

Queensland Academy of Sport Bill 2025

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Submitted by: Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA QLD)

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SUBMISSION TO THE QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORTS BILL 2025

ICPA Qld is an apolitical, not-for-profit, volunteer parent organisation that has been the voice for increasing awareness of and advocating for the unique needs of rural and remote (geographically isolated) students for more than 50 years. ICPA Qld advocates for equity of access to quality education and educational opportunities for all students (early childhood to post-school) who live in rural and remote Queensland

I welcome the introduction of the Bill to establish the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) as a statutory body. The Isolated Children's Parents' Association (Qld) Inc. (ICPA Qld) strongly supports the Bill's objective of assisting emerging and elite Queensland athletes in developing their abilities with the goal of representing the state at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I urge the Parliament to ensure that the Bill explicitly includes children and young people from rural and remote parts of Queensland. These communities frequently produce talented future athletes who, due to geographical isolation, do not have access to the same pathways and opportunities as their metropolitan counterparts.

The vast distances in regional Queensland often pose significant barriers to families seeking to attend metropolitan competitions, where talent scouts are predominantly based. To address this inequity, it is essential that the QAS actively identifies and develops talented children and young people from rural and remote areas. This could be achieved through targeted regional talent identification programs and dedicated outreach initiatives. Such measures would ensure that all Queenslanders, regardless of their location, have access to the high level of coaching and support provided by the QAS.

Many of Australia's most successful Olympians have been discovered through talent identification programs. As a dedicated advocate for rural and remote communities, ICPA Qld strongly encourages the QAS to prioritise inclusivity and actively engage with these regions to uncover and nurture raw sporting talent.

By ensuring that rural and remote athletes are included in its programs, the QAS will not only foster greater sporting opportunities for all Queenslanders but also strengthen the overall depth and competitiveness of Queensland's sporting talent pool.



Wendy Henning
President