



QCWA Resolutions carried at the 2019 State Conference

External Resolution: 7

Subject: Adding Dental Care to Medicare

Resolution in full: That QCWA strongly urges that dental care be added to Medicare.

Reason: Queensland currently has the worst oral health and longest waiting list in the country. COTA's State of the (Older) Nation Report in late 2018 found that Dental Services are the most difficult services to access, given many do not have private health insurance, largely because they cannot afford it.

Poor oral health can cause embarrassment and social isolation for many older Australians; can increase the risk of diabetes, heart disease and chronic malnutrition, especially in older people and has much broader impacts on physical and mental well-being.

Investing in proper oral and dental care for Australians is not only an investment in health and wellbeing of Australians, it is an important preventative health measure that will alleviate the longer-term pressure on our broader health system.

Burnett Division

External Resolution: 9

Subject: Advocacy for Midwifery Services

Resolution: That Queensland County Women's Association (QCWA) advocate for Midwifery Services to continue, especially in rural, regional, and remote areas. This will provide the continuity of care needed to give pregnant women, their babies, and families the best possible outcomes.

Reason: Hospital and maternity services are being closed in many rural, regional and remote areas. Women are being sent to maternity centres to give birth, often 3-4 weeks before their due date to prevent roadside births and possible complications.

This is affecting the whole family both financial and emotionally and putting both Mother and baby at increased risk.

Families must take time of work and often employ others to run their business/farm while they are away from home for weeks waiting for the birth of their baby. Older children are being taken out of school to accompany the family. The costs of having a baby increases while they are away from home and include lost wages, accommodation, food and living costs associated with living away from home for weeks while maintaining their homes, farms, and businesses.

Often extended family and friends are not able to accompany and support them at this time. So, mothers and families lose this valuable source of emotional and practical support.

The combination of these cutbacks to maternity services, hospitals and midwifery services is leading to increased health risks for Mothers and babies especially in rural, regional and remote communities.

Caboolture Branch

Greater Brisbane Division

Southern Region Conference



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Resolution No: 11

Subject: Pre-packaged lunchbox foods.

Resolution: That the QCWA Lobby the State and Federal Governments to reduce the amount of advertising promoting pre-packaged foods that are targeted as lunch box foods.

Reason: Many scientific studies and reports illustrate the long-term effects on our health and wellbeing of consuming food products that are high in sugar and saturated fat. Obesity, heart disease and dental health may all be impacted; children are at the greatest risk.

The resultant diseases apply additional stress to our health system.

By reducing the commercial attributes associated with these products, consumers will turn to healthier alternatives such as fruit which is naturally sweet and healthy.

**Mount Morgan Branch
Capricornia Division**

Resolution: 13

Subject: Recognise Irlen Syndrome as a medical condition

Resolution: That the QCWA lobby both Federal and State Departments of Health to recognise Irlen Syndrome (Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome) as a medical condition claimable through Medicare.

Reason: People with this syndrome can experience one or more of the following affected and academic work performance and behaviour issues: attention difficulties; inability to sit still; lack of concern. Some of the visual effects that Irlen's causes can include written words shifting, dancing, waving, moving forward and back. Students who have been tested and have received Filtered show a substantial improvement in their academic studies and behaviour.

**Woodstock Branch
Northern Division**

Amendment to the Resolution:

That QCWA lobby the relevant Departments of Health to recognise Irlen Syndrome (Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome) as a medical condition.

The amendment now becomes the Resolution:

That QCWA lobby the relevant Departments of Health to recognise Irlen Syndrome (Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome) as a medical condition.

CARRIED

Resolution: 15

Subject: Milk Labelling

Resolution: That QCWA strongly urges the federal government to change the Food Standards Code so that plant-based products can no longer use the term '*milk*' in their labelling and marketing.

Reason: Products made from Soy, Nuts, Coconut and Rice are using the term milk in their title even though they do not use milk as an ingredient.

