



ICPA Statement on Government's Decision Regarding AIC Boarding Allowance

Louise Martin, Federal President Isolated Children's Parents' Association

We at ICPA express our profound disappointment at the government's refusal to support our request for a modest increase in the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) boarding allowance in last night's budget. This decision is not only disheartening but also detrimental to the students, families, and communities we represent.

The government's inaction and failure to address the pressing need for an increase in the AIC boarding allowance perpetuates a cycle of disadvantage for our most isolated children and ensures that our most isolated, simply by virtue of their address, remain statistically disadvantaged. This is unjust and not acceptable.

The ramifications of this decision are far-reaching. Lack of investment in these communities widens the existing skills gap in rural and remote areas, hindering the educational opportunities of our youth and jeopardising their future prospects. It further tightens the belt on rural and regional communities and jeopardises our children's ability to contribute meaningfully to society, both now, and into the future.

Despite this setback, ICPA remains committed to advocating for the rights of our families and ensuring equitable access to education for all Australians. We will continue to advocate with dedication to ensure parity and inclusivity in the distribution of opportunity.

The government may have made its decision, but ICPA's work is far from over. We are passionate about delivering what is needed for every child, regardless of where they live, the opportunity to receive a quality education, both for themselves and their communities.

Louise Martin, Federal President, ICPA Australia

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For further information and comment, please contact:

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About the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA)

Established in 1971, ICPA is a voluntary, not-for-profit, apolitical parent body dedicated to ensuring equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia. To find out more, visit their [website](#)