



ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION  
OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

**MINUTES**

OF THE

**46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE**

'Our Land. A Great Place to Learn'

**16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

HELD AT THE

**THE ESPLANADE HOTEL, FREMANTLE**

HOSTED BY

**GOLDFIELD EYRE BRANCH**

ICPA WA

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**46<sup>th</sup> ICPA WA State Conference**

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2018**



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**ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION of WA**  
**STATE COUNCIL 2017 – 2018 (March 2017 AGM)**

**PRESIDENT**

Tash Johns

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Liz Sudlow

**SECRETARY**

Elyce Donaghy

**TREASURER**

Bianca James

**PUBLICITY OFFICER**

Michelle Marshall

**LONES OFFICER**

Carol Ford

**COMMITTEE**

Elaine Egan

**COMMITTEE**

Amanda Nixon

**COMMITTEE**

Elize Scheepers

**COMMITTEE**

Karina Walter

**COMMITTEE**

Sandie McCombie

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Bianca James

**PUBLICITY OFFICER/WEBMASTER**

Michelle Marshall

**LONES OFFICER**

Carol Ford

**COMMITTEE**

Sally Brindal

**COMMITTEE**

Elyce Donaghy

**COMMITTEE**

Robin Pensini

**COMMITTEE**

Kym Ross

**COMMITTEE**

Elize Scheepers

## Conference Programme and Motions

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

- **Welcome** **Liz Sudlow (Vice President)**
- **Welcome by Convener** **Vicki McQuie**
- **National Anthem** **Santa Maria Boarding Students**  
Georgia Edland, Molly Johns, Isabel Nixon, Talia O’Brien
- **Official Opening** **Wendy Duncan**
- **Introduction of Guests & Delegates** **Elyce Donaghy**
- **State President’s Report** **Tash Johns**
- **Explanation of Procedure** **Tash Johns**
- **Confirmation of 2017 Conference Minutes**

<b>Moved</b>	Elyce Donaghy	State Council	
<b>Seconded</b>	Michelle Marshall	State Council	<b>CARRIED</b>
<i>Business Arising</i>	Nil		
- **Speaker** Neil Morrissey Past SOTA Alumni
- **Speaker** Boyd Brown Telstra Countrywide Area General Manager  
Platinum Sponsor
- **Guest Panel** Murray Williams Combined Agricultural Advisory Committee.  
Jamie Bennett Executive Officer Outdoors WA.  
Tracey Errington Central Midlands Senior High School P&C  
President, Moora.
- **REVISE Report** Sue Potter Coordinator REVISE  
“Retired Educator Volunteer’s for Isolated Students Education”

## Agenda Motions: A14 A15 A16 S12 Accommodation

### **A14 Goldfields Eyre Branch**

### *Accommodation*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Education Department to reverse the decision to close the Moora Residential College as it serves as the only Government boarding facility between Perth and Geraldton.”

*Moved* Vickie McQuie Goldfields Eyre Branch  
*Seconded* Lana Lefroy Goldfields Eyre Branch **CARRIED**

**A15 Pilbara Branch**

*Accommodation*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education to reverse closing the Moora Residential College.”

*Moved* Abbra Slocombe Pilbara Branch  
*Seconded* Lindsay Newland Pilbara Branch **CARRIED**

**A16 Central Wheatbelt North Branch**

*Accommodation*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the State Government to reverse the decision to close the Moora Residential College. Retaining and maintaining facilities in WA regions is imperative for equitable access to education.”

**Deemed Covered (A14)** Julie Walsh Central Wheatbelt North Branch

**S12 Yalgoo Branch**

*Accommodation*

“That ICPA (WA) continues to lobby the Minister for Education and other relevant Members of Parliament, to reverse the decision to close Moora Residential College.”

**Deemed Covered (A14)** Roxanne Morrissey Yalgoo Branch

- **Special Award** Life Membership Award Raelene Hall

**Agenda Motions: A23 S14 Communications**

**A23 Central Wheatbelt North Branch**

*Communication*

“That ICPA (WA) provide written support to the Goodlands Ag Committee in acquiring mobile coverage to the existing 178,000-hectare Mobile Black Spot area. School bus routes and conveyance spurs do not have communication when on route to geographically isolated primary schools within the region.”

