department of Education and Training and are very interested in sharing our proven and successful model with the Australian Government and other states and territories.

While community-based teachers are the foundation of regional, rural and remote education, we must further embrace technology and link students and educators with specialists based in other locations.

Approximately 58000 students from 600 Queensland schools have taken part in the IMPACT Centre's initiatives since 2011.

"When compared with national and international online learning initiatives for school-aged students, the IMPACT Centre offers one of the most innovative, well-conceptualized initiatives in the world."

Quote from Griffith University School of Education and Professional Studies, 2016.

Rating: 7

Teachers and teaching

IRRRRE Discussion Paper Question 6.2.3 and 6.2.4

What professional development should be available for teachers, schools and communities?

What innovative approaches could be taken to support a high quality teaching workforce for regional, rural and remote school communities?

The IMPACT Centre provides empowering professional learning opportunities to educators based in regional, rural and remote locations.

Hundreds of educators login to learn alongside their students and co-teach with IMPACT Centre specialist teachers. In the process, these educators build their capability to teach literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and STEM disciplines. They learn how to engage and extend students. They build up meaningful, long-lasting relationships with our specialist team.

Teachers and school leaders also access our professional learning programs and communities. Our reading, writing and numeracy squads assist them to add value to the programs their students are involved in. Our STEM Team and Aspiring Thinkers network and IMPACT Framework modules and community builds their capacity in relation to areas of interest and need.

"Through the STEM in Action project, the IMPACT Centre improved the teacher capability of primary school teachers and school leaders in teaching STEM. An extremely well organised and thorough research project. The program has evidence that demonstrates a positive measurable change."

Quote from Regan Spence

Manager – State Schools – Performance

Department of Education and Training (Queensland)

We also provide opportunities for local heroes via online teaching hubs located in urban, regional and rural schools or district offices.

Approximately 300 specialist teachers have worked in IMPACT Centre online teaching hubs since 2011. Our hub locations have included Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Maryborough, Toowoomba, Warwick, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane. What an opportunity to show how much we value the skills and abilities of local heroes in regional and rural locations.

"It has reinvigorated teachers from mainstream schools who have been recruited as quality practitioners, been coached, mentored and challenged throughout, and returned to their base school post-project with new skills and abilities to share with their students and colleagues."

Quote from Griffith University School of Education and Professional Studies, 2016.

Rating: 7

Leaders and leadership

Rating: 0

School and Community

Rating: 0

Information and Communication Technology

IRRRRE Discussion Paper Question 6.5.2

The IMPACT Centre provides an excellent model for strategic use of ICTs can be used to improve educational outcomes for regional, rural and remote students.

Our programs build capability at scale in high priority areas of study such as literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and STEM. Specialist teachers collaborate directly with students and educators from any location. University and industry experts work with the online teaching teams to advise on content and assessment, and are directly accessible to participating school communities via special online events and workshop days.

The end result is more capable and connected educators and highly engaged and successful students.

We work with schools from the New South Wales Border to the Torres Strait. Here are some of their stories.....

"A major benefit of these programs has been the confidence and connection aspect. It provides an opportunity to bring our students together across the island campuses through an online platform. Some of them are learning together for the first time and some are fortunate enough to join groups with students from other Queensland schools."

Quote from Kaylene Chippendale, Head of Campus, Tagai State College, Thursday Island (Torres Strait)

"The IMPACT Centre's initiatives ensure that students and staff based in rural and remote locations can connect with other students, colleagues and high-level experts in a regular, meaningful way."

Quote from Leanne Hohnke-Jansen, Principal, Bedourie State School (near Birdsville)

"It has widened our students' horizons and given them vital skills for use later in life. Courses such as Coding and Critical Thinking are providing our most academic students with amazing extension opportunities that they often wouldn't get in a normal classroom. It gives them exposure to uniquely challenging and rewarding learning experiences. This is something which is really exciting to witness as the students progress through the course and learn new skills. The students are challenged, engaged and well supported by their online teachers throughout the course."

Quote from Brian Harrington, Head of Department, Urangan State High School (Hervey Bay)

Rating: 7

Entrepreneurship and schools

Rating:

Improving access – enrolments, clusters, distance education and boarding

Rating for enrolments: 0

Rating for clusters: 0

Rating for distance education: 0

Rating for boarding: 0

Diversity

Rating: 0

Transitioning beyond school

Rating: 0

Additional Comments

The IMPACT Centre's model of delivery is successful, sustainable and transferable.

We would welcome interest from the Australian Government and other state and territory governments if their people are interested in learning more and discussing how we could replicate the IMPACT Centre's success across Australia.

Let's use the power of technology to inspire minds, connect communities and transform education.