

WA LABOR

Quality Education in the Regions



WA Labor Policy

November 2016

QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE REGIONS

A McGowan Labor Government is committed to providing a quality education to Western Australian children and young people regardless of where they live.

Without proper support regional students and families often leave their communities in order for their children to get the education they deserve.

The Liberal National Government has implemented savage funding cuts to regional schools across WA. This has resulted in fewer teachers, education assistants and Aboriginal Islander Education Officers to support our children's education.

WA Labor is committed to delivering real improvement in education resources in regional WA.



“ I am committed to delivering a quality education to children no matter where they live in Western Australia.”

Mark

STAY INFORMED:

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 Mark McGowan MP

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- **Appoint an Independent Learning Coordinator (ILC) in 10 regional schools to supervise and help students undertaking courses through Schools of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE).**
- **Establish a Regional Learning Specialist (RLS) team in the curriculum areas of Science, Social Science, Mathematics and English to visit regional schools and run classes for students and support the work of the ILCs.**
- **Increase the numbers of Education Assistants (EAs) employed in regional schools to provide additional support to students and teachers in the classroom.**
- **Roll out science programs in selected regional public primary schools including funding to convert existing classrooms to science laboratories and upfront grants for resources to make science a more diverse and engaging experience for students.**

QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE REGIONS

Dedicated Teacher Support for Year 11 and 12 Students

Year 11 and 12 students should be offered a broad selection of courses as part of the school curriculum. In many regional centres however subject choices can be limited and students are required to study through Schools of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE).

To ensure that students are properly supported by SIDE, WA Labor is committed to providing students at key regional centres with dedicated support including guaranteed classroom time with a specialist teacher each term.

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- **Appoint an Independent Learning Coordinator (ILC) in 10 regional schools to supervise and help students undertaking courses through SIDE.**
- **Establish a Regional Learning Specialist (RLS) team in the curriculum areas of Science, Social Science, Mathematics and English to visit regional schools and run classes for students and support the work of the ILCs.**

Independent Learning Coordinators (ILC) will be appointed to 10 key regional high schools, such as Albany, Collie, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Karratha, Newman, Port Hedland, Broome and Kununurra. They will supervise and assist Year 11 and 12 students undertaking SIDE studies.

At present SIDE supervising teachers in regional schools also have a teaching load of regular classes and so the time available to help SIDE students is limited. ILCs will

be dedicated full time to the SIDE students as well as sourcing specialised assistance for students.

The ILCs will be employed full time to undertake the following tasks:

- Supervision and assistance while Year 11 and 12 students undertake their remote learning courses through SIDE.
- Assistance to access more specialised help for these Year 11 and 12 students from SIDE staff and from the Regional Learning Specialists Team.

A Regional Learning Specialists (RLS) Team will be established consisting of two specialists in each curriculum area of Sciences, Social Sciences, Mathematics and English.

The RLSs will each be employed full time to undertake the following tasks:

- Undertake visits to each of the 10 regional schools at least once per term – for a number of days (up to a week) at a time – to run classes for the students being managed by the ILCs.
- Be available for specialist assistance to students via phone and email.

Returning EA's to the Classroom

Education Assistants (EAs) have an integral role in the education of students. This includes preparation of resources, one on one coaching, extra support for students facing learning difficulties, students with English as a second language and students with disabilities.

Critically, EAs assist those students who need extra help to stay focused so that other students are not distracted and the classroom teacher can get on with teaching.

Teachers reported that with less EAs they now had to spend more time with 'high need' students to the detriment of the rest of the class.

Feedback from the peak parent body the WA Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) said the biggest concern of parents was not enough EAs to cover time that early childhood and lower year's students are at school, meaning less support for students and more pressure on teachers.

- **A McGowan Government will increase the numbers of EAs employed in regional schools to provide additional support to students and teachers in the classroom.**

Back to Primary Schools for Science

A McGowan Labor Government will roll out science labs and equipment in selected public primary schools throughout regional WA.

Science labs engage students and if we are serious about diversifying our economy then we must start at a school level to prepare students for jobs beyond the resources industry. WA Labor's proposal is to focus on science at a primary school level and that focus needs a science lab with appropriate resources and equipment.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will roll out science programs in selected regional public primary schools including funding to convert existing classrooms to science laboratories and upfront grants for resources to make science a more diverse and engaging experience for students.**

Expressions of interest will be invited from public primary schools to apply for the program. In the initial phase, up to 60 regional primary schools will be upgraded to ensure that they have appropriate facilities. Grants of \$25,000 will be provided to enable schools to buy resources to equip those labs.

The teaching of science should start as early as possible in a child's education however each school will have the flexibility to manage how they integrate the new science lab resources into their school curriculum. We will work with teachers and Scitech on appropriate professional development for teachers to focus on teaching science in schools. A focus on science will support the diversification of the economy and is an investment in the jobs of the future.

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Dedicated Teacher Support for Year 11 and 12 Students

Returning EAs to the Classroom

Back to Primary School for Science

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