

2024 MOTION RESPONSE DOCUMENT

SA ICPA Members, the following is a document that has combined all motion responses and any follow up that have been undertaken or received by State Council since the 2024 State Conference. The information collated in this document has been a result of sending motion letters, delegation meetings, emails and phone calls by State Councillors.

BOARDING SCHOOLS, HOSTELS AND SECOND HOME

There were 4 motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Boarding Schools, Hostels and Second Home Portfolio. They were motions 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Motion 12

Motion 12. State Council "That SA ICPA State Council lobby the South Australian Department for Education and the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, to increase the State Education Allowance (SEA) in recognition of the rapidly increasing boarding fees and the increase in living pressures faced by rural and remote families."

A motion letter was sent to Minister Boyer and CC: John Gardener: Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and Training, Geoff Brock: Member for Stuart, Eddie Hughes: Member for Giles, Ashley Smith: Transport Services, Richard Stokes: Australian Boarding Schools Association

Two supporting documents were sent along with the letter. There was a comparison table that documented the State Education Allowance payments per term and per year from 2019 until 2024, also showing the increase per year that had occurred. It also out lined increases in costs in boarding, travel, and accommodation with detailed costs. The second document was a collation of annual boarding school fees in Adelaide from 2021 v 2024, boarding school fees have risen \$2694.40(boarding component only).

The ministers reply stated that the SEA is available to geographically isolated parents with children at secondary level who board away. He went on to say that this allowance assists with travel, boarding and other education expenses and is increased annually in accordance with the annual inflation rate. The increase from 2023 to 2024 was \$233.86. He also reiterated that the Remote Travel Allowance was doubled from \$250 to \$500 for 2024.

At a delegation meeting in December we explained to Mr Boyer the importance of increasing the SEA Allowance and we conveyed what other states (QLD) are getting compared to us. Whilst there was no promise of any increase in the future, Minister Boyer did indicate to those at the delegation meeting, that we need to keep asking for these increases.



Motion's 13 and 14

Motion 13. State Council "That SA ICPA lobbies the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA), along with denominational and independent boarding schools in Adelaide, to discuss access and availability of boarding for year 7 students who are geographically isolated."

Motion 14. Marla Oodnadatta Branch "That SA ICPA lobbies the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA), along with denominational and independent boarding schools in Adelaide, to discuss a designated ICPA bursary at each school/college."

A motion letter was sent regarding motion 12 and 13 to ABSA and the 12 Adelaide Boarding Schools, that addressed 3 amin concerns, CPI Increase to the South Australian State Education Allowance, discuss access and availability of boarding for year 7 students who are geographically isolated and a designated ICPA bursary at each school/college. All schools were invited to become SA ICPA members.

We explained how many families are in the situation where they must now send their children to boarding school from year 7 and that however some boarding schools have traditionally taken students in Years 7, 8, and 9 there are some schools that appear to be moving away from accepting younger boarders.

We went onto say that SA ICPA children, especially those residing in remote areas where access to schooling is limited to SOTA during primary years, the pathways to secondary education present significant challenges. Some children (our children) have limited, we outlined issues that affect our families for secondary schooling such as home schooling, private boarding arrangements, second homes or opting for boarding schools.

A good and positive response was received, and we now have better contacts with more boarding schools. Prince Alfred College (PAC) updated a support letter encouraging members to tour their school (on the website) and outlined more boarding scholarships. Saint Peters were keen to find more out on how they can help SA ICPA, they opened up boarding scholarships. Westminster continues to offer come for 6 years and pay for 5. Sacred Heart outlined that they don't have scholarship but offer bursaries. Pembroke stated that they would value our input when they update their boarding scholarship criteria. Walford confirmed they have boarding scholarship from year 7 upwards. In large all correspondence showed a better scope of understanding with challenges that come with schooling many ICPA kids.

Motion 15

Motion 15. State Council "That SA ICPA State Council support Federal Council in any way they can, with their lobbying efforts to have the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) increased."

