



ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

OF

WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MINUTES

OF THE

47TH ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

Post compulsory theme: "School door closes, a new door opens."

22nd MARCH 2019

HELD AT THE

Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough Perth

HOSTED BY

ESPERANCE BRANCH

ICPA (WA)

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Department of
Education

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ICPA (WA) STATE COUNCIL 2018 – 2019 (March 2018 AGM)

PRESIDENT

Tash Johns

VICE PRESIDENT

Karina Walter

SECRETARY

Amanda Nixon

TREASURER

Bianca James

PUBLICITY OFFICER/WEBMASTER

Michelle Marshall - Bianca James

LONES OFFICER

Carol Ford

COMMITTEE

Sally Brindal

COMMITTEE

Elyce Donaghy

COMMITTEE

Robin Pensini

COMMITTEE

Kym Ross

COMMITTEE

Elize Scheepers

ICPA (WA) STATE COUNCIL 2019 – 2020 (March 2019 AGM)

PRESIDENT

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PUBLICITY OFFICER/WEBMASTER

Kym Ross

LONES OFFICER

Sandie McCombie

COMMITTEE

Elyce Donaghy

COMMITTEE

Naomi Obst

COMMITTEE

Chandra Ridley

COMMITTEE

Kym Burns

COMMITTEE

Jayne Hughes

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Friday 22nd March 2019

- **Welcome** Bianca James
- **Welcome by Convener** Michelle Barrett (Esperance Branch)
- **National Anthem** Penrhos College
- **Official Opening** Ms Sylvia Byers
- **Introduction of Guests & Delegates** Amanda Nixon
- **State President's Report** Tash Johns
- **Speaker** Mr Tim Hunter Ertech Construction Academy
- **Speaker** Mr Tom Mitchell UWA College Row
- **Branch Report** Ms Alys McKeough Gascoyne Branch
- **Speaker** Mr Boyd Brown Telstra Countrywide Area General Manager
Platinum Sponsor
- **Speaker** Mr Dean Carslake WA College of Agriculture, Morawa
- **Federal ICPA Report** Mrs Sally Sullivan Federal Vice President ICPA (Aust)
- **REVISE Report** Mrs Sue Potter Coordinator REVISE
- **Speaker** Ms Jane McNamara Head of nbn Local WA
- **Speaker** Mr Ashley Couper CRT: Gold Sponsors
- **Portfolio Report - Travel** Mrs Elyce Donaghy State Council ICPA (WA)
- **Keynote Speaker** Ms Maree Gooch Creating the Doors to Open
- **Speaker** Mr John Smoker Manager, Muresk Institute
- **Speaker** Ms Lisa Marquis Big Picture Education
- **AGM of ICPA (WA)**
- **Presentations, close of business.**

▪ **Confirmation of 2018 Conference Minutes**

Moved: Amanda Nixon (State Council) **Seconded:** Kym Ross (State Council) **CARRIED**
Business Arising Nil

CONFERENCE MOTIONS

Agenda Motions: A1 Accommodation

A1 Midwest Branch *Accommodation*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Education and Training to review the varying and inequitable fee structure at the Geraldton Residential College and ensure that non-government school students pay no more than 10% more in boarding fees than government school students.”

Moved: Naomi Obst (Midwest) **Seconded:** Susanne Warr (Midwest) **CARRIED**

Agenda Motions: A2, A3, A4, A5 Allowances

A2 Pilbara Branch *Allowances*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government to reverse the decrease in the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) and instead increase it in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annually, to accommodate the significant increases in boarding fees charged by all boarding facilities”.

Moved: Robin Pensini (Pilbara) **Seconded:** Sandie McCombie (Pilbara) **CARRIED**

A3 Lakes District Branch *Allowances*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education, the Minister for Primary Industry and Regional Development and the State Government to immediately reinstate the full Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA).”

Claire Walter (Lakes District) **Deemed covered (A2)**

A4 Central Wheatbelt North Branch *Allowances*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the State Government to reverse the decision of removing the Royalties for Regions component to the BAHA allowance, with a view to increasing the allowance and take into account the significant increases in boarding fees placed on all parents by all boarding institutions, Government and non-Government”.

Nancy Werder (CWN) **Deemed covered (A2)**

A5 Goldfield Eyre Branch

Allowances

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government and the Education Department to reinstate the Royalties for Regions (R4R) funding for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) and continue to lobby for a substantial BAHA increase to take into account the significant annual rise in boarding fees.”

Jimmy Woods (Goldfield Eyre)

Deemed covered (A2)

Agenda Motions: S1, S2 Communications

S1 Central Wheatbelt North Branch

Communications

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies Telstra and the Minister for Regional Development to ensure the time taken to restore faults, and the entitlements for every working day of delay beyond an agreed repair date is within the Customer Service Guarantee guidelines, in Rural and Remote WA.”

Moved: *Lisa Brennan (CWN)*

Seconded: *Nancy Werder (CWN)*

CARRIED

S2 Central Wheatbelt North Branch

Communications

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Regional Development and telecommunication service providers to ensure the retention and maintenance of landline services in rural and remote areas, until another means of reliable, affordable and appropriate voice service is available.”

Moved: *Lisa Brennan (CWN)*

Seconded: *Nancy Werder (CWN)*

CARRIED

Agenda Motions: A7 Distance Education

A7 Goldfield Eyre Branch

Distance Education

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Department of Education to ensure that the role of Support Teacher of Learning (STL) and the funding for the position in Schools of the Air (SOTA) continues past 2019.”

Moved: *Jimmy Woods (Goldfield Eyre)*

Seconded: *Elyce Donaghy (Goldfield Eyre)* **CARRIED**

Agenda Motions: A8, S3 Rural & Remote Schools / Appropriate Schooling

A8 Esperance Branch

Appropriate Schooling

“That the ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Education and the Department of Education to provide relevant Professional Development training in areas such as online budgeting, Human Resources Management Information

Systems (HRMIS), Policy requirements and School Council training to all new Level Three School Principals that have not had previous Principal or Deputy Principal role/s prior to beginning their position.”

Moved: Tracey Schlink (*Esperance*)

Seconded: Elaine Egan (*Esperance*)

CARRIED

S3 Esperance Branch

Rural & Remote Schools

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Education and the Department of Education for the role of an Executive Principal being trialed with the Esperance Mallee Schools; to provide an overarching supporting role for new Principals.”

Moved: Tracey Schlink (*Esperance*)

Seconded: Elaine Egan (*Esperance*)

CARRIED

Agenda Motions: A9, A10, F2 Travel

A9 Kimberley Air Branch

Travel

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Transport to increase the payment per kilometre for the Conveyancing Allowance”

Moved: Connie Wood (*Kimberley*)

Seconded: Kirsty Forshaw (*Kimberley*)

CARRIED

A10 Lakes District Branch

Travel

WITHDRAWN

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Transport for a full policy review of the “Orange Bus Service” for rural students.

F2 Lakes District Branch

Travel

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Public Transport Authority to review the Operational Policy Manual with a view to ensure more remotely affected families can get better transport solutions under the existing policy transport assistance framework.

Moved: Claire Walter (*Lakes District*)

Seconded: Jodie Dunkeld (*Lakes District*)

CARRIED

Agenda Motions: A6, A11, A12, A13, S4, F1, S5, S6 Miscellaneous

A6 Lakes District Branch

Miscellaneous

“That ICPA (WA) offer to provide all boarding facilities with ICPA information pamphlets to be made available for orientation satchels/bags/electronic distribution.”

Moved: *Claire Walter (Lakes District)*

Seconded: *Jodie Dunkeld (Lakes District)*

CARRIED

A11 WA State Council

Miscellaneous

“ICPA (WA) recommends that all twelve WA Branches adopt a blanket membership fee of \$100.00 starting 2020, to bring all branches in line with each other and to ease the workload of both the WA State Treasurer and Branch Treasurers.”

Moved: *Sally Brindal (State Council)*

Seconded: *Kym Ross (State Council)*

CARRIED

A12 WA State Council

Miscellaneous

“That the ICPA (WA) State Publication, Bits & Pieces, be reduced from two paper editions annually, to one electronic edition per year.”

Moved: *Kym Ross (State Council)*

Seconded: *Sally Brindal (State Council)*

LOST

A13 Central Wheatbelt North Branch

Miscellaneous

“That ICPA (WA) consider offering members the option of member publications in print format with the default being electronic format (i.e. Bits & Pieces).”

Moved: *Lisa Brennan (CWN)*

Seconded: *Nancy Werder (CWN)*

LOST

S4 Gascoyne Branch

Miscellaneous

WITHDRAWN

“That State Council consider holding the Annual State Conference, Annual General Meeting and General Meeting in the week preceding the Term One school holidays”

F1 Gascoyne Branch

Miscellaneous

“That State Council consider different options for the date of state conference and State AGM”

Moved: *Alys McKeough (Gascoyne)*

Seconded: *Mary Wake (Gascoyne)*

LOST

S5 Lakes District Branch

Miscellaneous

“That ICPA (WA) ask the relevant course coordinators at WA Universities to encourage a post graduate student to complete a thesis on the positives and negatives of sending your children to boarding school in year 7.”

Moved

Claire Walter

Lakes District Branch

Seconded

Jodie Dunkeld

Lakes District Branch

LOST

S6 Lakes District Branch

Miscellaneous

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Education Department, Minister for Education and the Boarding Schools Association to encourage all WA schools (both private and public) to have the same school holidays and boarders’ weekends.”

Moved

Claire Walter

Lakes District Branch

Seconded

Jodie Dunkeld

Lakes District Branch

LOST

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Opened 4.06pm

▪ **Treasurer’s Financial Report**

Bianca James

AGM Motions:

AGM 1

State Council

“That the 2018 Financial Statement and report be accepted as presented.”

CARRIED

Moved: Bianca James (State Council)

Seconded: Sally Brindal (State Council)

AGM 2

State Council

“That Barris Accountants Perth WA is appointed as the ICPA (WA) Auditor for 2020.”

CARRIED

Moved: Bianca James (State Council)

Seconded: Sally Brindal (State Council)

AGM 3

State Council

“That ICPA (WA) state affiliation fee remain at \$50 per member family for 2020.”

CARRIED

Moved: Bianca James (State Council)

Seconded: Sally Brindal (State Council)

Election of State Council for 2019 – 2020

All positions were declared vacant and the Returning Officer, Liz Sudlow took the chair.

President

Tash Johns

Nominated: Bianca James Seconded: Amanda Nixon Duly Elected

Vice President

Sally Brindal

Nominated: Amanda Nixon Seconded: Tash Johns Duly Elected

Secretary

Amanda Nixon

Nominated: Elize Scheepers Seconded: Tash Johns Duly Elected

Treasurer

Bianca James

Nominated: Elyce Donaghy Seconded: Kym Ross Duly Elected

Publicity Officer/Webmaster

Kym Ross

Nominated: Bianca James Seconded: Elyce Donaghy Duly Elected

Lones Officer

Sandie McCombie

Nominated: Sally Brindal Seconded: Samantha Greay Duly Elected

Committee

Elyce Donaghy

Nominated: Kym Ross Seconded: Carol Ford Duly Elected

Committee

Naomi Obst

Nominated: Sally Brindal Seconded: Liz Sudlow Duly Elected

Committee

Jane Hughes

Nominated: Alys McKeough Seconded: Tash Johns Duly Elected

Committee

Chandra Ridley

Nominated: Raelene Hall Seconded: Clyde Hall Duly Elected

Committee

Kym Burns

Nominated: Sally Brindal Seconded: Samantha Greay Duly Elected

Annual General Meeting declared closed at 4.30pm

Treasurer's Report

Bianca James

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT 2018

To: The Members of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (Inc.)

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (Inc.) for the year ended **31st December 2018**. The Treasurer is responsible for these reports, and has determined that they meet the needs of the Members. We have conducted an independent audit of these reports in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (Inc.) only.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing standards to provide reasonable assurance on whether the reports are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the reports provided. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly, so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (Inc.)'s financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

Subscriptions, fundraising and grants are a significant source of revenue for the Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (Inc.). As the evidence available to us regarding revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to subscriptions and fundraising had to be restricted to the amounts records in the financial records.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the limitations described above, the financial statements represent a True and Fair View of the financial position of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association WA (Inc.) as at the 31 December 2018.

