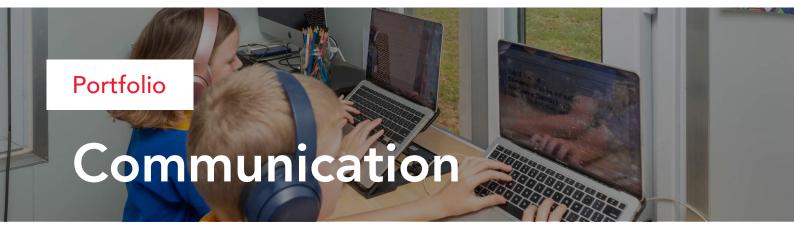# Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland

Communication

What we're working on

- Providing guidance to the Department of Education (DoE), Telstra and nbn on delivering reliable internet, voice services and other essentials systems to small schools and distance education classrooms.
- Regularly liaising with the DoE regarding the development and implementation of learning platforms.
- Updating the DoE on rural and remote families' communication capabilities and limitations, while supplying members with the latest technical information to support connectivity.
- Sharing opportunities for members to participate in online and in person workshops to enhance digital safety and literacy skills.
- Preparing submissions to ensure rural and remote education is a priority in legislative or program updates.
- Partnering with ICPA Australia on Federal communications issues to support reliable and dependable internet access for rural and remote schools.
- Advocating for the continuation of the Mobile Blackspot Program throughout rural & remote Queensland.
- Collaborating with Digital Child and the DoE on research regarding online learning.
- Sharing key findings from research studies to keep members informed about online learning strategies.
- Advocating for more technical support for rural and remote schools.
- Exploring alternative solutions to HCRC in specific regions.
- Advocating with the DoE to ensure adequate connectivity in teacher accommodation in rural and remote schools.
- Advocating for telecommunications at rural and remote schools to ensure safety is paramount.

What we've achieved

- ICPA Qld established a formal partnership with the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child.
- ICPA Qld was instrumental in the establishment and subsequent increases of the DoE internet and hardware subsidies for geographically isolated Distance Education students.
- Increase to ICT Subsidy by 38% to $400/student /year in June 2022. Un-metering on nbn services for all school related websites.
- Submission to Regional Telecommunications review.
- Facilitating online safety webinars provided by nbn.
- Commencement and review of bandwidth capabilities upgraded in all Qld schools.

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Advocating for equitable education, opportunities and support for rural and remote students