A motion letter was sent to ICPA Federal Council reiterating the fact that the gap between the AIC Basic Boarding Allowance and the cost of sending a child to Boarding School continues to grow. The disparity



between the allowance and the actual cost of boarding is a contributing factor to the financial strain many of our members are facing in their efforts to afford compulsory secondary education for their child/ren.

Two supporting documents were sent to help in the support. One had case studies that considered the increasing costs to families educating their children who are boarding against families who relocated and are running a second home. The case studies were used to give a snapshot and cross section of the costs associated with students boarding or living away from home for their secondary education. This document also outlined the ever-increasing costs of general travel and accommodation costs over the last 4 years. The second document was a collation of annual boarding school fees in Adelaide from 2021 v 2024, boarding school fees have risen \$2694.40 (boarding component only).

A copy of the Boarding Schools, Hostels and Second Home Report from Federal Conference can be found here.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Communications Portfolio.

A copy of the of the Communications Report from Federal Conference can be found here.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

There were 7 motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Distance Education Portfolio. They were motions 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Motion 16

Motion 16. Marla Oodnadatta Branch "That SA ICPA lobbies the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the Rural Support Service in SA Health to add 'Geographically remote families' as an additional eligibility criterion to bypass a nearer specialist in the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) Guidelines for Assessment."

A motion letter was sent to Minister Chris Picton and John Gardener - Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and Training, and Emily Bourke – Assistant Minister for Autism were cc'd in. A second letter was sent SA Health's Department for Health and Wellbeing Executive Director of Rural Support Services.

We received a reply from Minister Picton in July. He stated that PATS is an important initiative that assists regional South Australians to access specialist medical services not available locally. The feedback of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association is valued and helps them continue to better meet the needs of patients in rural areas. He went onto state that reforms for PATS will continue to be considered, the Malinauskas Labor Government has focussed their investment into the growth and improvement of health infrastructure,



workforce and services to allow more regional South Australians to access healthcare closer to home, which includes an election commitment to establish 10 more specialist doctors across country South Australia.

Motions 17,18, 19 and 20

Motion 17. State Council "That SA ICPA writes to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to request the establishment of a subsidy, to recognise the role of the home supervisor in Distance Education schoolrooms for geographically isolated families."

Motion 18. SA Lone Members Branch "That SA ICPA lobby the South Australian Department for Education to provide a subsidy to assist with the cost of supplying a supervisor when a child must study via Distance Education."

Motion 19. North East Branch "That SA ICPA State Council request the Minister for Education to provide financial assistance towards the cost of supervising students in a Distance Education classroom."

Motion 20. Port Augusta Branch "That SA ICPA lobby relevant agencies to establish a fulltime Student Services Officer (SSO) for each remote classroom in South Australia, to supervise School of the Air Students."

A motion letter regarding motions 17, 18, 19 stating that the State Government is responsible for the cost of education delivery including oversight during school hours however but the cost of a supervisor is borne entirely by the family in a distance education environment was sent to Minister Boyer John Gardener: Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and Training, Louise Martin - Federal President Isolated Children's Parents' Association, Kim Hughes - Federal Secretary Isolated Children's Parents' Association were all cc'd in. A letter addressing the same issues but from a different angle was sent to the same contacts regarding motion 20.

The minster response showed understanding of the need to supervise students in distance education locations and the burden that this places on families. He however put ICPA in the same basket as all Open Access families, but our kids access this education purely because of distance and no access to a close school. He asked the Department to meet with ICPA to explore some solutions.

At delegation we met with the Department for Education, we were keen to get and keep this connection in the department. We explained why Distance Education Supervision is paramount and why reimbursement to families for home school room classrooms is crucial. He discussed doing more work on a deeper level with OAC to see how model of delivery and hybrid learning could work.