21 March 2019



Nicholas Barris CPA
Barris Accounting

ICPA

STATEMENT BY TREASURER

In the opinion of the treasurer:

- a. The financial statements provide a true and fair view of the financial position of the ICPA branch as at 31 December 2018 and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations for the years ended on that date.
- b. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the ICPA branch will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee.

 SIGNATURE

Treasurer

ICPA
Depreciation Register
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2018

Equipment Description	Date	Amount	OWDV	Adjustments	Dep Rate	Business %	Dep Amt	WDV
Note: Pre 2012 Asset Register (No Details Provided)	30/06/2012	17,127	5,475	24	0%	0%	0	5,499
Equipment Purchased	16/02/2016	624	-	-	100%	100%	0	0
Go To Meeting Licence	27/02/2017	624	624	-	100%	100%	0	0
Cannon MG3765 Printer	26/06/2017	63	63	-	100%	100%	0	0
Seagate Harddrive	19/07/2017	96	96	-	100%	100%	0	0
Harvey Norman Computer for Treasurer	13/04/2018	1,206	1,206	-	50%	100%	127	1,080
2TB Hard Drive	31/01/2018	84	84	-	100%	100%	84	0
Total		19,824	7,548				211	6,579

**THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENT'S
ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED
31/12/2018**

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT:

INCOME	2018	2017
Department of Education Grant	9,091	9,091
Donations, Registrations & Sponsorship	4,810	5,368
Federal Conference Profit Distribution	-	817
Fundraising Income	1,655	-
Interest Received	908	582
State Conference Funds	18,236	13,822
Subscriptions	25,314	27,292
Sundry Income	2,290	851
TOTAL INCOME	62,303	57,822
EXPENSES		
Accounting & Audit Fees	450	427
Advertising	2,445	1,250
Bank Charges	3	3
Computer Repairs & Maintenance	-	682
Depreciation Expense	211	782
Donations	-	109
Federal Conference Costs	4,147	5,286
Insurance	3,482	3,455
Legal	1,603	-
Postage	268	1,760
Printing & Stationery	434	4,382
Professional Development Costs	-	64
Purchases (including Promotional Items)	2,313	2,018
Refunds	-	1,500
State Meeting Expenses (including related Travel Costs)	27,679	17,829
Subscriptions (Branch & Federal Council)	9,654	6,755
Sundry Expenses (Council Shirts)	500	-
Sundry Expenses (Storage Costs & Fundraising Books & Mugs)	4,413	770
Travel Expenses (Other)	3,840	16,063
TOTAL EXPENSES	61,441	63,133
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	862	(5,311)

Note: Figures above exclusive of GST

**THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENT'S
ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED
31/12/2018**

BALANCE SHEET:

CURRENT ASSETS **2018** **2017**

Bank Accounts:

Commonwealth Bank Cheque Account	22,540	22,121
Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit Account (557)	43,563	42,655
Commonwealth Bank Friends Account	2,358	2,474
Paypal Account	3,176	4,197

Australian Taxation Office:

ATO GST Refundable Account	0	114
GST Adjustment Account	46	166

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS **71,682** **71,727**

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Fixed Assets:

* Plant & Equipment (Pre 2012)	17,127	17,127
* Less: Accumulated Depreciation (Pre 2012)	(11,652)	(11,652)
Plant & Equipment	2,866	1,551
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,762)	(1,551)

TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS **6,579** **5,475**

TOTAL ASSETS **78,261** **77,202**

LIABILITIES

GST Payable	196	0
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TOTAL LIABILITIES **196** **0**

NET ASSETS **78,064** **77,202**

EQUITY

Members Funds	77,202	82,513
Current Earnings	862	(5,311)

TOTAL EQUITY **78,064** **77,202**

* Note: Balance Sheet Contains Plant & Equipment (which represents old data prior to 2012). No historical asset register history recorded.

REPORTS:

2019 ICPA (WA) President's Report

Tash Johns

The Hon. Melissa Price MP – Federal Minister for the Environment, Hon. Donna Faragher MLC –Shadow Minister for Education, Hon. Jacqui Boydell MLC –Deputy Leader the Nationals & Member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Mr Shane Love MLA – Member for Moore, Mrs Roxanne Morrissey - ICPA (WA) Life Member, Mrs Raelene Hall – ICPA (WA) Life Member, Mrs Sally Sullivan & Mrs Jane O'Brien – Representatives of ICPA Australia, Guests, Speakers and ICPA Members. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 47th Annual Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA State Conference and to present my report as State President.

ICPA (WA) welcomed the news in September, that the Moora Residential College would see it's \$8.7 million refurbishment funded through a Federal Government grant and assurance given by the Education Minister, Sue Ellery announcing that the recurrent funding of the college would continue into the future.

Families who had started to look for alternative boarding facilities were now able to keep their children enrolled at Moora Residential College. This was certainly a welcome relief.

Another announcement from the December 2017 Education Cuts that the management of six Education Department run Camp Schools would now be managed by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO). From the 1st January this year, Fairbridge WA manages and operates the Pemberton, Bridgetown, Point Peron, Goldfields, Geraldton and Dampier Camp Schools. Assurances have been made to ICPA (WA) and the wider community, that these schools will certainly continue to operate into the future and that programs and services would not be diminished.

ICPA (WA) will continue to monitor these schools with consultation with Fairbridge WA and feedback from our members to keep Fairbridge WA and the Education Department accountable in keeping these much relied upon facilities operational, so that the many students from around Western Australia are able to continue to use them.

Sally Brindal and myself from the WA State Council attended a Federal Joint Councils meeting in Melbourne on 21st & 22nd February.

This meeting gave representatives from each of the State Councils and Federal Council the opportunity to meet in a face to face environment to discuss the many issues each councils experience. It also gives the other states ideas and food for thought on ways to encourage member engagement, increase membership numbers and overall the feeling that we are certainly not in this alone. Discussions over the two-day meeting were engaging and informative and I came away with the sense that the issues we see in WA are not isolated to our State and in fact experienced by all of the other States.

I would like to thank Wendy Hick our Federal President and Suzanne Wilson, Federal Secretary for facilitating this meeting and encouraging such an open dialect.

During the year ICPA (WA) received correspondence from Minister Ellery in relation to motion issues and commented that in conjunction with Edith Cowan University (ECU) the Department is currently exploring options

to place student teachers with School of the Air (SOTA) families as part of ECU's Primary Internship Pilot, which is in its third year.

ICPA (WA), through our discussions with Queensland State Council at the Joint Councils meeting, were put in contact with the new Executive Dean of Education at ECU, Professor Stephen Winn to seek more information and clarification on this initiative. ICPA (WA) have been informed that given it is only a trial at this stage, ECU are unable to give further information, but would be happy to talk with our organisation further once the trial has been completed. Obviously, this initiative would be welcomed by many members whose children are currently enrolled at the five Schools of the Air throughout the State and historically is an initiative ICPA (WA) has been seeking.

ICPA (WA) understands that ECU are looking into professional development for SOTA families and providing advanced standing in the second year of its Master of Teaching Primary for family members who already hold a degree. This means that they will only need to complete the final year of the course, which is offered fully online.

State Council look forward to gaining more information over the coming year to provide a better understanding and to relay this information back to our members.

The Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) and the reduction of the Royalties for Regions component continues to be high on the agenda for State Council and an issue our members will continually raise until the Government realises the impact the reduction is causing to regional families throughout WA.

Through ICPA WA's advocacy on the issues raised by our members through their motions we continue to highlight the issues faced on a daily basis seeking an appropriate education for our children throughout regional, rural and remote WA.

We have had enquiries from a couple of WA Branches asking if there is any way they are able to help our fellow members who are experiencing drought and the recent floods. ICPA (WA) have raised this with Federal Council and the QLD State Council with suggestions we have received from branches. This has seen several branches forgo their donation they would regularly make to State or Federal Councils and seeing those funds used to help members who have experienced the effects of drought and flood. This could see funds used to help a member renew their membership for the year or contribute to getting delegates to their State or to Federal Conference. This is still in the discussion phase and I hope that I will have more to report back in the next month. Queensland State Council have been literally blown away by support shown from ICPA members from across the country.

Our State Council is made up of many different personalities and skill set but combined we are a formidable team and like Eleanor Roosevelt once said – "A woman is like a teabag; you never know how strong she is until it's in hot water". I certainly see this strength amongst our council and our members throughout the State and it is what drives us and keeps our organisation so reputable.

Our theme today is "School Door closes, a new door Opens" and I hope that you may take away with you invaluable information and knowledge concerning your child's future, once their school door closes.

Let us also hope that I can make it home after today, due to the much-wanted cyclone currently hovering in my region and the prospect of much needed rain for all!

ICPA Australia Federal Council Report

Sally Sullivan Vice President ICPA (Aust)

Madam President, Shane Love MLA Member for Moore, ICPA State Life Members Roxanne Morrissey and Raelene Hall, fellow ICPA members and guests, it is my pleasure to update you on the work of your ICPA Federal Council.

Usually Wendy Hick, our Federal Council President, would have a fair hand in compiling this report. However, this year, Wendy has not only been one of the people affected by the NW Qld floods, after many years of drought, she has also been enormously involved in providing advice to government and agencies on dealing with the flood crisis and the continuing drought crisis and loses no opportunity to make sure education is right up there on every agenda and in the mix for every discussion about how to help people. I am glad Wendy is not delivering this report because it allows me to say Wendy is doing all of that on top of keeping her own family business together, supporting neighbours who lost everything and still made it to lead the State and Federal Joint Councils' Face to Face meeting in Melbourne a couple of weeks ago.

The press around drought and floods has provided us with an 'in' to go hard in pursuing the establishment of a Rural Hardship Education Fund; never has the need been so obviously acute. Federal Council's proposal has been fine-tuned and the message is being delivered to many in Canberra as well as to other organisations on similar missions.

The recent UNICEF Australia Drought Report released 18 February, 2019 has further put the spotlight on the effect of drought on children's wellbeing, and also on their education. Last year UNICEF Senior Policy Advisor, Oliver White met with ICPA and spoke with other key stakeholders determining avenues to gather information for this report.

ICPA has concerns for the mental wellbeing of our rural and remote children when facing these types of situations continuously and have been advocating for the creation of resources specific to rural and remote students and the challenges they face.

Conference 2018

At last years' Federal Conference, 'conjoined' motions were trialed to save time and in order to better present a number of the same motions. The explanations from each Branch/State Council who submitted those motions were still listed under the conjoined motion presented. This was well received and enabled branches and members to still have their say while reducing the time spent on motions and allowing more time for speakers.

For the first time in recent history, ICPA (Aust) received more Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) motions than Communications motions at the 2018 Federal Conference, due to the introduction of the New Child Care Package which saw many concerns with the changes within In Home Care as well as the usual early learning motions. The first four ECEC motions pertained to the extension of the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) to 4-year-olds studying an early childhood program by distance education and these were therefore presented together as a conjoined motion. A second Conjoined motion was in relation to the provision of a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA). Members unanimously support these long-running motions. The time is ripe for election promises!

And so the next big task for Federal Council will be to finalise our Election Strategy and work on getting some of the things we advocate for onto the radars of current and prospective members of parliament.

After Federal Conference last August, Council set to work actioning the 89 motions carried at that conference. In October we met face-to-face in Canberra for a couple of days before embarking on a delegation to the Big House and taking those motions to some 35 politicians. We followed up with meetings with the Dept of Education and

Training, Dept of Human Services and Dept of Social Security. These meetings are always fruitful because the Dept personnel we meet with are in positions to effect changes to Youth Allowance applications or AIC processing for example, or to take direct feedback on the ability or not of rural/remote people to access IHC.

In dealing with motions correspondence drafted by Federal Councillors, our illustrious Secretary, Suzanne Wilson, in responding to 65 motions, sent 24 original letters, cc'd them 130 other people (largely politicians), with 116 pages of attachments, totalling 588 pages in 93 envelopes! That was just the hard copies. They were all emailed as well. But who's counting??