**Burnett Division
Central Region Conference**



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Resolution: 16

Subject: Introduction of Health Bus

Resolution: That the QCWA strongly urge the Federal Government for the implementation of a mobile health service, along the lines of the '*Golden Wattle*' and '*Desert Rose*' which travel around the country to provide Australians with information and access to Australian Government health services.

Reason: The introduction of a mobile rural health bus/facility would benefit the rural community where services are not available in the area or are infrequently accessible.

The mobile health service, would ideally have doctors, nurses, and allied health staff on board to assist with health checks, providing essential medical services in areas where they may not currently exist or where access is infrequent.

Although Telehealth gives access via video conferencing to those who face barriers to accessing services, face to face health supports and services in drought affected areas for young people, their families and communities are still a much-needed service.

Burnett Division

Central Region Conference

Resolution: 17

Subject: Speech Therapy Services to Rural and Remote Queensland

Resolution: QCWA urgently request the State Government to increase the services and funding available to children who require speech therapy services in rural and remote Queensland.

Reason: Currently there is no adequate services provided nor funding for school aged children requiring speech therapy in rural and regional Queensland.

These children are required to access private speech therapists, often involving long distance travel out of their hometowns as neither Queensland Health, nor Education Queensland, meet this need.

This financial burden and travel requirements significantly impact daily family life, placing undue pressure on the mental wellbeing of both the parent and the child. The long-term ramifications for the lack of these services are immeasurable.

Monto/Bancroft Branch

Port Curtis Division

Resolution: 6

Subject: Honey Beehives on public land.

Resolution: That the QCWA lobby the State and Federal Ministers for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to withdraw the closure of public lands by 2024 to apiary permit holders for honey production.

Reason: It has been recorded since 1824 beekeeping has been in existence to produce honey. Over time more than 3000 beekeepers have been registered in Queensland with more than 119,000 hives



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recorded. These hives have a value in excess of \$14 million dollars in honey production. This does not include the sales of beeswax and queen bees.

The Queensland Bee industry is paramount to the ongoing existence of the Queensland Agriculture and Horticulture industries. Beekeepers are paid for the use of their bees to pollinate crops so that fruit and vegetables are grown for the commercial market and export industry. At one stage there were more than 2000 registered beehives in the Granite Belt region. As per the 2014 legislation some 800,000 hectares of land will be taken out of use for honey production. This translates that honeybees will be removed from more than 70% of Qld honey resources. 80% of honey produced in Queensland comes from the Queensland Government controlled native forests. Trees such as the spotted gum are needed to help to maintain beekeeping over a 5-year cycle. When conditions become hard such as drought the cycle could be as long as 10 years. The restrictions would exclude the honey industry from 400,000 hectares of public land (Government controlled native forests). Floral resources are not enough to sustain the industry.

Bees are natural pollinators and can be of benefit in a natural environment. They can be of benefit if natural pollinators of native flora have been displaced. Bees have been mixing with native flora and fauna with no adverse effects. Native bees and honeybees prefer different nectar and therefore do not compete for nectar resources. There are now medicinal uses for honey, and this means more growth in the industry.

Mount Morgan Branch Capricornia Division

Resolution: 8

Subject: Land Clearing Legislation

Resolution: That, in view of the current and continuing crisis caused by disastrous bushfires, the Queensland Government undertake, as a matter of urgency and in consultation with Rural Fire Brigades and local communities, an independently sourced reviews of current land clearing legislation. Specifically, as it applies to risk assessment including fuel load reduction; clearing and maintenance of fire breaks in national parks and adjacent areas; and implement a fuel reduction program.

Reason: Prolonged drought followed by abnormally high temperatures accompanied by cyclonic winds, resulted in disastrous fires which have caused immense damage to extensive areas of Queensland. Although land clearing legislation was initiated with the best intentions to preserve 'the Green areas' of Queensland, the effect has been to severely hamper preventative measures such as reducing fuel loads and constructing firebreaks.