We were keen to state that although it seems like we are always asking for 'money', we are also very keen to be involved at the decision-making process to head off any issues before they arise. We have no choice, educating our kids we need to value. We reiterated that primary education is compulsory and requires supervision.



Motion 21

Motion 21. Port Augusta Branch "That SA ICPA liaise with the Department for Education and Open Access College (OAC) to address concerns that the proposed School of the Air (SOTA) rooms, being included in the new Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) facility in Port Augusta, are not suitable."

This motion was withdrawn by the branch and later replaced with Floor Motion 1.

Floor Motion 1

"That SA ICPA liaise with The Department for Education and Open Access College (OAC) to address concerns that the proposed School of the Air (SOTA) rooms, being included in the new RFDS facility in Port Augusta should also include RICE within the facility, to complete the Outback Hub."

The floor motion centred around the proposed outback hub in Port Augusta that includes RFDS and SOTA also include RICE as it would enhance the overall educational and social experience for remote students, their families and promote growth within outback communities.

SA ICPA contacted RICE to see how we could help. After chatting about the feasibility around it, it was decided that with the size requirements of RICE and the limited space at the RFDS base this wasn't possible.

Motion 22

Motion 22. Marla Oodnadatta Branch "That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to increase the amount provided to School of the Air (SOTA) specifically to assist with travel for families to attend face to face events."

A motion letter with figures included to double the allowance that SOTA families receive was sent to Minister Boyer, John Gardener - Shadow Minister for Education Skills and Training, Eddie Hughes - Member for Giles, Geoff Brock: Member for Stuart, Julie Taylor - OAC, Lai Kuam Lim - SOTA, Ashley Smith: Transport Services were all cc'd in

The response from the minister simply stated that Open Access College provide a reimbursement rate which was increased .4c per km in 2022.

AIC for midyear school intake students

Whilst this was not a motion, State Council worked with Federal Council to help members with students starting their primary school education via a mid-year intake received the AIC Distance Education Allowance. We are very pleased that all students who are enrolled to start Reception with a midyear intake will be eligible for the AIC Distance Education Allowance.

A copy of the of the Distance Education Report from Federal Conference can be found here.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

There were 7 motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Distance Education Portfolio. They were motions 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 7.

Motion's 1,2 and 3

Motion 1. State Council "That SA ICPA, on behalf of all its members, work with the Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to achieve better outcomes for families with infant and early childhood healthcare needs."

Motion 2. Marla Oodnadatta Branch "That SA ICPA work alongside Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) to reduce the gap in services currently provided to rural and remote families within our state and to our members."

Motion 3. Flinders Ranges Branch "That SA ICPA on behalf of all their members advocate that the Hawker/Leigh Creek/Blinman area receive consistent support from Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) at suitable, central locations with uniform regularity."

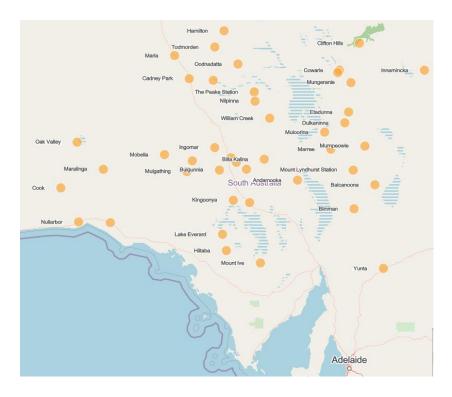
A motion letter was sent regarding motion's 1,2 and 3 to CaFHS and Geoff Brock: Member for Stuart, Eddie Hughes: Member for Giles, Mandy Smallacombe: Manager Primary Health Care RFDS, Chris Picton: Minister for Health and Wellbeing were cc in.

These motions highlighted the significant need for SA ICPA to continue its open communication with the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), to improve outcomes for families living in outback South Australia, with infant and early childhood healthcare needs.