The Federal Motion Update, which outlines how Federal Council has been actioning motions, outcomes achieved and our future plans, was distributed to members via a link in the Federal Branch Bulletin on 1 March and can be found on the ICPA website. I'll only touch on a few pertinent points in this report but I encourage all members to read the motion update and contact us if you have further questions or want more information.

Submissions

Federal Council started this year with a bang lodging four submissions in the first month; adding to the 12 submissions lodged in the last 12 months. Topics range from regional airfares, satellite TV, study hubs, telecommunications, SES scores, STEM partnerships, mental health services, VET, and the big one, Submission to the Inquiry into Rural Inequality – where do you start!!

Submissions provide not-to-be missed opportunities for ICPA to draw attention to our arguments. In this electoral year it is imperative to keep our presence felt in all areas of education to ensure equity is maintained or increased, for our rural and remote students.

ICPA representatives have also made appearances at many public hearings all over the nation as well and further information has been sought from panels on several occasions; an indication we have been heard. I remember Prof Halsey saying when he was doing the Independent Review into RRR Ed wherever there was a public hearing, there was ICPA! Some of the other Inquiries have had a similar experience.

Meetings

Federal ICPA is on a number of committees, advisory groups and coalitions and works closely with many organisations with whom we have an affinity. Some of these include ACARA, the Rural Regional and Remote Communications Coalition, the National Rural Health Alliance, nbn Roundtable and the Virtual Work Experience Advisory Group.

During the year, state and federal portfolios and executives have endeavoured to hold teleconferences with the view to sharing information, issues and ideas.

This year the Joint Councils meeting of ICPA state and federal presidents and secretaries was held in February in Melbourne and from all accounts was a very informative and productive couple of days. Federal continues to work closely with states on many issues and appreciate the efforts of state representatives in getting to the meeting and contributing so freely. This meeting helps to improve consistency across our processes and with our presentation as a unified organisation.

Boarding

Federal Council continues to raise the need for a significant increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance (AIC). With the severe drought continuing in many areas of Australia, (and now floods as well) the ever-widening gap between the AIC and the cost of boarding to families is ever more pronounced. Following on from motions at the Federal Conference, ICPA seeks a review of the AIC to be undertaken and Federal Council raised this at our delegations in Nov. Federal Council have also spoken extensively on the need for a permanent program to assist rural and remote families with education costs in times of rural hardship, whether this is through fire, flood, industry impacts or drought. Federal President Wendy Hick has been attending meetings with the Joint

Agency Drought Taskforce and raising the need for the implementation of a Rural Hardship Education Fund (RHEF) as well as highlighting the excessive educational costs faced by our rural families in accessing schooling for their children.

Mental wellbeing, particularly for students who live away from home for schooling, has also been a focus in our boarding discussions and Federal Council has been involved in several conversations with various organisations interested in the creation of resources designed specifically for rural and remote students and their families which will help address the unique challenges they face whether they are boarding away from home, in a small rural school setting or distance education classroom. ICPA also assisted UNICEF in coordinating their trip out to rural NSW areas to talk with children to assess the impact the drought is having on them and we welcomed their report which was released on Mon 18 Feb.

Communications

ICPA (Aust) remains a member of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition of 21 members strengthening our voice and giving us another platform for our members' issues.

We continue to work with Telstra and nbn™ to try to resolve issues affecting our members and we greatly appreciate members' feedback as well as contacting us when they have a problem.

We are excited to be part of the nbn™ Sky Muster Plus announcement. Sky Muster Plus is an exciting new product development for regional internet users which will provide plans with unmetered access across essential internet services including PC operating system updates, general web browsing, internet banking, smart phone and email usage. With Sky Muster Plus those downloads will not count toward monthly data allowances and will still be accessible after data plan allowances are exceeded. Sky Muster Plus is set to launch in 2019. More information can be found on our website. Hopefully these new plans will assist students who have been unable to access the education port, including tertiary students and those at small rural schools. Telstra has also unmetered a number of sites used for education. We are hopeful Telehealth might be another beneficiary of some of these negotiations.

We continue to advocate with stakeholders for mobile expansion into areas with a rural school. We have received support on this issue from both the government and Telstra.

We also welcomed the introduction of the Telstra regional call centre. If you are more than 100kms from a Telstra store, you will be automatically directed to a regional call centre when you call 132 200. This service operates 7 days a week. Telstra regional managers' contacts are also found on the ICPA website.

Telstra are waiving fees for drought-affected families, but you need to alert them to your situation.

We have again been reassured by the Minister for Communications office that landlines will remain for rural and remote customers until another adequate, reliable and affordable service is available and proven effective.

If anyone is having communication problems in their school room please contact Kristen Coggan, who luckily for us, is also one of the BIRRR ladies.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Preschool Funding

The Morrison Government is providing more than \$440 million to states and territories for preschool in 2019 under the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education. All states have now signed up for this.

We'd like to let it be known parents with preschool-aged children can still receive the Child Care Subsidy even where they do not meet the activity test. All families with children attending a preschool program in 2019 should ensure their child's expected school start date is correct and up-to-date with Centrelink.

For more information about the process, please refer to the [preschool exemption fact sheet](#) and the [FAQ page](#) on the Australian Government Dept of Education and Training website.

In Home Care (IHC)

An increase of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for IHC families from \$25.48/hour/family from 2 July 2018 to \$32.00/hour/family and up to \$38.40/hour/family for Additional CCS from 1 January 2019 is now available. See the latest version of the IHC National Guidelines:

https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/ihc_national_guidelines_-_december_2018.pdf

Families are encouraged to review their incomes to make sure they are receiving the correct percentage of CCS.

Federal Council would welcome any case studies to illustrate whether the increase of CCS has helped make IHC more affordable for families or not.

Two hundred more IHC places have been provided, particularly for families in Queensland.

The Department of Education and Training has informed IHC services in rural and regional areas that they can apply for a once-off **Special Circumstances grant** under the Community Child Care Fund to address any current viability issues. For further information including Guidelines, a Factsheet and Application form click on - [CCCF Special Circumstances Funding](#) . **Federal Council is particularly interested to know if any of the IHC Service Providers have been able to secure that Special Circumstances Funding.** Please contact us.

Skills IQ are updating Certificate III and Diploma for ECEC training packages with submissions now being accepted until 29 March 2019. All employers and educators are encouraged to add their feedback. Note that students have to gain their Cert III in ECEC before applying for Diploma training in ECEC and that work placements for Cert III have been increased from 120 hours to 160 hours, of which 120 hours must be in a regulated ECEC service. This will make life more difficult for rural and remote families and their IHC educators.

See:

<https://www.skillsiq.com.au/FeedbackForum/TrainingPackages1/CHCCommunityServices/EarlyChildhoodEducationandCareDraft2>

Rural and Remote Child Care Services

Guidelines are now available for a new open competitive grant round that will open in March 2019. The new round will help child care services in disadvantaged communities to improve access to early learning opportunities for vulnerable children and families. Further information including eligibility criteria is available at [Community Child Care Fund Round 2](#) .

Rural Schools and School Travel

As most of you know Greyhound Australia announced after last Federal Conference 'it will no longer carry children under the age of 15 without a chaperone'. Greyhound's cited safety of children at stops, especially destinations, as their reason for the change. The decision by Greyhound, taken without any consultation, impacted about 250 children nationally. In response, no doubt, pressured by ICPA, the Queensland State Government now funds a 'Chaperone' for children aged 12-14 on regulated routes for the purpose of attending school. Other States do not seem to have felt as big an impact as Qld, maybe because Greyhound had already cut some of its routes anyway. We would be interested to hear of other people affected elsewhere.

The inquiry into the operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities reporting date has been extended to Jun 2019. ICPA (Aust) and several State Councils have put submissions into this enquiry and ICPA was represented at several public hearings. Ideally, we would like to see outcomes such as student concessional fares or travel allowances included in AIC.

Specific Education Needs

Last conference two motions asked for rural, regional and remote families to access travel and accommodation assistance to attend appointments with qualified professionals in order to diagnose and manage specific learning needs. This is going to be an ongoing issue and future motions and ideas on how to further this aspiration are encouraged. These children fall into a big crack between education and health systems in regional areas across all states and territories.

We are exploring several lines of inquiry to find ways to develop mental health and cyberbullying resources for rural and remote families. While mental health resources for parents and students, especially around cyberbullying, are being developed by many organisations and government, few target geographically isolated students or boarding students specifically.

We are currently in negotiations with The University of NSW's Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) to deliver workshops for parents of gifted students living in rural and remote areas of Australia.

Tertiary/Training

Rural and remote students qualifying for independent Youth Allowance through self-supporting criteria have had another big win. As of January 1, 2019, the parental income cut-off for regional, rural and remote students applying for Allowance under the *Independent through work: Part-time work or earnings for rural and remote students* criteria, increased from \$150 000 to \$160 000, plus \$10 000 for each eligible additional child in the family. There is also greater flexibility in the choice of financial year used for parental income.

Federal Council has continued to work with the Department of Human Services in relation to the issues applicants have with Youth Allowance applications and navigating the website. We have provided them with documentation of the sections in the online application and they were very appreciative. As the process is reviewed our suggestions will be taken into consideration for hopefully a straightforward process.

Membership

A couple of years ago the position of Membership Officer was created to ease pressure on the Federal Treasurer. Jane O'Brien does an admirable job of keep abreast of who is and isn't a member. Online membership renewal and 'Join ICPA online' launched in November 2017 for the 2018 membership year. About three-quarters of members renewing or joining are using the online option, much to our Membership Officer's glee, so please encourage your members to use the online option. Members can still renew via the branches though and if current and potential members are experiencing difficulty, please email Jane O'Brien at fedmembership@icpa.com.au About 1500 members have signed up for this year so far (4 March).

Federal Council thanks the WA State Council for their ongoing contribution to the furtherance of federal issues and for keeping the issues of WA families on the table, in times perhaps more difficult than they should be (I think we should show our appreciation for the work they do with a round of applause).

And thank you to Esperance Branch for having us here in this amazing part of the world. Coming from the Top End, I enjoyed a bit of safe salt water and here's hoping cyclone Veronica delivers for the Pilbara and rural WA.

When looking for pithy education and children quotes to end on, I found this one from Robert Frost: "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." Wow - that is the sort of education we need to draw on in ICPA; the resilience to battle for equity in access to education

for geographically isolated children, with dignity and determination, carefully explaining our unique circumstances to those in positions of influence, who are isolated from us, year after year. Occasionally it pays off and the winners are our children of the bush and the country they love.

On that inspirational note, we hope you will be able to join us in Adelaide on 31 July and 1 Aug for the 2019 Federal Conference with the theme of “Sustain our Future, Invest in our Children”.

REVISE Conference Report

Sue Potter (Co-Ordinator)

REVISE is the acronym for Retired Educator Volunteers for Isolated Students Education.

My name is Sue Potter and together with my husband Alan, we are the coordinators of REVISE WA. REVISE consists of a group of dedicated retired teachers who volunteer their time to assist in the education of students enrolled with Schools of the Air around WA. Wherever possible, parents who request our help are provided with an experienced teacher to help them in their schoolroom for up to a month at a time.

Number of Requests for Tutors:

In 2018 there were only eighteen official requests from families for tutor assistance. One of these withdrew their request before a placement could be found. Another 5 requests were not able to be met as there was no suitable tutor available at the time. This is the largest number of unfilled requests that we have seen in the last few years. One of these requests was in a situation that was not suitable to place a tutor. In another 4 places we were unable to find a volunteer, due to extremely short notice or no tutors available at that time of the year. Consequently, only 13 placements were completed overall. At present, we have requests for 4 placements in this year.

Available Tutors.

We currently have 36 tutors on our books. As in previous years, some of these tutors do not make themselves available for a placement due to health, travel, time restrictions or family commitments. Of the twenty-nine tutors who volunteered their services last year there were a number who did not get a placement. This was due to fewer requests from families. We try to be equitable when allocating tutors, but this becomes quite a juggling act. Trying to match preferences in terms of timing, region, ages of students, means of transport and length of stay is sometimes difficult. Also, we receive several requests each year for the same tutor to return to families where the placement has been successful in past years. Obviously the more flexible and general the parent's preferences the easier it is to place tutors.

