



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 9: June 2016

Welcome to the June edition of the Federal Branch Bulletin. With Federal Conference less than two months away, we are looking forward to catching up with both first time and returning branch/conference delegates in August. This June BB has important information about the upcoming Federal Conference and updates from **nbn** and the education ports, DETA video and NAPLAN.

FEDERAL COUNCIL NEWS

Federal Councillors have been busy attending mini delegation and a face to face meeting in Canberra. Wendy Hick, Federal President has presented ICPA views at the Broadband for the Bush Conference in Brisbane and also our members' viewpoints at the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation (USO).

A nearly full Federal Council met in Canberra at the end of May for a very productive few days discussing our election strategy, finalising conference plans and meeting with the National Rural Health Alliance CEO, Kim Webber and Department of Human Services Managers.

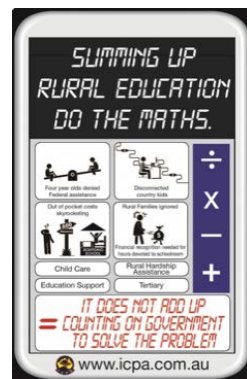
FEDERAL ELECTION 2016

Our election campaign was launched and we've been waiting for rural and remote education to be earnestly discussed. Learn more about ICPA's election campaign [here](#).

On June 22, 2016 Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce announced the Coalition will commit to:

1. An increase of the Assistance for Isolated Children's (AIC) Additional Boarding Allowance by 50% to provide support to low-income families whose geographically isolated child boards away from their family home.
2. Reduce the period regional & remote students need to be employed under the self-supporting criteria, from 18 months to 14 months before being eligible for Youth Allowance & ABSTUDY payments.
3. 1200 new Rural & Regional Enterprise scholarships for undergraduate, postgraduate & vocational education students to undertake STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) studies.
4. Conducting an independent, comprehensive review into equity of education access for rural and regional students to seek fresh thinking in an attempt to bridge the divide.

These commitments give families living in geographic isolation some confidence into the future. Federal Council is appreciative of the support received from our rural members and senators which has led to this commitment. We are calling on the other parties to match this



commitment and also address the many educational inequities experienced by families living in rural and remote Australia.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE 2016 - Wednesday 10 and Thursday August 11, 2016



- **Registrations are now open!** Registration cut-off date is August 1 2016. For information on registration, partner's tours and Federal Conference, visit the ICPA website [45th Annual Federal Conference](#).
- **Supplementary Motions** must be submitted by *midnight August 2* to the [Federal Secretary](#) and are designed to address issues that have arisen since the agenda motion cut-off date and address an issue not already covered in the main agenda motions. For more information contact Jane Morton, [Federal Secretary](#).
- **Treasurer's Note** members attending conference as a delegate must be financial at branch, state and federal level to be able to represent their branch and vote at conference. Please ensure you have renewed your membership.
- **AGM** – Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia Incorporated 2016 AGM including the election of the 2016/2017 Federal Council will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at the Duxton Hotel, Perth.
- **Agenda Motions 2016** are now available [here](#)

Booking Flights - For those of you still booking flights to Perth for conference, don't forget to use the [QANTAS](#) link.

Important information - Conference Venue Duxton Hotel, Perth

The reserved rooms at the Duxton are likely to be lifted on June 24, when they will revert to general booking. The special price will still be available, until about July 8, depending on bookings, but there will no longer be a guarantee of availability. After that time, the price will revert to the normal Duxton rate. There is a relative shortage of hotels in Perth, so bookings are usually pressured and prices tend to be expensive.



POSITIONS VACANT

This year our wonderful, hardworking Federal Treasurer, Anita Dennis is stepping down from council and we will be looking for someone to take on the Treasurer's position. If you'd like to consider taking on this role, please get in touch with Anita Dennis, [Federal Treasurer](#) for a job description.

We are also looking for someone to assist Federal Council with collating and circulating the Federal Branch Bulletin which delivers our ICPA news to members.

Please contact any [Federal Councillor](#) for further information if you are interested in one of these roles. A full Federal Council lightens the load for all of the volunteers and ensures that a strong and efficient Council are able to progress your concerns.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING FEDERAL COUNCIL?

The Annual General Meeting is to be held during our Federal Conference in Perth on

Thursday August 11 at 8.30am. If joining this amazing organisation at Federal Council level appeals to you and you are considering nominating, please be aware that all of Federal Council meets on the day after Federal Conference (Friday August 12) for their first get together and discussions so that your travel plans can hopefully accommodate for this. Check out this [link](#) - we work with some awesome talent and we'd love to have you join us!

DETA RESOURCE VIDEO

As part of our Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) lobby, we proudly released our ICPA Distance Education Resource Video. Distance education schooling has long been the only option for education for many students in rural and remote Australia. Watch the [DETA Resource video](#) to gain insight into what some rural and remote families do to educate their children. We thank all involved in this video including Tim Moes, Principal and teachers at Mt Isa SOTA, Danny & Tara Locke, Drew & Annie Hacon and the wonderful interviewing skills of Jessica Skarratt.



ICPA 50th ANNIVERSARY

The 50th Anniversary of ICPA is fast approaching. We are calling for expressions of interest from members who might wish to be part of a sub-committee to produce a book to celebrate this momentous occasion. Please contact [Anita Dennis](#) for further details.

UPDATING YOUR DETAILS

Did you know that you can update your details on the [ICPA website](#)? On the top right hand corner, click on *Website login*, if you have forgotten your password a new one will be emailed to you. Once logged in, click *'Update Membership'* and update your details.

nbn and EDUCATION PORTS

There are several providers currently offering plans for the education port. You can check out their plans on the links below. Remember, you can have a different provider for your education port and personal/business port.

[Skymesh](#)

[Activ8](#)

[HarbourISP](#)

[Ant](#)

NAPLAN ONLINE: EXTENDED TEST WINDOW

The test window for NAPLAN online in 2017 will be nine days (though schools may choose to complete testing sooner if sufficient devices are available). This expanded test window allows schools more flexibility in scheduling and accommodates schools which have fewer devices than students. See this [infographic](#) explaining the extended test window.

HANDWRITING vs KEYBOARDING IN SCHOOLS

In what may be an Australian first, an education researcher is asking parents and teachers around the country to reveal how their school age children are learning hand writing and keyboard skills. The study, *Handwriting, keyboarding or both? That is the question*, is being conducted by Dr Noella Mackenzie, a senior lecturer in literacy studies in the CSU School of Education in Albury-Wodonga. To find out more click [here](#)

Handy Hints

Did you know that your mobile device charges quicker when in flight mode?