Tarnya Eggleston who was in a leadership role with CaFHS, is now working week about between the RFDS and CaFHS in the Barossa as a Child and Family Health nurse. She will be on board for a few of the bush runs and aims to visit families where possible. Alternatively, she can be contacted at the RFDS Base to make an appointment for a telehealth service. This offer has not been taken up by many, so if it something that would suit your situation please contact the Port Augusta RFDS base on 08 8648 9500 to arrange an appointment with Tarnya using Telehealth or in another way that suits your needs.

We are in the process of sourcing information around this including her available weeks and info regarding the ability to call rather than have a face-to-face visit, as an option, for us to circulate to members. Whilst a home visit would always be best, a phone call I'm sure is better than nothing as a starting point.





Current Primary Health Clinic locations serviced by the RFDS

Hawker is now receiving 2 visits a term from the Pt Augusta CaFHS nurse. Please reach out to State Council if there are any other areas not being supported and we can reach out to CaFHS regarding this.

Regional CaFHS clinics are located in:

- Berri
- Bordertown
- Ceduna
- Clare
- Cleve
- Cowell
- Jamestown
- Kadina

- Kimba
- Kingscote
- Lameroo
- Loxton
- Maitland
- Mannum
- Millicent
- Minlaton

- Mount Gambier
- Naracoorte
- Peterborough
- Pinnaroo
- Port Augusta
- Port Lincoln
- Port Pirie
- Renmark

- Roxby Downs
- Tumby Bay
- Waikerie
- Whyalla
- Wudinna



Contact CaFHS on 1300 733 606 for further information regarding making a booking at any clinic and to see if there may be an outreach service available in your community if it is not on the list above.

Motion 4

Motion 4. State Council "That SA ICPA State Council support Federal Council with their lobby to extend the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance to children who are participating in eligible pre-compulsory early childhood programs."

A letter was sent to the ICPA Federal Council in support of their advocacy to expand and revise the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) to encompass children participating in eligible pre-compulsory early childhood programs are commendable.

Case studies were provided that emphasised the imperative need to address the financial burden associated with travel costs to attend face-to-face kindergarten events. Failing to provide equitable access for distance education kindergarten students compared to their urban primary counterparts undermines the principle of universal education accessibility. This expansion would offer invaluable support to families and uphold the principle of ensuring that every child has access to high-quality education.

The Pre-Budget Submission lodged by ICPA (Aust) once again included Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) for 3–4-year-old geographically isolated children and surety of funding for mobile early learning programs. ICPA (Aust)'s advocacy in regard to these topics continues to cite the recommendation from the 2020 Report into Education in Remote and Complex Environments, namely that the Commonwealth implement AIC for 3 4-year-olds to support early childhood education and that funding arrangements be modified for mobile early childhood education to provide flexibility and surety of funding for these services.

Motion 5

Motion 5. Marree Air Branch "That SA ICPA advocates for geographically isolated children enrolled in a registered pre-school education program to receive the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)."

Given that Motion 5 was about AIC, which is a federally funded allowance, SA ICPA State Council used it as the base for a motion that they took the 2024 Federal Conference in Sydney.

"That ICPA (Aust) continues to advocate to the Federal Government for geographically isolated precompulsory school students enrolled in a registered preschool education program to be eligible for the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance."

The motion was carried and was one of many from other branches and State Council's asking for the same thing. Federal Council met with key stakeholders at a delegation to Canberra in October and pressed for the



introduction of the AIC Distance Education allowance to be extended to cover children enrolled in a register preschool program. SA ICPA State Council have not had any further updates on this line of advocacy but will pass on any developments as they happen.

Motion 6

Motion 6. Marree Air Branch "That SA ICPA advocates for geographically isolated children enrolled in a registered South Australian pre school education program to receive financial assistance from the state government."

A motion letter outlining that there is a notable absence of government funding to alleviate the financial burden faced by parents in setting up, delivering, and attending preschool programs for remote and isolated children was written to the Minister Blair Boyer and CC in were John Gardener: Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and Training, Geoff Brock: Member for Stuart, Eddie Hughes: Member for Giles, Chloe Hunter: Director RICE, Margaret Howard: OCA, Greg Williams: Regional Development Australia Far North.