New Tutors

We have had several applications during the summer break from potential new tutors. This is an encouraging sign as we are constantly seeking out new tutors as our older ones resign from our group. At the beginning of this year we find ourselves in a comfortable situation financially. Currently, we do not receive any money from the government in the form of grants and rely on donations from groups and parents to fund our work. However, having said that, as each placement costs on average \$1000.00, we will soon need to apply for funding from various avenues so that we can continue to operate.

Evaluations

Every year we request feedback from parents as well as tutors. We usually have a great number of our tutors who complete these forms. We continue to have only a very small number of parents who complete the feedback forms online. However, when approached for comment, they are generally very happy with the service we provide. We will continue to encourage parents to give us feedback in the future as we are able to use their positive comments to assist when seeking future funding from the Education Department. We also find that feedback from parents is invaluable for future placements and we would like to ensure all parents that their comments are kept strictly private and confidential. All day to day running of REVISE is done by a dedicated committee. However, currently we do not have a chairperson. We would like to ask if there is any member of ICPA who could possibly help us out. We only meet three times a year and need someone who would be willing to chair our group. If there is anyone who would like to know more about our services please seek us out today or contact us on our website, www.revisewa.com.au .

General Comments

Because the placement numbers have been low, we have been able to devote quite some time to cleaning up our organisation's archives and scanning all the paper copies into a digital form. We are pleased to say that our archives are now kept in digital format. Our thanks go to the Principals of the Schools of the Air who give our tutors support and assistance when they are working with the students on location. We know we can always call upon them if we need some advice or information to help our placements run effectively. We also would like to thank the ICPA committee for their continual support and advice for our group. But most importantly, our tutors have our personal thanks for jobs well done. We commend them on their willingness and cooperation. Our tutors continue to perform in their usual dedicated and professional manner, allowing mothers to have a well-deserved break from the usual routine of the school room. Thank you all.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

Allowances Report

Sally Brindal – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

There are several allowances available to students throughout their compulsory and post compulsory education.

The following are governed by the Federal Government:

- Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance
- AIC Additional Boarding Allowance (parent income tested)
- AIC Second Home Allowance
- AIC Distance Education Allowance
- Youth Allowance - Dependent and Independent (Post Compulsory)
- Student Start-Up Loan
- Relocation Scholarship
- Fares Allowance (Post Compulsory)
- Living Away from Home Allowance (Apprentices)

The following are governed by the State Government:

- Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA)
- Student Subsidised Travel Scheme (SSTS)
- Road Travel Subsidy (RTS)
- Conveyance Allowance

BAHA is available to:

- students who qualify for AIC
- students in respite because of physical or intellectual disabilities, health related conditions or learning difficulties
- students attending and boarding at a Western Australian College of Agriculture
- students enrolled in a Gifted and Talented program at a public school and is boarding at City Beach Residential College

Allowances motions raised at the 2018 State Conference sought ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government for the reinstatement of the Royalties for Region (R4R) component of the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) in addition to seeking a substantial increase.

In response to the motions raised, letters were sent to both the Minister for Education and Training, Hon. Sue Ellery and the Minister for Regional Development, Hon. Alannah MacTiernan outlining the important role BAHA plays in providing additional assistance to families who have to send their children away to boarding school. In response, and further correspondence, whilst Minister Ellery understands our concerns she stated "... the Government has to prioritise funding and is regrettably not in a position to increase the current BAHA rates or reinstate the R4R component." Minister Ellery also reiterated that "the McGowan Government is committed to providing high-quality education to all students across Western Australia, regardless of location, and this has been demonstrated by the significant investment in regional education through a range of election commitments and the ongoing subsidisation of boarding fees for Government Residential Colleges and Agricultural Colleges. Currently the State Government funds between 50 and 55% of the costs to operate the boarding facilities at the Residential and Agricultural Colleges to ensure this option remains affordable for regional students." Unfortunately, it would seem the one factor that has been overlooked is that the public residential colleges are all in regional areas and due to location and logistics that option is not available to many families. Where Perth is the only feasible option, there are no Government Residential Colleges available. The only residential college in Perth is located in City Beach and is for Gifted and Talented students enrolled in specialised programs attending senior high schools in Perth. Consequently, remote, rural and regional families have to send their children to private boarding schools, at considerable expense, so every cut no matter how big or small is severely felt.

Boarding fees at the Residential Colleges continue to rise, up just under 2% again in 2019, an increase of 20% over the last 6 years. The Federal Government increases the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) payment each year in line with CPI, but unfortunately this is soon eroded by the reduction in the R4R component of BAHA. The only increase there has been to BAHA was back in 2010 when the \$785 R4R component was added, taking the payment from \$1320 to \$2105. By 2022 the BAHA payment will be back to \$1320, back to where it was 12 years earlier!

The reduction of the R4R component over 5 years equates to an annual increasing reduction of \$157 per child per year. For the 2018 school year the removal of the R4R component has saved the Government \$195,308 to date.

Year of Schooling	Number of Applications
2018	1244*
2017	1453
2016	1503
2015	1397
2014	1247

*applications still being accepted and paid

As we all know the cost of boarding both public and private is continually rising leaving remote, rural and regional families even more disadvantaged.

	Boarding Hostels Govt. (net cost)	AIC	BAHA	Parents (pay annually)
2013	\$11,550	\$7,487	\$2,105	\$1,958
2014	\$11,780	\$7,667	\$2,105	\$2,008
2015	\$12,660	\$7,897	\$2,105	\$2,658
2016	\$13,510	\$8,015	\$2,105	\$3,390
2017	\$13,660	\$8,095	\$2,105	\$3,460
2018	\$13,900	\$8,249	\$1,948	\$3,703
2019	\$14,143	\$8,422	\$1,791	\$3,930
20% increase				
2019	\$22835* non-public schools	\$8,422	\$1,791	\$12,622

*those students utilising Government Residential Colleges but attending private school

Letters sent to Minister MacTiernan unfortunately remain unanswered. As Minister for Regional Development one would think it is of great importance for her to encourage families and businesses to remain in remote, rural and regional areas, as well as the need to attract new businesses and families. Access to education is one critical factor in attracting (or not) families to such areas, and for them to remain. As the cost of boarding increases and assistance from the Government diminishes, we have already seen families leave these areas due to the affordability of access to education. It is imperative that any Regional Development Plan factors in education.

Communications Report

Amanda Nixon – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

The 2018 Conference communications motions required ICPA (WA) State Council to advocate for reliable service/connection, plans to address bandwidth limitations to rural and remote schools and mobile blackspot areas affecting Branch Members.

Correspondence with the Department of Education (DoE), Service providers such as Telstra Countrywide, NBN Local and ICPA Federal Council has been proactive and promising.

Fibre optic services

Installation of mobile service towers has been leveraged to provide fibre optic broadband services to schools near new mobile towers. Throughout 2017 and continuing in 2018/19, 137 regional and remote schools have been, or will be, connected to fibre optic services.

Mobile Satellite Small Cell solution

The DoE is in early discussions with Telstra about trialling the small cell 4G mobile service which may be an option for sites to address mobile and possibly band width limitations.

The Telstra 4GX-lite Mobile Satellite Small Cell solution: Telstra plan to launch 500 small cells across regional and remote Australia over the next 3 years. This solution can be economically delivered to areas that previously have never had mobile coverage.

The Satellite Small Cell is funded by co-contributions from Telstra and the customer, where the customer pays an initial amount to cover the cost of installation and Telstra build and maintain the small cell, reducing the cost of gaining access to new coverage from hundreds of thousands of dollars for a new base station to tens of thousands.

NBN Skymuster Plus product

ICPA Federal and State Council have also been involved in National and State meetings with NBN and industry stakeholders. The regions eagerly await the NBN Skymuster Plus product launch some time in 2019. This will provide unmetered access across specified web browsing (education, health and commerce based), email, smart phone and PC operating system updates. These downloads will not count towards monthly data allowances. NBN is currently consulting with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) on how this product will be presented to customers. This announcement will see primary, secondary, tertiary and boarding students with Sky Muster services at home able to participate.

Rural schools and students will also stand to gain from this new paid option. The solutions offered by NBN will hopefully enable better management of bandwidth and allow nomination of bandwidth-based services (for example, Webex) to be unmetered and therefore not impact monthly download volumes.

Mobile Blackspots

ICPA (WA) provided written support to the Goodlands Ag Committee to address mobile coverage to the existing 178,000-hectare Mobile Black Spot area (Motion A23). School bus routes and conveyance spurs do not have communication when en route to geographically isolated primary schools within the region. The Goodlands Tower was one of the eight projects approved in the network co-investment fund. Telstra's Co-investment Fund supports improved mobile coverage for regional Australia by co-investing with external partners (over and above the federally-funded Mobile Black Spot Program). Congratulations to the Goodlands community for your hard work in advocating for equity in access to telecommunications, hence supporting member's families in the regions.

A list of schools in the mobile blackspot is actively being collated. Mobile coverage is additionally important in case of emergencies, where power may be out or in adverse weather conditions where internet/ Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is of no use. Sometimes the school may be the centre of evacuation in rural or remote communities. This is hampered if there is no mobile coverage.

Telstra Regional Advisory Council

Telstra have established state-based Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) to ensure the voice of rural and regional stakeholders is heard and where appropriate acted upon. Comprising membership from a broad array of regional organisations (e.g. advocacy associations including ICPA, local government, agricultural organisations, primary producers), they are co-chaired by a Telstra executive and an external stakeholder. One of the key functions of the RAC is to identify projects with strong social and economic advantages for local communities. The RAC meet 3 to 4 times per year, with the last meeting held in November 2018 in Perth and with State President Tash Johns representing ICPA (WA).

NBN Local:

Tash and Amanda met with Rachael McIntyre, Head of nbn Local and Jane McNamara Manager WA, nbn Local. We discussed the relationship with nbn Local to share info with our members via newsletters and conference involvement.

The focus of the nbn Local team is to educate local communities on the status of the rollout, how to connect and how to resolve any issues. The nbn Local team will work with regional stakeholders and community groups to help ensure larger local problems and concerns are identified early and addressed.

NBN regional and remote landing page

Provides up to date information about nbn technologies, FAQs and upcoming community events.

<https://www1.nbnco.com.au/residential/learn/regional>

ICPA Member Case Studies

Please contact ICPA if you are willing to be part of a series of case studies and stories as part of a content partnership with NBN. If we can identify issues, problems and concerns with the service providers and stakeholders and share our stories, we can move forward in accessing equitable communication.

RTIRC

The *Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee* (RTIRC) reviewed telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. RTIRC Hearings were held around the country in 2018. Concerns centred around issues of access, specific stakeholder matters, the state of Telstra's landline network, confusion around NBN services (fixed wireless is generally criticised while Sky Muster satellite appears to be gaining greater acceptance), and in some hearings there has been a greater focus on the need to educate communities around technology rollouts, what products are best for them and how to be more digitally savvy etc.

Telstra Regional Call Centre

Telstra has also established a specialised team to manage enquiries from regional and rural customers. They are able to redirect calls from customers who live more than 100km from a Telstra branded store to this specialised team which has received additional training on our regional product set. This service is available from 9am to 9pm AEST. There is no special number to call. All customers need to do is call us on **13 22 20** and the system will redirect the call.

Trial of a mobile TGO unit

Telstra continue to support and work with ICPA at a State and Federal level. Our State Councillors were asked to trial a mobile TGO unit (a mobile antenna solution product). Tash is pictured on our ICPA (WA) magazine hosting an online State Council meeting from 'out bush Marble Bar' and I was able to send ICPA (WA) emails to State Council from the back paddock at 10pm in the North Eastern Wheatbelt, with one bar improved to three.

So once again technology and telecommunications help to keep members of rural and remote Australia engaged in volunteer advocacy hours, access to education and make it more equitable to stay living in the country.

Thank you to ICPA Federal Council for supporting all the State Councils. ICPA Federal Council support all the State Communication portfolio holders by hosting combined online meetings and distributing up to date information on developments.

