



MEDIA RELEASE

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Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales

and

Isolated Children's Parents' Association Northern Territory

PLEA TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOR GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Isolated Children's Parents Associations of New South Wales and the Northern Territory are pleading for a sensible approach to bush students who attend boarding school in South Australia.

President of NSW, Claire Butler said the situation as it stands is unworkable and unreasonable, given bush students live in isolation. "We understand the need for caution. We understand we all have a responsibility to managing risk, given the COVID19 pandemic. In this case, we are asking authorities to consider a situation that has virtually no risk. Students who live on remote properties live in geographic isolation to the rest of Australia. Our plea does not represent a single geographically isolated family with a case of COVID19 for thousands of square kilometres from where they live."

President of NT, Sarah Cook said families from the NT are in the same situation. "Remote families with students who attend boarding school in South Australia are faced with a complex dilemma. Students must quarantine in SA for 14 days before they can return to boarding school. Parents can't afford to be away from their family lives, their farm, their businesses and responsibilities for 14 days. But children cannot quarantine alone".

To try to assist parents and follow the SA quarantine rules, some boarding schools have offered quarantine rooms, where a student can live in solitary quarantine for 14 days. As the NSW President points out, "the mental health of our children is also a consideration and a serious concern. Many parents will not to send their children back to isolate alone, and you can fully appreciate their decision".

Essential Travel Exemptions would allow geographically isolated students who attend boarding school to access education without 14 days in isolation.

ICPA NSW and NT plead to the SA Government and the SA Chief Health Officer for a sensible approach to bush students who attend boarding school in South Australia.

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Working together for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia.