



## ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Working together for Equity of Access to Education for all Students who live in Rural and Remote Australia.

### FEDERAL COUNCIL'S BRANCH BULLETIN Volume 13, Number 7: April 2016

Welcome to the April edition of the Federal Branch Bulletin. Many of you will have been away attending state conferences in Griffith, Perth, Roxby Downs and Katherine. Congratulations to the convening committees of all these State Conferences. It certainly takes a lot of work, albeit rewarding, to pull these important forums together and ICPA appreciates your dedication. The Annual General Meetings have been held for these states. Click on the links to view the new State Councils for [New South Wales](#), [Western Australia](#), [Tasmania](#), [Northern Territory](#) and [South Australia](#). Congratulations to the returning councillors and a warm welcome to new ones.

The April BB has important information about the upcoming Federal Conference, updates from the Boarding Schools Portfolio, Communications Portfolio, Tertiary Portfolio and a quick overview of current media.

#### **Federal Council News**

Members of Federal Council have recently attended State Conferences in South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales and Northern Territory. These conferences presented an ideal opportunity to meet ICPA members and become familiar with some of the issues states are dealing with.

#### **2015 Federal Conference Motions Update**

Since the 2015 Federal Conference held in Brisbane, Federal Council has undertaken a variety of actions to pursue the issues that were raised through members' motions. Click [here](#) to see the 2015 Federal Conference Motions Update. Federal Council hopes branches find the update useful and that it will assist you in the preparation of this year's Federal Conference motions.

#### **2016 Federal Conference**

**This year's Federal Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia at the Duxton Hotel on Wednesday August 10 and Thursday August 11, 2016.**

- **2016 AGM Notice**

The Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia Incorporated will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 8.30am at the Duxton Hotel, Perth. During the AGM, elections will be held to establish the 2016/2017 Federal Council. Have you thought of becoming a Federal Councillor? A full council lightens the load for all of the volunteers and the breadth of experience and talents you would bring to a council position would help to strengthen your ICPA. Contact a current Federal Councillor for more information.

- **Federal Conference Motions**

**Agenda Motions** are to be in the hands of the Federal Secretary by **midnight June 14, 2016**. A reminder that motions do not need to be presented at your state conference in

order to be accepted onto the federal conference agenda. Motions presented at Federal Conference should be regarding federal issues. Explanations are very important - please remember to include them when you send your motion to Jane Morton, [Federal Secretary](#).

**Supplementary Motions** are to be with the Federal Secretary by **midnight August 2, 2016**. Supplementary motions are designed to address issues that have arisen since the agenda motion cut-off date. Supplementary motions which do not fall into this category will not be accepted. Supplementary motions are only accepted onto the agenda if they pertain to an issue *not* already covered in the main agenda. Please contact Jane Morton, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

**Floor Motions** generally come about as a result of discussion and debate during conference. Occasionally they cover issues that have arisen since the closing date for supplementary motions. Floor motions can only be accepted for debate with the consent of delegates, after the motion has been read to the conference by the Chair. Please contact Jane Morton, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

If you are not sure who you should be directing your motion to, the following may be of some assistance:

- **Boarding** (AIC) motions can be directed to the Minister for Social Services and the Minister for Education and Training or use alternate general wording – relevant Ministers.
- **Communications** motions should be directed to the Minister for Communications unless the matter relates to the service provider.
- **Early Childhood Education** and **Child Care** policies and program motions should be directed to the Minister for Education and Training.
- **Distance Education**, including the DETA lobby and any increases to the AIC should be directed to the Minister for Social Services and the Minister for Education and Training or use of the wording - the Federal Government or relevant Ministers, is also acceptable.
- **Youth Allowance** motions relating to changes to YA, increases in rent assistance and relocation scholarship should be addressed to the Minister for Social Services.
- **Tertiary Access Allowance** either Minister for Education and Training or Federal Government.

For an updated list of federal ministers and their portfolios to address in relation to your issue, please use this hyperlink [Ministry List](#).

- **Conference Workshops:**

**Conference Procedures Workshop**

Federal Council will hold their “[Conference Procedures Workshop](#)” and all conference attendees, whether they are first time delegates or not, are invited to attend. Presenters will run through a variety of scenarios that arise during conference including but not limited to; motion amendments, word changes and withdrawing motions. A full explanation of how motions are presented at conference as well as other important information is [here](#).

**Great Ideas Workshop** - During conference you are welcome to participate in the “[Great Ideas Workshop](#)”. This will be an opportunity for everyone to join a group discussion on a topic relevant to them. The workshops will be facilitated by Federal Council with assistance from attendees knowledgeable in specific areas. The session will be designed so everyone has the chance to tell their story and ask questions, which will lead to formulating ideas that will contribute to how issues are actioned in the future. More information will be circulated

prior to conference.

There is no need to register for either of these workshops.

- **Financial assistance to attend conference**

It is important that we have a good representation from all branches. If your branch is struggling financially and unable to send a delegate to Federal Conference, please contact Anita Dennis [FedTreasurer@icpa.com.au](mailto:FedTreasurer@icpa.com.au) with relevant information about the financial position of your branch and assistance required before **June 1, 2016**.

### **Boarding Survey**

The Boarding Schools Survey which was released at the beginning of the school year, has been concluded and all data and results finalised. With over 1000 respondents and 300 comments to sort through, we have had our work cut out. A heartfelt thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey. Plans are underway for Federal Councillors to present the survey document to politicians in Canberra. With an election looming, time is of the essence.

### **Media**

Media, both social and traditional has been extremely active over the last month and doesn't look like slowing down leading to Federal Conference. Our [Facebook](#) page is constantly being updated with current information pertaining to rural and remote educational issues. [Twitter](#) has proven to be an extremely useful tool for getting our messages out quickly and efficiently.

As many of you would know, Landline recently produced an "Outback Education" segment which featured ICPA members, the Magoffin and Twidale families. Thank you to both of these families for bringing the AIC and Youth Allowance issues to the forefront. Feedback that is coming in to Federal Council following the Landline program, has been outstanding! Amazing what television can do with such a large reach. The segment has been posted on the Landline website and you can click [here](#) to view the clip or read the transcript.

### **Triple Zero Emergency call access Australia wide**

Federal Council are supportive of this current campaign to lobby for improvement of mobile phone black spots. Click [here](#) to see how you can be involved. Closing date for signatures is **April 30, 2016**.



Federal Conference hashtag #ICPAconf16

### **Youth Allowance**

It has come to Federal Council's attention that many Youth Allowance applicants have experienced lengthy delays in processing of their claims. We have been in contact with the Department of Human Services and been advised of the following:

- Normal processing time is within 4 weeks of all required documents being lodged, peak periods sees this time extended. A delay in supplying necessary documentation can lead to a delay in payment. Students will be contacted once their claim is finalised and students will be paid for the period they are entitled to, including back-payments if applicable.
- If you have not heard by this time – ring the Youth Allowance line **132490** and check if any documentation is outstanding.

- Customers facing financial hardship are encouraged to contact the department on **132490**. Customers can also request to speak with a department social worker for additional information and support.
- Youth Allowance Statement – once your payments start, check your statement for all entitled payments including relocation scholarship (dependent Youth Allowance) and rent assistance. For additional payments visit [related services](#).
- Applicants can authorise another person to inquire about their account and act on their behalf. This has to be indicated on the application but can be organised or changed at any time.

### **2016 State Conference**

ICPA QLD – Alpha, September 6 & 7, 2016

For more information on the conferences, please visit [www.icpa.com.au/events](http://www.icpa.com.au/events)

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*  
Nelson Mandela