ICPA (Aust) works closely with the Federal Government, telecommunications companies and communication stakeholders and is a member of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition (RRRCC). ICPA seeks

the maintenance and development of adequate, affordable and reliable communications services for families in regional, rural and remote areas, particularly for the purpose of educational outcomes.

Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum Report

Tash Johns – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

At the 2018 State Conference, there were a number of motions presented by branches in relation to the SOTA, Distance Education & Curriculum portfolio. The issues raised included; a reversal to the budget cuts to the five WA Schools of the Air (SOTAs), which were grouped under the Student-Centered Funding Model (SCFM) and a copy of the findings into the review be made available to the public, the Support Teacher of Learning (STL) and its funding continue well past 2018 and that the Minister of Education consult with advisory groups and parents collectively from each of the five SOTAs before making any significant changes in the future.

ICPA (WA) set to work and wrote to the relevant Minister and/or Departments in relation to the above motions.

SOTA & Distance Education

A letter was sent to the then Education Department Acting Director General, Ms Jennifer McGrath in relation to Motion A1 and the STL position and funding.

It was stated in correspondence to Ms McGrath the history of how the STL was initially created.

State Council stressed the importance of this very relied upon service continues well into the future and to seek a guarantee from the Education Department that the STL service and funding does not cease past 2018.

In reply correspondence received from Ms McGrath, she did not guarantee the continuance of the STL past 2019 and stated “No change has been made to the public-school funding model for the 2019 school year”

The Acting Director General continued in saying there had been an evaluation of the SCFM and that the findings will be made public when available. ICPA (WA) are still awaiting these findings.

In other correspondence sent to the Education Minister, Hon. Sue Ellery in relation to Motions A2, A3 & S15, State Council asked the Minister to reverse the decision to group the five SOTAs under the SCFM due to the increased costs put on parents and a request to view the findings from the SCFM evaluation. It was initially due to be undertaken in February 2018, but at the 2018 State Conference, Stephen Baxter, the then Executive Director, State-wide Services stated that it would now be completed by the end of the financial year.

Minister Ellery replied that the Government “understands that increases to costs, whether they are related to schooling or more generally to the cost of living, have an impact on family budgets”. The Minister also continued to say that she had recently announced funding for the 2019 school year that covers the increased costs schools need to address, the majority of which relate to staff salaries.

The Education Minister pointed out one school in particular, Port Hedland SOTA and that the increased costs to parents over three years to the annual SOTA Muster Camp were discussed and agreed by the school’s School Council. Minister Ellery continued by saying “The increased cost largely relates to increased external costs such as airfares and accommodation being distributed over a declining number of student enrolments at the Port Hedland SOTA and that “the school has been asked to explore opportunities for minimising camp costs for families in the future”.

ICPA (WA) sought a guarantee from the Education Minister asking that in the future, the Government and the Department, would consult with families, school communities and organisations such as our own, when deciding on changes to the five SOTAs. ICPA explained to the Minister that families and ICPA would be able to give the Department and the Government, useful insight and innovative ideas that could produce positive changes.

The Minister did reply that she had taken on board ICPA's suggestion that she should visit with families throughout the State who are enrolled in the five SOTAs to gain a better insight. The Minister replied that she had in fact visited one family in the Gascoyne area and that she would prefer to receive specific invitations directly from interested families, rather than imposing herself on them.

Minister Ellery did say that if she did receive an invitation, she would be happy to consider it, other diary and Parliamentary commitments notwithstanding.

The six Education Department run camp schools from around the State that would now not close but would be managed by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) was another topic discussed with Minister Ellery.

The Minister announced on 10th September that Fairbridge WA had been selected through a tender process to operate and manage the six schools – Bridgetown, Dampier, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Pemberton and Point Peron.

Minister Ellery said that the conditions of use stipulate that the operator is required to provide public school students with access to camp experiences at an affordable cost. The Minister went on to say that the Department will continue to monitor the rates charged for each of the "camp sites" for the term of their respective leases.

With mixed reports from the Department, parents, media and social media, ICPA (WA) sought to meet with the CEO of Fairbridge WA, Mr David Russell.

Mr Russell made the time to meet with State Council during our October Face to Face meeting in Perth.

There were several questions put to Mr Russell during the meeting, who was very willing to answer all of them.

As not many within ICPA knew much of Fairbridge WA's background, Mr Russell pointed out the following: -

- *Fairbridge WA is a historic village with accommodation;*
- *It includes a care school that takes students with behavioural issues;*
- *Is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and runs pathways programs;*
- *Alcoa provides sponsorship for trainees and apprentices;*
- *Is a Registered Builder, Electrical and Registered asbestos removalist.*

Key guarantees made at the meeting were: -

- *No change in the accommodation, meals or activity costs for camp schools for 2019. It was noted that there would be CPI increases in 2020.*
- *Priority to be given to all schools for the term dates;*
- *Activities will be mapped to curriculum;*
- *Continuation of the Dampier Sea Trek program;*
- *All staff will have prerequisite clearance checks and up to date qualifications;*
- *Fees available to the public on the website.*

Notable Points from the meeting with Mr Russell were: -

- *They have a lease for three (3) lots of five (5) years*
- *Fairbridge has centralised all of its computer system and is now Cloud based. This means that all accommodation is centrally booked.*
- *During school holiday times, they will be changing the model on how accommodation is used. At the time, Fairbridge WA were in discussions with an overseas operator who is interested in bringing students in. This would help to increase the financial turnover.*
- *Staffing of the Camp Schools was still to be finalised.*
- *The Head Chef is employed to prepare all meal plans and ordering of food and is experienced in the different dietary requirements and needs.*
- *Employment of an outside company to do all background referencing checks on Fairbridge WA employees.*
- *Are committed to the Education Department to keep all six Camp Schools open.*

ICPA (WA) State Council came away from the meeting feeling that at this stage, especially within the first year of Fairbridge WA taking over the management, that the operation of the six schools would not change too much.

It is the position of ICPA (WA) to keep Fairbridge WA and the Education Department accountable and that these six schools remain open, keep and improve current activities offered and to keep them affordable to all schools.

I would like to update members in regard to the online classroom platform used by the five SOTAs and SIDE. All schools are now using the Webex platform to host their online lessons and classrooms. In speaking with some members, they feel this platform is a lot better than the previous one used and implemented by the Education Department. It uses a lot less bandwidth than CENTRA and has better quality cameras to enable all students are displayed on the screen at the same time. The teachers have the ability to show their desktop to all students and simultaneously display YouTube videos which is imperative when teaching from a distance.

There have been some glitches with setting up class timetables etc. that teachers have been working through, but overall the view is very positive with this updated online classroom platform.

Curriculum

By 2020, NAPLAN will be delivered entirely online. The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has said that online testing provides more accurate and precise information about what students know and can do. 2018 saw the first year of transition, with around 20% of students taking the assessment online. 2019 will see a larger percentage of students undertake NAPLAN online, with the remainder sitting the paper assessment.

ACARA report that overall, the NAPLAN results for 2018 have shown that since 2008 there have been statistically significant gains in a number of domains and year levels, particularly at the primary level.

To view the 2018 NAPLAN summary data, visit <http://reports.acara.edu.au/>

Student performance nationally in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy has remained stable, compared to previous assessments sat in 2014. The National Assessment Program (NAP) sample assessment in ICT literacy tests students' general ICT skills and knowledge in a sample of schools across Australia. These sample tests are held every three years. The comparison since the last assessments held in 2014 show that the national results have remained stable for both Years 6 and 10. The geographic location of the schools were

classified as metropolitan, regional and remote. For both Year 6 and Year 10, students from metropolitan schools had the highest scale scores, compared to those students from remote schools, who had the lowest. These differences were very significant. A copy of the full report is available at http://www.nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2017napictlreport_final.pdf?sfvrsn=2

Early Childhood Report

Karina Walter – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

As at semester one 1/02/2018 student census there were:

- 16 Kindergarten students at Western Australian Schools of the Air (SOTA)
 - 19 Pre-primary students at Western Australian Schools of the Air (SOTA)
 - 9 Kindergarten students at the Western Australian School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)
 - 12 Pre-primary students at the Western Australian School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE)
- Information received from ICPA (Aust)*

Throughout the year there has been a lot of communication from Jane Morton, the Federal Early Childhood Portfolio leader, keeping us up to date and informed with news and developments. Parents of preschool aged children can receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) even where families do not meet the activity test. This can be revised on a case by case situation. There has been further announcement regarding the Working Holiday Visas by Prime Minister Scott Morrison about extending working visas. There has been no change to the specified work list which is a shame not to include DE tutor (Governesses) and nannies which ICPA (Aust) will continue to lobby for.

The Federal Government announced on 1st January 2019 that they will provide \$440 million to States and Territories for preschool in 2019 under the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education. This funding will be put to seeing that almost 350,000 children in Australia have access to 15 hours per week, or 600 hours per year of quality early learning in the year before they commence school. This announcement sees ICPA (Aust) continue to advocate on behalf of members to see an extension of the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education allowance for 4-year-olds and for the increased access to preschool in rural and remote areas.

The rate of Child Care Subsidy (CCS) for In Home Care (IHC) families has seen an increase in 2019. This has seen the rate go from \$25.48 per hour/per family from 2nd July 2018 to \$32.00 per hour/per family from 1st January 2019. An increase to the Additional CCS has seen this rate rise to \$38.40 per hour/per family. It is encouraged that families review their incomes to make sure they are receiving the correct percentage of CCS. The IHC National Guidelines are available at https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/ihc_national_guidelines_-_december_2018.pdf?mc_cid=6d133578a3&mc_eid=f6c5aec342

Federal Council continues to work with the Federal Government with the implementation of a national Working with Children Check (WWCC) certification. A national working party has been set up and is currently working on this. This will take time to complete due to different rules and regulations set out by each State and Territory. An announcement is expected at some stage.

Post Compulsory Report

Elize Scheepers – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

As of 1 January 2019, the Government has introduced a *lifetime cap* on the amount of tertiary education assistance a student can access for tuition fees. The new HELP tuition limit will apply to HECS-HELP loans, FEE-HELP loans, VET FEE-HELP loans and VET Student loans. The loan limit isn't renewable – once a student has reached their lifetime limit, they may not borrow any further funds for their tuition. The limits cover almost nine years of study as a Commonwealth supported student. FEE-HELP limit is currently set at lifetime limit of \$101,440. unless you are studying medicine, dentistry or veterinary science where the FEE-HELP limit is set at \$150,000. This amount starts as of 1 January 2019 – any previous HECS-HELP debt would not be taken into account. It is advisable to go online to ascertain whether or not the loan fee applies to your child, and the particular course, before going ahead. <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/fee-help>

Federal Government announced that teachers who work in remote communities can have part or all the HECS debt paid by their employer.

A review of the Vocation Education and Training (VET) system was announced by the Australian Government on 28 November 2018, led by Steven Joyce. This will focus on how the Government's investment could be more effective to ensure Australians are equipped with the skills they need to ensure success throughout their working lives. It will also focus on ensuring Australian businesses and businesses in rural and remote areas have the skills they need to support their business growth. Mr. Joyce has recognised a bias against vocational education in favour of universities. He was surprised by the lack of information on VET pathways being provided to school leavers. They called on public submissions to contribute to this review, submissions to the review closed on 25 January 2019. Mr. Joyce will report his findings to the Government in March 2019.

The WA State government, through the Department, prioritises its investment on courses that help people to take up jobs which are in high demand. Courses which are subsidised can be found on the government Jobs and Skills WA website. <https://www.dtwd.wa.gov.au/jswa>

Study Perth provide a table of indicative annual tuition fees which may provide useful information for tertiary education.

Indicative FULL tuition fees:

Primary and Secondary Schools	\$7800 to \$30000
Vocational Education and Training (Certificates 1 to 1V, Diploma and Advanced Diploma)	\$4000 to \$22000
Undergraduate Bachelor degree (excluding high value courses e.g. veterinary and medical)	\$15000 to \$33000
Postgraduate Master's degree	\$20000 to \$37000
Doctoral Degree (excluding high value courses e.g. veterinary and medical)	\$14000 to \$37000

<https://www.studyperth.com.au/blog/2017/06/28/cost-of-study/>

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/australian-education/education-costs>

Rural and Remote Report

Karina Walter – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

2018 Conference motions addressed the following topics; camp schools, staff housing and agriculture schools/colleges. Letters were written to the Minister of Education and Training Hon. Sue Ellery, with replies received.

