



05/07/24

EDUCATION ADVOCACY GROUP ICPA DESCENDS ON SYDNEY'S CBD, WITH INNER-CITY CONFERENCE TO TACKLE RURAL EDUCATION ISSUES

Tickets on sale now

- Awareness of education in the bush is top of the agenda for the advocacy volunteer group, Isolated Parents' Children's Association (ICPA) taking place in Sydney's CBD 24-25 July
- 200 Isolated advocates expected to attend across the two-day program
- Jana Pittman, celebrated Olympic athlete, doctor and mum of six, will keynote the event – discussing the importance of the power of education and the importance of opportunity
- Tickets on sale now – with funds going to support ICPA's ongoing advocacy work

Where you live has lifelong impacts on the levels of education you can access and can limit your options. The issues related to education access in isolated areas will be addressed in Sydney's CBD in late July, when the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) hosts its annual federal conference, drawing attention to the critical issue of education in remote and rural areas.

Highlights of the Conference:

- Keynote Address by Jana Pittman celebrated Olympic athlete, doctor, and mother of six, Jana Pittman, will deliver the keynote speech, emphasising the importance of quality education for all children, regardless of location.
- Distinguished Speakers notable attendees include former ICPA NSW President Duncan Taylor, Founder and Director of the Country Universities Centre, which supports 18 Regional University Study Hubs across NSW, Queensland, and Victoria. And former senator, Fiona Nash will open the conference.
- Engagement with VIPs: The conference will feature various esteemed guests and leaders in education and rural advocacy. Alongside advocates, the Department of Education to be in attendance, providing a strong opportunity for members' stories to be heard by the government
- Critical Discussions around the issues affecting our most isolated parents and children accessing education and how to best bridge the educational divide between urban and rural areas, and provide equitable access to education for all Australian children.

The theme of this year's conference is "Bridging the Divide." The event aims to address the disparities in educational access between metropolitan and remote regions, exploring



effective strategies on a national level that can be implemented to provide equitable opportunities for all.

Federal President, Louise Martin, ICPA Australia says:

"As we reflect on what is needed to truly 'Bridge the Divide,' it is inspiring to see so many dedicated ICPA supporters here in Sydney – a renowned education hub, offering plentiful options, quality education and opportunity. ICPA is advocating for access to the same opportunity to be offered to our most isolated children."

She continues, "We are asking for urgent and immediate improved access to funding, services, and educational opportunities. The goal is not only to sustain our communities but also to empower our young people to pursue their dreams, whatever that might look like."

"We come together, as our Federal Government has withheld funding for ICPA's requests in the latest budget. This is despite the positive conversations that have been held in Canberra. As a meeting of our brightest minds, the conference will also look at ways we can increase ICPA influence and be better heard at the policy-making level."

"As cost-of-living bites, our most remote and isolated families are being forced to cover ever-rising costs, often with little to no choice. Reform is needed to address the growing disparity facing those seeking a 'fair go' and the ability to affordably access quality education in the bush," concludes Martin.

This year's event promises to be the largest and most impactful to date, supported by major partners including NBN, Telstra, and the Australian Department of Education.

Event Details:

ICPA Federal Conference

Date: 24-25 July

Time: 9:00am, daily

Location: Doltone House, Elizabeth St, Hyde Park, Sydney

Conference and tickets: [here](#)

Media are invited to attend as ICPA's guests, but [will need to RSVP](#) to ensure access at registration.

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Additional Information:

The ICPA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday morning in conjunction with the conference.



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 the ICPA [website](#).