The response letter from Minister Boyer mentioned that preschool families were support by the governments funding of RICE. During the recent delegation, the Minister was reminded that there are many government funded preschools across the state, but that those families accessing

Motion 7

Motion 7. Flinders Ranges Branch "That SA ICPA ask the Minister for Education, Training and Skills what an 'alternative implementation approach' looks like in regard to the Government Response for recommendation 10 from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care."

A motion letter outlining clarification regarding the "alternative implementation approach" mentioned in the Government Response to recommendation 10 from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (RCECEC) was sent to Minister Boyer and CC to Shadow Education Minister John Gardner.

In October we received a reply letter from Mr Boyer, who stated the following regarding the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care.

'The 2024-2025 State Budget had dedicated \$1.9 billion (over 9 years) to distribute an early childhood reform agenda that will include 3-year-olds across the state. The state government will prioritise reginal and rural communities in the rollout, to assist with bridging the accessibility gap.

The Early Childhood Workforce Strategy (21 June 2024) recognises the need for dedicated approaches to build the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) workforce across South Australian reginal and remote areas.



The South Australian government will continue to provide practical solutions to communities including advice on business cases and support for Commonwealth grant funding applications, as practical steps to help progress community planning, in line with some of the strategies suggested in recommendation 10 of the Royal Commission.'

While there was no mention of The Rural Care service that is used in some rural South Australian communities is integrated with government preschools in rural communities, the service has a strong focus on providing care for children in communities where there are limited childcare options.

SA ICPA families in small rural communities, like Orroroo and Hawker, alongside countless others, deserve assurances that their children will not be left behind in accessing quality childcare in the "childcare desert". State Council will continue to monitor the situation regarding the Rural Care model in rural schools the affect members and continue to advocate for them to be retained as they currently are.

A copy of the Early Childhood Education and Care report from Federal Conference can be found here.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

There were 4 motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Rural Schools and School Travel Portfolio. They were motions 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Motion 8

Motion 8. State Council "That SA ICPA liaise with the Minister for Regional Roads and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Road Maintenance – Regional North & Outback division to discuss the need for a safe and functional road system that ensures quality educational opportunities and assessments are reachable for rural and remote students."

A motion letter outlining how roads provide an essential link to education for families that are remote and isolated and it is essential that unsealed roads are maintained sufficiently was sent to Minister Koutsantonis and the following was CC in Corey Wingard - Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Clare Scriven - Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, Jon Whelan, Juanita Chester, Mick Lorenz – Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Margret Howard – OCA, Blair Boyer - Minister for Education, Skills and Training, John Gardener - Shadow Minister for Education Skills and Training, Eddie Hughes – Member for Giles, Geoff Brock – Member for Stuart, Margret Howard – OCA.

Regional Roads were discussed with the Hon Clare Scriven on delegation. The conversation centred around the fact that services are less available now than they ever were before with a lot of outsourcing been done. Minister Scriven said road maintenance was changed under last government and now they are locked into contracts. The current Minister of Transport has been looking into this to see what he can do.



SA ICPA members provided 5 case studies that accompted these letters which outlined what the problem is, consequences of the problem, how many people are affected by the problem, what has been done to alleviate the problem and possible solutions.

A response from Minister Koutsantonis was received in July. His response indicated that the South Australian government is committed to improving the reliability of travel through remote and reginal areas and is delivering a \$241.5 million program of road upgrade initiatives in partnership with the Australian government. He invited us to contact the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) to contact community reps in our areas.

SA ICPA contacted the OCA and was directed to the Roads Advisory Group. We were advised that the OCA is convening the newly formed Outback Roads Consultative Forum, in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. They explained in terms of our motion that the issues we raised is a big part of why the Forum formation.