In October, ICPA (WA) State Council met with Fairbridge WA CEO David Russell to discuss the future management of the six Camp Schools. In 2018 Fairbridge were awarded the management of the Department of Education Camp Schools in the locations of Point Peron, Geraldton, Dampier, Kalgoorlie, Bridgetown and Pemberton and have entered into a lease for three (3) lots of five (5) years and have a commitment with the Education Department to keep all six (6) camp schools open. Management of these facilities commenced on 1st January 2019.

Fairbridge WA have guaranteed there will be no change to the cost of accommodation, meals or activities for the six (6) camp schools for the next year. It is anticipated there will be a CPI increase in charges from 2020. They are committed to ensuring all activities at the camps are mapped to the Australian Curriculum with no changes to the base activities that are currently being performed. In the future additional activities will be offered. Presently Fairbridge WA, in conjunction with Curtin University, are developing a framework for an indigenous program.

I attended the PEAC showcase on Agriculture with another State Councillor. It is an exciting new program run by the Education Department to expand student's knowledge on the Agriculture industry and how wide spread and diverse it is. It is a very creative program that gets students engaging in Agriculture.

After considering the findings of the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education, the Government will invest \$42 million to expand accessibility for regional, rural and remote students through the creation of 500 Commonwealth supported sub-bachelor places, and a further 500 additional Commonwealth supported bachelor places for students at regional study hubs. To support these students, funding of \$16.7 million is available for the development of up to eight regional hubs.

There has also been a continued study into Australia's Rural School Challenge and what can be done to better equip smaller schools and make them attractive for people to want to go and teach.

Special/Specific Needs Report

Elyce Donaghy – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

In December 2017 the State Government announced that the Department of Education would cease funding the Landsdale Farm School from 2019. The Department advertised the site for private tender with the tender being awarded to Family Support WA. Family Support WA is a not-for-profit organisation that provides disability services to individuals and families. Founded in 1996 by the parents and staff of the Landsdale Farm School, the organisation has been previously managing camps for children with disabilities at the farm during school holidays and at weekends. As the new operator, Family Support WA will continue the current running of the farm, providing programs and opportunities for people with disabilities by building strong relationships with special needs schools,

education support centres and disability services organisations. They also plan to develop education programs that link farm activities with the Western Australian curriculum for visiting school groups and ensure continued access for the general public.

Landsdale Farm School is an Education Support School. It was developed for students with disabilities as the main focus, the site is wheelchair accessible. The aim of the farm is to provide a welcoming educational rural environment for people to view plants and animals and gain an appreciation of living things. The environment evokes a feeling of tranquillity and well-being.

Landsdale Farm School Courses for Education Support Students

1. Work Skills
2. Community Access
3. Photography and Multimedia
4. Agri-Food Production Cert I
5. Retail – Cert II
6. Independent Living
7. Animal Care – ASDAN
8. Community Access
9. Horticulture – Cert I
10. Year 13 Transition Program
11. Bike Repair

As of 2019 NAPLAN testing will be carried out as an online assessment across most schools in WA, Schools of the Air will not be included in this group as they will continue to use paper testing. There are concerns for young children and special needs students completing the online test with limited keyboard skills. This is NAPLAN'S response to this concern.

Will students with limited keyboard skills be disadvantaged in the writing test?

The writing test is not about handwriting skills and NAPLAN Online is not about keyboarding skills. There are variations in how fast and well a student can type, just as there are variations in how fast and well a student can write by hand. ACARA research shows that online writing is similar to handwriting in terms of the quality of writing produced by students at each year level. It also shows that students generally appreciate the use of online features such as editing tools (noting that online features such as grammar and spell-check are disabled during NAPLAN testing). Students do not have to be able to touch type to successfully complete the test.

ICPA (WA) State Council support Federal Council as they lobby for:

- All rural and remote students have access to early identification and intervention for learning difficulties.
- Equitable subsidies nationally for accommodation and travel for children with specific or special learning needs to attend appointments with qualified specialists.

Student Accommodation Report

Elize Scheepers – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

On 4 September 2018 the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack announced an \$8.7 million grant from the Federal Government to refurbish Moora Residential College. The WA State Government has committed their support with ongoing recurrent funding to keep the Residential College open and operating to standard. Final

draft plans for the construction of new student accommodation and facilities have been presented to the Moora Shire. Construction is due to commence in September 2019 with a planned build time of 12 months. Tracey Errington and Julie Walsh were recognised by the Moora community for their tireless campaign to save Moora Residential College from closure. Tracey was awarded the Shire of Moora 2019 Rotary Australia Day Award. Julie Walsh was a nominee for this prestigious award.

The Department of Education have provided funding through a targeted initiative and appointed seven Aboriginal Islander Education Officers (AIEOs) at Residential Colleges in WA who accommodate a significant number of Aboriginal students. These include Broome, Esperance, Geraldton and Albany. They have also provided funding for additional educational assistants and AIEOs to schools.

Student numbers in Residential Colleges have fallen a further 80 places from 593 in 2017 to 513 in 2019. Total student numbers in the nine Residential Colleges as follows:

Residential College	Occupancy 2018	Occupancy 2019
Albany	69	66
Broome	99	81
City Beach	54	56
Esperance	87	83
Geraldton	55	62
Merredin	37	37
Moora	26	26
Narrogin	92	93
Northam	13	9
TOTAL	532	513

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/residential-colleges>

Curtin University have handed over their accommodation to a third party – UniLodge. This has seen an increase in weekly rental costs – students are now paying from \$221/week, a 30% increase from \$190 paid in 2018. Most of the students currently using the campus accommodation are from regional WA.

Campus Perth is a new student accommodation facility situated in the Northbridge area of Perth CBD, which opened in January 2019. It has 324 rooms with 726 beds and 3600m² of communal space. Students aged 17+ who are enrolled in a Perth university, vocational college, English school or registered training provider may use this facility. 17-year-old students are placed together and supervised. Accommodation prices, at the time of compiling this report, range from \$250 to \$335 per week depending on room type.

Regional students moving to Perth to complete their Post Compulsory studies are faced with a multitude of challenges. For those students looking at renting it is imperative that a Property Condition Report (PCR) is given to them by the agent when the key is handed over. There are seven days for them to go through the property with a fine-tooth comb. The state of the house on arrival is to be written on this list. Photos of each imperfection must accompany this form back to the agent, preferably by email – where they then have documented evidence.

When looking for a house to rent, having NBN already installed eases many hours of anxiety. This will ensure they can use the internet to complete assignments almost immediately after signing up a service provider. Should there not be NBN please make them aware that “Unlimited” relates to **data**, not speed. Our regional school leavers may

get sucked into a cheap unlimited data plan finding out later it's most probably only 12mbps. Ideally, they want at least 25mbps, probably 50mbps speed plan.

Teacher Training Report

Kym Ross – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

February 2018 saw the Federal government announced a “National Review of Teacher Registration” to help tackle the inconsistencies in systems across the country. The review was an Education Council initiative conducted by an independent panel; focusing on the registration of early childhood teachers, vocation education, training teachers in school and how teachers transition into the profession.

ICPA (Aust) Federal Council tendered a submission to the Education Council.

“Summary

ICPA (Aust) believes that teaching and therefore the process of teacher registration in a rural and remote setting brings with it a unique set of challenges. A lack of adequate support and limited resources available in regional, rural and remote contexts, mean the opportunity to achieve and maintain professional proficiency for annual registration, may be problematic. These challenges also mean that retaining experienced, proficient teachers in these settings is difficult. “

This could be achieved in the form of teacher education courses including a major in Rural and Remote Education with modules on teaching Specific Learning Needs such as Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Dyslexia and courses covering a range of unique challenges requiring specific knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to rural and remote areas.

Ideally the appropriate training of pre-service and graduate teachers for rural and remote experience and engagement in the community could only lead to improved recruitment and retention of teachers. Additionally, to retain experience high quality teachers there needs to be more accessibility to professional support, assistance and incentives available.

A final report was released in September and seventeen (17) recommendations were made to the Education Council. The implementation of these recommendations will assist to ensure the quality of teachers contributes significantly to learner outcomes. In summary a driving purpose of the Review was to consider how teacher registration supports teacher quality and how this could be strengthened.

A media statement early this year by Deputy Federal Labor Leader Tanya Plibersek announced the party would introduce a minimum ATAR of 80 for teaching degrees. The plan is aimed at addressing marks that were getting lower each year, and to ensure that people will become passionate and quality teachers.

Interestingly the Commonwealth, unlike state and territory governments, does not have the power to set minimum entry scores and data has revealed that fewer than one in four students are chosen based on their ATAR score alone.

Indicative ATAR Cut-off 2019 WA Universities – Bachelor of Education

Curtin University	70
Edith Cowan University	70

Murdoch University	70
University of WA	80

Travel Report

Elyce Donaghy – Portfolio Holder, March 2019

There were several motions presented at the 2018 WA State Conference relating to travel and transport. The issues raised by ICPA (WA) members were complimentary/eligible passenger status on school buses, School Bus Services' closest eligible school distance policy, emergency evacuation drills on school buses and better, more equitable processes for claiming air travel reimbursements. State Council set to work raising these issues with the Department of Transport and the Public Transport Authority's School Bus Services.

School Bus Services

Letters were sent to the Public Transport Authority's (PTA) School Bus Services relaying our concerns that students could be forced to change school due to increases in the number of eligible students, bus route alterations (complimentary students aren't taken into consideration for numbers) and zone boundaries. We advised that due to the vastness of our State and the increasing difficulty in keeping families in regional, rural and remote areas there can often be a massive fluctuation of children on any given bus run from one year to the next. School Bus Services policy states that students must go to their closest eligible school, using the shortest practical road route. Some families must travel further than their closest bus run in order to attend their closest school, often many kilometres. A request was made that they consider allowing a case-by-case basis and more flexibility for complimentary students to be deemed as eligible students on School Bus Services. ICPA (WA) are committed to lobbying on behalf of our members to ensure children in rural and remote WA have access to appropriate education, this includes their ability to travel to and from their schools.

A letter of response from PTA was received containing the operational principles that guide how transport assistance is provided. These are as follows;

- a. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children attend school;
- b. Parents should be prepared to travel a reasonable distance to transport their children to and from school or a bus / transport service;
- c. Student transport assistance policy will be applied in a manner that is reasonable, equitable and aims to meet the needs of individual communities; and
- d. Transport assistance will be provided according to published eligibility criteria and an entitlement framework.

We were advised that there is a difficulty with making changes to entitlement for a particular group of individuals as it will have an impact on other communities in the State of Western Australia. Point (c) above, points out that the Public Transport Authority (PTA) will always try to apply the transport assistance framework equitably for all WA families. Due to this policy the PTA will not be able to change the current equal distance rule, because while it may benefit families in the more remote areas of the Wheatbelt and Great Southern, it will cause operational issues in high population areas, for example the Southwest and Peel. However, having reviewed the rule concerning nearest bus service to the residence and nearest school to the residence, the PTA will consider on a case by case basis, requests from families for their children to be able to attend schools in their local community.

Motion A22 was raised concerning implementing emergency evacuation drills each term, on the school grounds, involving only drivers and passengers on school buses, so that students are aware of emergency procedures and bus rules. State Council wrote a letter to the Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, requesting the implementation of emergency evacuation drills for school bus services. In response to the letter we were advised that the safety of passengers and drivers is of utmost importance to the Public Transport Authority's School Bus Services (SBS). SBS regularly issues guidance notices to contractors which include recommendations that emergency evacuations are practiced regularly. It is a contractual requirement that each SBS contractor must develop and maintain a compliant Safety Management Plan to ensure that the operation has a system in place to identify and manage risks and provide controls and mitigating strategies. The PTA regularly audits contractors to ensure they have compliant systems and procedures to manage safety risks. As a part of this review process, Minister Saffioti has asked the PTA to place a particular focus on emergency evacuation drills to ensure bus contractors and students are well-versed in what to do in the event of an emergency.

