



**Isolated Children's Parents'
Association of New South Wales**
*Working together for equity of access to education for all
students who live in rural and remote Australia*



**Forty-Ninth Annual
State Conference Hay 10 and 11 March 2021**
MEDIA RELEASE

“Thrive in Isolation”

Over 145 delegates, parents, guests, politicians and stakeholders will converge on the NSW Riverina town of Hay to debate and highlight issues that are affecting access to education from Preschool to Tertiary for NSW rural and remote children.

The Hon Sarah Mitchel MLC, Minister for Education, Mr Roy Butler MP member for Barwon, Mrs Helen Dalton MP member for Murray and Senator Perin Davey, Senator for NSW in the Australian Parliament will also be in attendance to listen first hand to the issues and address the floor.

Conference keynote speaker is the inspirational **Lana Masterson** who runs the innovative and lifesaving youth program in Lake Cargelligo. **Lana has united police, teachers, politicians, businesses and Elders to keep kids alive, out of jail and thriving.**

There will also be a range of officials from the NSW P and C Federation, NSW Department of Education, Transport for NSW to name just a few. Telstra and NBN executives will be there to offer advice and hear the communications issues affecting rural and remote families.

With 70 motions from branches across rural and remote NSW the programme is set to be two full days of speakers, motions, debate, questions and answers.

“ICPA-NSW had a very challenging year in 2020 with the cancellation of the Moree conference due to COVID and we then found ourselves having to pivot very quickly into advocating for both boarding and day students who were dealing with cross border closures. We demonstrated during this time that we were most certainly the voice for rural and remote children, however we cannot lose sight of all the other issues that our members have. On the agenda at conference is the ongoing issue of a drive subsidy for preschoolers, school bus run issues, better roads for students to travel on, improved technology for distance education students, access to

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allied health services in rural areas for young children, rural and remote teacher incentives, access to mobile and internet are just a handful of the issues that will be raised.

Allowances, Boarding Schools Agricultural High Schools and Hostels, Communications, Distance Education, Health and Wellbeing, Rural Schools, Special Education, Tertiary and Travel issues are all on the agenda.

State Council consists of 15 volunteers who live all over NSW, representing 850 member families from across NSW. The organisation is entirely voluntary and voices the grassroots education issues from rural and remote NSW. An apolitical, trusted body that is passionate about children's education – best summed up by the Hon Mark Latham, MLC (Chair, Education Portfolio Committee 3) as “the very important Isolated Children's Parent's Association” and “We come across a lot of interest groups or advocates in the education space, but none more dedicated to a worthwhile cause than you and your organisation.”

The Hay convening committee have worked tirelessly to organise the conference venue, the conference meals and dinners and also the partners tours – there is something for everyone and they have done an exceptional job to create a covid-safe environment.

ICPA-NSW thanks the following sponsors for making conference possible:

Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR)

NSW Department of Education

National Drought and Flood Agency

Telstra

Australian Boarding Schools Association

Boarding Schools Expo

This sponsorship is greatly valued and means that local businesses in Hay are not burdened during their time of recovery from COVID and Drought.

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