For matters requiring immediate attention, you should contact the Department's 24-hour Traffic Management Centre on 1800 018 313. General enquiries, on the other hand, can be emailed to the Department at dit.north@sa.gov.au. This process ensures that any identified action can be directed to the contractor in the timeliest manner.

Motion 9

Motion 9. Marla Oodnadatta Branch "That SA ICPA lobbies the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to provide a subsidy for students accessing flights in areas of South Australia where no student fare is available."

A motion letter was sent to Minister Boyer and CC John Gardener: Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and Training, Geoff Brock: Member for Stuart, Eddie Hughes: Member for Giles

The letter outlined that ICPA families are choosing to use flights at a huge cost and often dealing with as a way to transport their child to and from boarding school deal with the huge fluctuation of pricing for those fares dependent on when they are booked, the time of year it is and how busy the route is, making it hard for families to budget for this. We mentioned that the QLD ICPA and QLD State Government helped to negotiate with REX Airlines a scheme called 'Bush to Boarding' facilitated by Rex Airline staff which helps families who use airline travel as their main form of transport to and from school, access Flights that are capped at \$199 each way.

At the delegation meeting this month, Minister Boyer's ministerial advisor passed on a contact for someone at REX who may be able to help with following up the possibility of subsidised fares. An email has been sent to the contact asking if they are the right person to speak with and if so would there be a chance that they could look into the feasibility of creating a scheme in SA similar to that offered to QLD families. A email response has been received from Rex, outlining that they are currently in Voluntary Administration. They conclude that they



are hoping that the Administration period will end on 30 Jun 2025 and that they are not in a position to introduce any new initiatives until the outcome of the Administration is known.

Motion 10

Motion 10. Flinders Ranges Branch "That SA ICPA work with the Department for Education to address conditions that hinder isolated schools in getting Bus Drivers who provide a significant service to families of these areas."

A motion letter urging the government to look for possible incentives to attract potential drivers that are already in rural and isolated areas was sent to Minister Boyer and John Gardener: Shadow Minister for Education Skills and Training, Ashly Smith: Transport Services Unit were cc'd in.

Mr Boyer explained that he was aware of bus driver shortages across the state. He went onto state that the government is currently considering a few measures designed to encourage individuals to seek employments as school bus drivers, as well as assist schools with recruitment and retention of staff.

Whilst meeting with the Department for Education Strategic Planning and External Relations, bus drivers in reginal country schools was spoken about and how it is hard to get relief bus drivers. There needs to be a solution to employ locals that could be appropriate relief especially when it is only a few hours a week. Currently there is too much red tape and paperwork to make it worthwhile to do.

Motion 11

Motion 11. Flinders Ranges Branch "That SA ICPA requests that the Department for Education provides extra country incentives to enable schools in isolated regions to entice Student Support Officers (SSO's) to work in these areas."

A Motion letter stating that School Services Officers (SSOs) provide a significant service to country schools in delivering successful learning to students was sent to Minister Boyer and John Gardener - Shadow Minister for Education and Emily Bourke – Assistant Minister for Autism were cc in. A case study accompted the motion letter which outlined, problems, consequences, number of people affected, supported statistics and possible solutions.

Minister Boyer stated that the Department recognises the valuable contributions of SSOs to public education system in isolated regions and that each school is unique, shaped by its community and tailored to meet specific needs. They are empowering schools to attract and retain high quality ancillary staff. They are welcoming collaboration with site leaders to develop and offer attraction and retention allowances aimed to secure and maintain skilled employees. He brought to our attention that in the most recent Enterprise Agreement, ancillary staff will receive an additional 13 percent on their base salary by May 2026.



SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

There were no motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Specific Education Needs Portfolio.

A copy of the of the Specific Education Needs Report from Federal Conference can be found here.

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

There were no motions presented at this year's conference relating to the Tertiary Education and Career Pathways Portfolio.

A copy of the of the Tertiary Education and Career Pathways Report from Federal Conference can be found here.