Air Travel

Supplementary motion S13 was raised at conference in relation to the WA Department of Transport finding a better and more equitable process for the reimbursement of air travel costs for students. In a letter to the Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA, State Council advised that students travelling to and from boarding schools are required to fly at the beginning and end of school holidays when airfares from some regional and remote towns are notoriously high due to tourist seasons in the north of the state, even when parents plan well ahead in booking air travel. We asked that the Department of Transport find a better and more equitable process to reimburse families for the cost of air travel for students accessing the Student Subsidised Travel Scheme.

Minister Saffioti gave the following response, "families applying for the scheme have two options when benefitting from the scheme. Travel vouchers can be requested for travel up to three months in advance and redeemed at travel agents (in person or via email/phone) for the required travel. The voucher redemption process ensures there are no out-of-pocket expenses for families except for any discretionary expenses. Alternatively, families may purchase their own fares and apply to DoT for reimbursement upon completion of the travel. Reimbursement is based on the actual fare plus GST, excluding any discretionary expenses."

Minister Saffioti has been advised that there are very few occasions where the full cost of travel cannot be reimbursed, and this generally only occurs when travel has been booked last minute or changes have been made to an existing booking. The most practical way to ensure the cost of student's travel is fully covered by the scheme is to encourage parents to apply for travel vouchers which can be redeemed when the travel is booked.

BRANCH REPORTS

Central Wheatbelt North Report

Amanda Nixon - Immediate Past President

One of the highlights of late is the reversal of the State Government's decision to close the Moora Residential College. Some of our CWN Branch members worked tirelessly on this campaign along with many other supporters. Our Branch put a motion forward in 2018 as it directly affects some of our member's children, families and friends.

Feedback from State Councillor Sally Brindal in relation to some of our other motions about allowances was not as positive, with no commitment from the State Government to consider reversing the BAHA Royalties for Regions component announced in the 2017 December Education Cuts. The CWN appreciates the ongoing advocacy at State level around these impactful allowances.

Our 2018 Telecommunications Motion was supported at the State Conference and ICPA State Council provided us with a letter of support to give to the Goodlands Ag Committee addressing the Mobile Black Spot in the Goodlands area with regards to bus runs, staff and student travel. The Goodland's Ag Committee have since had positive news with the announcement of the installation of a co-funded Telstra Tower in this area. We wait in anticipation of installation in 2019.

Lisa Brennan and I attended the Dowerin Field Day in August 2018 with an ICPA stall in the education tent. This has previously been a 2-day stall, thank you to Melissa Harms for help last year, our branch members for stopping by and helping roster. We have had a presence at Dowerin Field Days for 5 years.

ICPA is a well-respected voluntary advocacy group. It's important that there is an avenue for regional, rural and remote issues of education access to be voiced to the policy makers. State Council structure does this well through an annual Conference, members voting on Motions and State Councillors actioning the motions dependant on the portfolios they hold.

Thank you to our branch office bearers, especially Lisa Brennan and Melissa Harms for always lending a hand, and for Lisa's role in keeping the school P&C informed of ICPA activities, and her role in developing our social media profile. We need new office bearers, so please contact me if you would like to take on a branch role.

Esperance Branch Report

Karina Walter, President

2018 started well with our branch having regular meetings. On Friday the 22nd of June Esperance held a fundraiser (Winter Warmer). There was a great attendance by past, present and future members.

Our mouth-watering food was catered by Neds Corner Harvest. The amazing raffle was won by Kelly Buttle on the night. We would like to thank Woven and Flame for your support!! A great night had by all ending in very full bellies! A special mention to our wait staff for the night. You all did an awesome job. Thank you

The Esperance branch has also taken on the conveners roll for the 2019 State conference. We held a Thermomix raffle to help raise funds for conference. It was successful with tickets being sold all around our State. Local sponsorship has also been sourced.

Looking forward to the future, our branch would love to see branch membership increase. Our plan is to attend P&C meetings in our areas and get the word out there about ICPA and what we do.

Gascoyne Branch Report

Alys McKeough, President

2018 was a great year for our branch. We started the year with our first meeting in February to discuss fundraising for 2018, State conference and supplementary motions. We organise this at Carnarvon SOTA's Home Tutor's week so we can meet new SOTA parents and let them know about ICPA, allowances, REVISE and any other issues pertinent to education.

2018 was Carnarvon School of the Air's (CSOTA) 50th Anniversary. Our branch helped organise the CSOTA Anniversary event which was held in May and allowed all the current students to come together in Carnarvon for the week and have sports days and teacher time. The week ended with an Anniversary event for past and present students. It was a great day and well attended.

In September we held a Boots and Black-Tie Ball at Wooramel Station in conjunction with the CSOTA P&C. We had an awesome night and unbelievable support from local businesses for our Auction. The night was all about auctions, games, dancing, dining, having fun and most of all raising money for ICPA and the P&C. Overall, we raised in excess of \$15000 and are hoping to make it a biannual event going forward.

Our \$1000 SPIRIT of the Gascoyne Bursary went to Aiden Tubby – congratulations. This is a cash bursary awarded to a local student who is going away to boarding school in year 7. To receive the award, students need to present a creative piece about education in a rural setting.

Nearly all schools in the Gascoyne received a SPIRIT of the Gascoyne book award which is great. It is awarded to a student who shows SPIRIT – Sparkle, Passion, Imagination, Resilience, Integrity and Tenacity.

We held a general meeting in December along with some nibbles to end the year.

We had representation at State Conference but unfortunately no one from our branch was able to attend Federal Conference. For 2019 we have commitment from members to attend both Federal and State Conferences - which is great news.

We had our AGM in February to coincide with Home Tutor's week and we also take the SOTA children's photos and sell photo packs as a branch fundraiser.

Finally, I would like to thank the branch committee, ICPA members, SOTA community, schools, the Gascoyne businesses, State and Federal Councils, and everyone who attended our events, for supporting our branch, and helping us have a successful 2018.

Goldfields Eyre Branch Report

Elyce Donaghy, President

The Goldfields Eyre Branch convened the 2018 WA State Conference at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. The convening committee included: Vicki McQuie, Tauri Simone, Sue Stevens, Jo Mulroy and Elyce Donaghy. The conference was a great success and the Goldfields Eyre Branch would like to encourage all branches to consider convening a conference. We would also like to give thanks to our Treasurer Brie Campbell for all her hard work managing the conference budget and acquittal, we couldn't have done it without her.

This year's AGM is yet to be held as the Kalgoorlie School of The Air annual Home Tutor Seminar is still a week away. Our current office bearers are President: Elyce Donaghy, Vice President: Shannon Prosser, Secretary: Tauri Simone, Treasurer: Brie Campbell and Publicity Officer: Katrin James

In partnership, with the Kalgoorlie School of the Air P&C, the branch hosted a Friends of the Bush Cocktail Bash. The Bash was a fantastic success which saw our members catching up with long unseen friends. We are grateful for the continuing donations we receive from the Nullarbor Muster and look forward to sending delegates to this year's State and Federal Conferences.

Our issues predominantly center around School of the Air and the past 2 years have been our most challenging. The Department of Education's cuts came as a huge shock to our members and united our branch in the fight to save the Schools of the Air, WA Camp Schools and Residential Colleges. It's been a very positive start to 2019 knowing Schools of the Air across WA as well as Residential Colleges are still operational and providing the best care our children can receive. We are about to embark on our annual Home Tutor Seminar at The Goldfields Camp School and are eager to get to know the new staff and Managers of Fairbridge WA.

We thank Kalgoorlie SOTA Principal Eloise Jansen Van Vuuren, for her continued support of our Branch, for chairing our AGM and attending all meetings. To all members thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to the branch.

Hyden Branch Report

Samantha Greay, President

2018 was a busy and quiet time for me as President. Thank you to my committee of Cherie and Bev.

2018 State Conference was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle. I attended with Cherie.

In August 2018 I attended Federal Conference in Canberra. It was held over 2 days. There were many guest speakers. This year's Federal Conference is being held in Adelaide. If anyone would like to attend with me, please let me know.

November saw the annual running of our Melbourne Cup fundraiser. Huge big thanks to all that attended, helped on the day and supplied food. Without all your help this project doesn't happen. Thank you to the sponsors on the day for raffles: Top Crop Hair, Waveline Hardware/Mitre 10, Rosallen Farms, Jays Crutching, Flower Farmacy, Marlu Farms, Hyden Trading Co, Hyden IGA, Hyden Bush Bakehouse and Neil Fotheringham. Congratulations to all our raffle winners some of you more than once! And our Bursary winners PP-6 Sienna Savage (Kulin), year 7-9 Blake Gangell (Hyden) and 10-12years Adele Prosser (Corrigin). All would agree the Rec centre looked fabulous. Thank you, Bev and Jaiden Airey, for helping set up the Rec Centre, Astrid and Di for doing the takeaway lunches and delivering them and Amanda and Donna for running the kitchen. To Lisa and Gen James for doing the sweeps and Pick your own horse, thank you. And to all our members without your support this event could not happen.

A Massive THANKYOU must go to CSBP Fertilisers who kindly donated to Hyden ICPA \$500.00 which we purchased wonderful desserts from Kulinery Kreations in Kulin. I believe these were a hit!

In closing I would like to wish all our members a wonderful year and look forward to you all being a part of the ICPA Hyden Branch in 2019.

Kimberley Air Branch Report

Jo Camilleri, President

2018 has been a challenging year for the Kimberley Air Branch. Membership and the governing operational structure of our branch has relied heavily on School of the Air in recent years and with dwindling numbers at the school and many of our members no longer associated with the school now that children have transitioned into various secondary and tertiary education options, there is the need to review our structure and operations to find a better framework to meet the needs of our members.

We were fortunate to obtain the continued generous support of the Kimberley and Pilbara Cattleman's Association through their annual Broome Ladies' Luncheon. This very popular social event provides great exposure for our branch and proceeds from the charity auction have become our major annual fundraiser. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the KPCA into the future.

2019 will see a renewed focus on awareness and membership. As well as continuing to nurture our partnership with the KPCA, we also look to hosting joint social events with our local CWA branches with an aim to working towards joint social events at the Broome and Kununurra country races.

Assistance with accessing AIC Boarding allowances and transport assistance continue to be the major issues and queries our branch has received this past year. Our branch AGM has been delayed until May to ensure we can

maximise visitors to Broome during the KSOTA home tutor seminar with the trialing of a ZOOM meeting to be held at the Broome Camp School.

We hope that our focus on membership, partnerships with other local and regional entities and the introduction of a more sustainable governance structure will help to inject renewed vitality into our branch for 2019.

Lakes District Branch Report

Claire Walter – President

As usual our annual fundraiser (The ICPA Donut stall) at the Newdegate Field Day was a big hit with donut sales up slightly. You may not be able to afford the latest tractor, but you can always afford ICPA donuts! We were also lucky to have state representatives Bianca James and Kym Ross man a stall inside the family interest pavilion for the 2 days. This was very well received, and they were kept busy providing information, encouraging new memberships and promoting ICPA. Thanks to you both and the field day committee for providing them with a free bay.

In 2018 we had 65 members which is great because as our towns shrink, all our lives get busier and we become more time poor. Unfortunately, it doesn't show at our meetings where we are lucky to get a quorum of 5. We have been enjoying the convenience of 'Go To' and Zoom meetings but, at the face to face meetings we seemed to get more numbers. In 2019 we are planning to have a get together with a guest speaker at a central location in Ongerup to hopefully attract a few more members to actively participate and mix with each other.

As usual our school fees are increasing, and the Baha isn't and the thought of it dissipating over the next 6 years is a hot topic. We would like to thank State for trying hard to change this outcome and encourage them not to accept it as they didn't accept the government closing Moora. (What an outcome! Well done everyone who helped.)

As numbers decrease in our primary schools it brings more problems with school buses and accessing our schools and we are hoping the whole bus policy will be reviewed this year with positive outcomes. Good luck with 2019. Let's hope it is a ripper!

Meekatharra Air Branch Report

Claire Mahony, President

The past 12 months has been very quiet for our branch, we currently have around 15 financial members, which seems to be lower than previous years.

