



ICPA FEDERAL CONFERENCE

This year, 180 delegates from all every state and territory gathered in Sydney's CBD, an area renowned for its educational opportunities. Our members shared a common goal: to address issues affecting their access to equitable education and that of their communities.

A notable increase in participation saw 102 official motions debated, a significant rise of over 45% from previous years.

In attendance, Shadow minister for Early Education, the Hon Sarah Mitchell; Regional Education Commissioner, the Hon Fiona Nash; CEO Australian Boarding Schools Association, Richard Stokes; The Education Department, representatives from Telstra, NBN Co and Regional Tech Hub.

Following spirited discussions, 100 motions were carried, highlighting key themes and shaping the direction of the ICPA's advocacy efforts, outlined below:

ADVOCACY FOCUSES:

Distance Education

A new approach seeking recognition and remuneration for Geographically Isolated Distance Education tutors/supervisors (Motions A18, A19, A21)

Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)

Seeking a uniform solution to restore AIC Basic Boarding Allowance to its original intent to cover at least 55% of average boarding (Motion A3)

A request to transfer the AIC Scheme from the portfolio of the Minister for Social Services to the Minister for Education. (Motion S5)

ECEC

For Federal Ministers to address Early Childhood Teacher pay parity to assist with access to early childhood education in rural and remote Australia. (Motion A37)

Other supplementary issues raised:

Amend payment timing of Tertiary Access Payments (TAP)

We heard from members whose children were relocating across the country and had yet to receive any payment at 6+ weeks in. The primary aim of the TAP (Tertiary Access Payment) is to assist students with the financial burden of relocating from regional or remote areas for higher education. The programme offers a one-off payment of up to \$5,000.

Making Youth Allowance more accessible to rural and remote students

Currently many isolated and remote students are failing to meet the Youth Allowance eligibility criteria. This is due to a number of factors that put remote students at a disadvantage. ICPA is advocating for a fairer approach to this payment.

See:

[ICPA Conference motions](#)

[ICPA Conference Supplementary Motions](#)

As a volunteer organisation, the Federal Conference also provides a significant opportunity to establish a new Federal Council. While we bid farewell to some longstanding members, we also welcomed many new faces. Our Council is now complete and represents five states and territories. Welcome to our new members; we are thrilled to have you on board!

President: Louise Martin, QLD
Vice President: Julia Broad, QLD
Vice President: Sally Brindal, WA



Treasurer:	Melissa Kerr, NT
Secretary:	Kelly Ostwald, QLD
Assistant Secretary:	Shennah Joiner, NSW
Publicity Officer:	Kym Ross, WA
Councillor:	Amber Driver, NT
Councillor:	Tim Fletcher, NSW
Councillor:	Jill Greenfield, SA
Councillor:	Jenn Ruska, QLD
Councillor:	Ali Allison, NSW
Councillor:	Nikki Mahony, QLD
Councillor:	Anna McCorkle, NSW
Councillor:	Heather Whigham-Reid, NSW

On her unchallenged position as ICPA Federal President, Louise Martin reflects on the success of the Federal Conference and is refreshed and looking forward to leading the ICPA team to deliver meaningful advocacy for its members:

"We are thrilled with the robust conversation undertaken at years federal conference, which saw 180 passionate and smart remote education delegates gather on Sydney's CBD. With attendance from all states and territories in Australia. This incredible turnout reflects the commitment of our members to advocating for improved educational access and opportunities for rural students and acts as a barometer of the issues affecting our community."

"It was both refreshing and alarming to see that participants from each state highlight similar issues, underscoring the widespread nature of the challenges we face in the efforts to educate our kids. The collaborative nature of the proceedings, filled the room with a sense of power in our people and our varied discussions and shared experiences, will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts as we continue to champion equitable education access for all Australians. We look forward to building on our advocacy efforts with refreshed focus for the year."