



BOARDING/HOSTELS/SECOND HOME PORTFOLIO

For many families throughout rural and remote Australia, the education of their children at a local state school is not an option. The decision to send their child to boarding school is a difficult one and not the best fit for all. ICPA has long campaigned for affordable access to an equitable education and the Boarding/Hostel/Second Home portfolio encompasses that.

The disparity between the Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme (AIC) Boarding Allowance and the actual cost of boarding children away from home for their schooling continues to grow. This growing gap is impacting on the effectiveness of the allowance to 'help the families of students who are unable to attend an appropriate state school on a daily basis, mainly because of geographic isolation'.

WHATS GOOD TO KNOW & ACHEIVEMENTS

- There are 12 **Boarding Schools** in Adelaide, 1 in Port Pirie and 3 Public Boarding Hostels across the state, Lucindale, Cleve and Burra
- **Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)** payments can cover; Basic Boarding Allowance, Additional Boarding Allowance (SEA), Second Home Allowance, Distance Education Allowance.
- **The Australian Boarder Parent Handbook** - *ICPA proudly endorses The Australian Boarder Parent Handbook*. This book is essential for all those new to boarding as it covers everything that you could imagine that will crop up throughout this journey.
- We provide a **template letter** to aid families when times are tough (draught/natural disaster), to send to schools regarding capacity to meet financial obligations.

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- Covid restrictions within boarding schools and interstate travel implications
- AIC online application/renewal system to be put in place
- Providing mental health resources in all boarding schools
- Removal of Fringe Benefit taxes to employees who contribute to education costs
- Second home allowance is equitant to Basic Boarding Allowance
- High costs associated with sending children to boarding schools. Communication with Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) for connections and understanding.