We are having our AGM the week of February 25th 2019 which will be attended via our school of the air WebEx portal which gives our members a choice to either log in via the computer or telephone.

As our members are so wide spread and quite isolated, fundraising has been a bit of an issue so we decided to set up an ongoing fundraiser for our branch and thought we just needed something practical and that can promote ICPA, so decided to go with work shirts that are embroidered with the Federal ICPA logo and MEEKATHARRA AIR BRANCH on them.

Every year Meekatharra Air Branch offers the graduating students from Meekatharra School of the Air a chance to win our Bursary Award. We ask them to submit a piece entitled "My favourite memories of my time at Meekatharra School of the Air". Our branch members (excluding their parents) vote on which piece they choose to win.

I presented the award at MSOTA graduation and the winner this year was Ali Johns from Munarra Station, Meekatharra.

Lastly, I would like to thank our State Council for their ongoing work and lobbying to keep our children's education costs fair. Cheers!!

Midwest Branch Report

Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Immediate Past President

After the reversal of the decision to close the SOTAs, 2018 was fairly quiet for our branch, with no extra-curricular activities for the first time since its inception. At our AGM in February we resolved to have our midyear meeting at a bar on a Saturday and will follow with drinks and nibbles!

We had four representatives at the 2018 State Conference: Julie More, Naomi Obst, Sally Brindal and myself. Sally Brindal represented our branch at last year's Federal Conference in Canberra.

The Principal and Staff at MSOTA have been wonderfully supportive in allowing us to have our meetings in the school's 'Big Room' and we are very grateful for that.

Our current main issue is the varied and inequitable fee structure at the Geraldton Residential College, which needs to be addressed for a whole lot of reasons, and we have put forward a motion around this issue.

After 6 years as Branch President, this is my last report for the Midwest Branch. At our AGM we elected Jen Critch to the role. Miriam Barnetson also stepped down, as Secretary, and we welcomed Naomi Obst in her stead. I thank and congratulate them both for taking on these roles and am happy to be handing over to such capable hands.

I strongly believe that, while age and experience is invaluable, the future of ICPA, at all levels, is in the hands of parents who have kids in the education system today. As we have seen through events over the past 15 months, we cannot afford to be complacent about our children's education or sit back and think others will do the work. We must keep pushing to have the voice of rural families heard. ICPA is the vehicle for that voice but parents must be the drivers.

Pilbara Branch Report

Abbra Slocombe, President

2018 was another challenging but productive year. The Pilbara had a total of 20 members including three Life Members.

The branch started the year with its AGM at the PHSOTA Home Tutor Seminar in Port Hedland. After then, meetings were held on the GOTO platform.

Marble Bar Races in July were once again a successful fundraiser for the branch and an all-round enjoyable day. The yearly Sausage Sizzle and Smoko stall was well received by punters, with the day raising just over \$3000 for the branch. Many thanks go out to local business, members of the community and branch members who generously donate items to sell, raffle prizes and helped out on the day. We are very thankful for the continuing

support from members and local businesses for donations to the Pilbara branch. We were very grateful to receive a donation of \$1500 from the Red Dog 4wd Club. Through fundraising efforts, the branch has been able to continue our yearly donations to REVISE and ICPA (WA).

The Pilbara branch was able to send two delegates and one observer to the WA State Conference and one delegate to Federal Conference in Canberra. Thanks to the attending members who gave up their time to represent the Pilbara Branch. We would like to thank ICPA (WA) for the use of the GOTO platform to run our meetings, with much help and support from Tash Johns.

WA Lone Members Branch Report

Carol Ford, Lones Officer

The Lones Branch although a quiet group have been consistent with membership over the years. They are a diverse group that I'm pleased to say now include quite a few of the Boarding Schools and Residential Colleges among its numbers. Last year we had 35 members, so far, we have 16 renewals for 2019 at this point.

As a branch Lones are not really able to convene State Conference due to the members being all over the State. So, this year I have purchased an Eagles Premiership jumper with some of the funds and had it signed by the one and only Josh Kennedy. We are going to have a silent auction to raise funds for ICPA. It's a way that Lones can help out with Conference. I'm also thrilled that long standing Lones member Sylvia Byers is opening Conference this year.

I'm pleased to see that most of our Lone Members have taken up the option to pay online thus streamlining the process and reducing the work for our State Treasurer.

Last year we had one of our members attend Federal Conference in Canberra. Linda Bouckaert was funded by Lones to travel to Canberra, including 3 nights' accommodation and registration for conference. Linda wrote about her very enjoyable experience in the Bits and Pieces. We always try to keep funds in the account to allow members to attend State or Federal Conference, depending on how many are interested, depends on what is funded. In Linda's case she was the only one who enquired about attending. Please think about going to conference especially if you have never been before, I guarantee you will enjoy it.

The other reason we raise funds through membership is to offer a donation to State Council when we are able, I'm hoping to make a donation on behalf of Lones once all our memberships are renewed for the year.

Yalgoo Branch Report

Ruth Rowe, President

2018 saw a change in position bearers of the Yalgoo branch. A big thank you on behalf of the branch must go to the outgoing President of 17 years, Kathryn Mitchell for your dedication and support. Also, to Roxanne Morrissey for your long-term commitment to the branch which now continues in your ongoing role of Treasurer and your support of myself, Mary-Kate Walsh (Vice-President) & Joanne Kanny (Secretary) as we attempt to continue the legacy left by the long-term members. We further appreciate that Roxanne was able to represent the Yalgoo branch at both State and Federal Conferences in 2018.

It was a big year with regards to campaigning against the State Government's education cuts and associated impacts on regional education. With a large proportion of the branch having current or previous enrolments with

School of the Air (SOTA) it was a great relief to see the decision to close SOTAs reversed. Throughout 2018 we continued to hold much trepidation regarding the remaining education cuts including the proposed change of management of WA Camp Schools in 2019 given the close link of SOTA children (and students right across the regions) with Camp Schools, and we continue to keep a keen eye on the progress of these changes in the coming school year. The education cuts have impacted on educational opportunities for regional students and we send thanks to all those who assisted in fighting so tirelessly against them.

State Conference Guest List

Hon Melissa Price MP	Minister for the Environment; Federal Member for Durack
Hon Donna Faragher MLC	Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Women's Interests; Member for East Metropolitan Region
Hon Darren West MLC	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports.
Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC	Deputy Leader Nationals; Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Shane Love MLA	State Member for Moore, National Party
Pam Moss	Director, Public Schools Planning, Department of Education
Tracey King	Research and Communications Advisor, National Party
Daniel Sudlow	Manager Residential Colleges, Department of Education
John Bailly	Manager, School Bus Services, Public Transport Authority
Boyd Brown	Regional General Manager, Telstra Countrywide
Janet Barnes	Regional Sales and Service Director, Telstra Countrywide
Naomi Evans	Regional WA Senior Specialist, Telstra Countrywide
Peter Burchell	State Manager CRT
Ashely Couper	Manager of Crop protection, seed and fertilizer CRT
Jane McNamara	Head of nbn Local WA
Tom Dunsmore	ABSA - Australian Boarding Schools Assoc
Richard Stokes	ABSA - Australian Boarding Schools Assoc
Sally Sullivan	ICPA Federal Vice President, ICPA (Aust)
Jane O'Brien	ICPA Membership Officer, ICPA (Aust)
Maree Gooch	Director, Belay Consulting
Tim Hunter	Coordinator-Training, Ertech Construction Academy
John Smoker	Manager, Muresk Institute
Tom Mitchell	Head of College, St Thomas More UWA
Lisa Marquis	Esperance Anglican Community School
Dean Carslake	Principal, WA College of Agriculture - Morawa
Katie Bray	Department of Training and Workforce Development
Trevor Whittington	CEO, WA Farmers Federation
Sue Potter	Coordinator, REVISE WA
Alan Potter	Coordinator, REVISE WA
Jane Turnbull	Great Southern Grammar
Brendan Goggins	Great Southern Grammar
Claire Hansen	Director of Community Relations, Great Southern Grammar

Max Gronwald	Principal, Carnarvon School of the Air
Paul Noble	Principal, Kimberley School of the Air
Barry Townsend	Principal, Port Hedland School of the Air
Christine Bevans	Principal, Meekatharra School of the Air
Naomi Haynes	Support Teacher Learning (STL) Meekatharra SOTA
Taneeka Hill	Connect Facilitator, Transition, Aquinas College
Jill Miller	Director of Boarding, Perth College
Liz Langdon	Director of Boarding, Presbyterian Ladies College
Brad Downing	Head of Boarding, Christ Church Grammar School
Tom Floyd	Head of Boarding, Mazenod College
Nardine Bilston	Manager, Rotary Residential College
Jayne Hatt	St Mary's Anglican Girls School
Alissa Mack	St Mary's Anglican Girls School
Helen Anderson	President, Parents and Friends Federation WA Inc

State Council Delegates

President	Tash Johns
Vice President	Karina Walter
Secretary	Amanda Nixon
Treasurer	Bianca James
Lones Officer	Carol Ford
Publicity Officer	Bianca James
Councillor	Sally Brindal
Councillor	Elyce Donaghy
Councillor	Kym Ross
Councillor	Elize Scheepers

Branch Delegates

BRANCH	DELEGATE	DELEGATE	OBSERVERS
Central Wheatbelt North	Lisa Brennan	Leona Ure <i>(Kalannie Branch Life Member)</i>	Nancy Werder Isabel Nixon
Esperance	Tracey Schlink	Sue Stead	Michelle Barrett Sharon Barber Angela Hill Elaine Egan
Gascoyne	Alys McKeough	Jane Hughes	Mary Wake <i>(Gascoyne Branch Life Member)</i>
Goldfields Eyre	James Wood		
Hyden	Kym Burns	Samantha Greay	Nicole Thompson
Kimberley Air	Connie Wood	Kirsty Forshaw	

Lakes Branch	Claire Walter	Jodie Dunkeld	Lynette Gittos
Meekatharra Air	Chandra Ridley	Anna Tierney	Raelene Hall (State Life Member) Clyde Hall
Midwest	Vanessa Cobley	Naomi Obst	Liz Sudlow Susanne Warr
Pilbara	Robin Pensini	Sandie McCombie	Pippa Johns
WA Lones	Sylvia Byers	Patricia Hatch	Linda Bouckaert
Yalgoo	Roxanne Morrissey (State & Federal Life Member)		

State Conference Conveners

Esperance Branch

Karina Walter
Michelle Barrett
Tracey Schlink
Sue Stead

State Conference Apologies

Hon Mark McGowan MLA	Premier of Western Australia
Hon Dr Mike Nahan MLA	Leader of the Opposition
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Leader National Party
Senator Hon Matthew Canavan	Federal Minister Northern Australia
Hon Sue Ellery MLC	Minister for Education & Training
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning
Hon Peter Tinley MLA	Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Youth; Asian Engagement
Hon David Templeman MLA	Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
Hon Simone McGurk MLA	Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services
Hon David Kelly MLA	Minister for Water; Fisheries; Forestry; Innovation and ICT; Science
Hon Mick Murray MLA	Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation; Member for Collie-Preston
Hon Darren West MLC	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Member for Agriculture Region
Peter Rundle MLA	Member for Roe - National Party
Hon Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agriculture Region
Mrs Alyssa Hayden MLA	Shadow Minister for Community Services; Youth; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Member for Darling Range
Mr Kyran O'Donnell MLA	Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Member for Kalgoorlie

Hon Diane Evers MLC	Member for South West Region
Ms Lisa Rodgers	Director General, Department of Education
Mr Stephen Baxter	Deputy Director General, Public Schools, Department of Education
Mrs Wendy Hick	Federal President, ICPA (Aust)
Mrs Jane Morton	Federal Assistant Secretary, ICPA (Aust)
Mrs Lisa Slade	Federal Treasurer, ICPA (Aust)
Mr Bruce Paynter	State President, ICPA (NSW)
Helen Ponder	State Secretary ICPA (NSW)
Milton Butcher	Kimberley Regional Education Office
Ms Eloise Jansen van Vuuren	Principal, Kalgoorlie School of the Air
Mrs Brenda Williamson	Midwest Branch ICPA (WA)