Coomera Branch South Eastern Division

Amendment now to read – (with change of wording):

The QCWA strongly urges the Queensland Government to implement as a matter of urgency and in consultation with the Rural Fire Brigade and local communities a fuel load reduction and clearing programme as well as ongoing maintenance of firebreaks in National Parks, Crown Land and adjacent areas.

Amendment now becomes the resolution



QCWA Resolutions carried at the 2019 State Conference

The QCWA strongly urges the Queensland Government to implement as a matter of urgency and in consultation with the Rural Fire Brigade and local communities a fuel load reduction and clearing programme as well as ongoing maintenance of firebreaks in National Parks, Crown Land and adjacent areas.

Resolution: 12

Subject: Revamped Bradfield Scheme to Alleviate drought and flooding.

Resolution: That the Queensland Country Women's Association encourages the Queensland Government to further investigate the re-vamped Bradfield Scheme, put forward by Sir Leo Hielscher and Sir Frank Moor, to build Hell's Gate Dam, near Tully, and the associated pipelines, tunnels and channels to connect Hell's Gate Dam to the Thomson and Warrego Rivers, thus opening the lands associated with these river systems to sustainable water supply while also mitigating flooding in the Northern Queensland towns.

Reason: The Dam will be used to irrigate the Black Soil Country from Charters Towers to Richmond. The Plan envisages the use of pipelines, tunnels, and channels to connect Hell's Gate Dam to the Thomson and Warrego Rivers to irrigate the land.

This would open the land for food and fibre production and create renewable hydroelectric power. Dr JJ Bradfield (designer of both Sydney Harbour Bridge and Storey Bridges and an eminent engineer) proposed the scheme in 1938. Techniques and technologies have advanced significantly since then. North Queensland is subject to enormous rainfalls. Harnessing the waters of to the west of the Great Dividing Range and diverting the flows to western rivers utilises the water that currently flows out to sea in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Toowoomba Branch

Darling Downs Division

Resolution: 10

Subject: Endorsing Motion 31, passed by ICPA at their 2018 State Conference re extending the Living away from home allowance following drought declarations.

Resolution: That the Queensland Country Women's Association endorse the motion that was passed by the Isolated Children's Parent's Association, (ICPA) at their 2018 State Conference in Winton.

'That ICPA Qld Inc continues to lobby the Minister for Education that the drought subsidy component of LAFHAS (Living Away From Home Allowances Scheme) continues during any period of drought declarations and continue on for an additional 2 years when drought is no longer declared to allow for the recovery period'.

Reason: We have an existing Partnership between QCWA and ICPA and endorsing this motion will affect the financial lives of families and members of QCWA and ICPA and improve the educational outcomes for our rural, regional and remote children.

Caboolture Branch

Greater Brisbane Division

Southern Region Conference



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URGENT RESOLUTION

That QCWA supports the one-off catchup payment of \$4,000 on top of the current maximum rate to bring the Living Away from Home Allowance and Remote Area Tuition Allowance closer in line with the average cost of Tuition. This is to be followed by an ongoing annual increase of the annual Living Away from Home Allowance aligned to the Education sub-index of the CPI which shows a more accurate reflection in the costs of Education.

Nelia Branch

North Western Division

The State President read a Statement from May State Council:

At the Southern Region Conference, the abhorrent behaviour of Animal Rights Activists invading properties, breaching Biosecurity, interfering with Livestock, and threatening owner and staff was raised. As this was the leniency being shown to the few arrested. A Resolution went to the meeting condemning the behaviour and the calling for tougher penalties. This was discussed at May Council who endorsed the sentiments, but felt it was too urgent and important to wait for Conference, as Biosecurity Breaches are causing extra costs and stress. To industries in time which they are difficult enough, with no positive result. The perpetrators should have their convictions recorded so that their actions impact their lives and employment. They authorise the State Executive Board to act on this as soon as possible. This was done and replies have been received from both the Government and the Opposition Spokespeople. At Pre-Conference Council, Council Members congratulated the State Executive Board for their prompt action. The response will be monitored regularly ongoing.