*Moved* Lisa Brennan Central Wheatbelt North Branch  
*Seconded* Julie Walsh Central Wheatbelt North Branch **CARRIED**

**S14 Esperance Branch**

*Communication*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Education, the State Government and relevant Service Providers to investigate better internet connections and communications to rural and remote schools with a sufficient service that does not drop out and lose connection, thus creating equal learning opportunities for ALL students.”

*Moved* Sue Stead Esperance Branch





**S9 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 Royalties for Regions (R4R) component of the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA).”

**Deemed Covered (A13)**     *Kym Ross*     *Lakes Branch*

**A11 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.”

**Deemed Covered (A13)**     *Julie Walsh*     *Central Wheatbelt North Branch*

**A12 Goldfields 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.”

*Moved*     *Vicki McQuie*     *Goldfields Eyre Branch*  
*Seconded*     *Lana Lefroy*     *Goldfields Eyre Branch*     **CARRIED**

**S10 Kimberley Air Branch**

*Allowances*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the WA Department of Education and Minister for Education to review the cuts to the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) and find a way to reinstate this much needed allowance.”

**Deemed Covered (A13)**     *Kirsty Forshaw*     *Kimberley Branch*

**S11 Gascoyne Branch**

*Allowances*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government to review their Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) and increase it so the gap between the Residential Boarding Fees and the Allowance is minimal.”

**Deemed Covered (A13)**     *Alys McKeough*     *Gascoyne Branch*

- **Speaker**     *Brendan Goggins*     *Great Southern Grammar, Albany*

**Agenda Motions: A17 (withdrawn) A18 A19 A20 A21 A22 S13 Travel**

**A17 Goldfields Eyre Branch      *Withdrawn*      *Travel***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia and TransWA to implement an online booking system for the purchase of Unaccompanied Minor tickets for all WA transport services.”

***Withdrawn*      *Vicki McQuie*      *Goldfields Eyre Branch***

**A18 Lakes District Branch      *Travel***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the bus transport service to remove the complimentary passenger for those families that are catching the closest bus run to a primary school or if the family had been attending that primary school when it was the closest bus run.”

**Word Insertion**

Kym Ross requests conference permission for a word insertion. Insert the word “status” and the words “to eligible student status.”

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the bus transport service to remove the complimentary passenger status for those families that are catching the closest bus run to a primary school or if the family had been attending that primary school when it was the closest bus run to eligible student status.”

***Moved*      *Kym Ross*      *Lakes Districts Branch*  
*Seconded*      *Dennis Gittos*      *Lakes Districts Branch*      ***CARRIED*****

**A19 Hyden Branch      *Travel***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby School Bus Services to allow more flexibility for school bus zones in isolated areas, to be easier to obtain an exception where students are deemed to be on the edge of a school zone and that the students be deemed as eligible passengers, not complimentary.”

***Deemed Covered (A18)*      *Samantha Greay*      *Hyden Branch***

**A20 Lakes District Branch      *Withdrawn*      *Travel***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the School Bus Services to allow more flexibility to allow students to use the closest school bus to get to a primary school.”

***Withdrawn*      *Kym Ross*      *Lakes Districts Branch***

**A21 Lakes District Branch      *Travel***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the School Bus Service to increase their leniency on the policy for closest primary school from 2.5kms to 10kms.”

***Moved*      *Kym Ross*      *Lakes Districts Branch*  
*Seconded*      *Dennis Gittos*      *Lakes Districts Branch*      ***CARRIED*****

**A22 Lakes District Branch**

*Travel*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby Department of Transport to implement 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”.

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Kym Ross</i>	<i>Lakes Districts Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Dennis Gittos</i>	<i>Lakes Districts Branch</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**S13 Kimberley Air Branch**

*Travel*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the WA Department of Transport to find a better and more equitable process for reimbursement of air travel costs for students.”

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Kirsty Forshaw</i>	<i>Kimberley Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Elize Scheepers</i>	<i>State Council</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

- **Speaker** Peter Burchell CRT Platinum Sponsor

**Agenda Motions: S1 A5 A4 S2 A8 S3 A6 A7 A9 S4 S5 A10 S6 S7 Rural&Remote Schools / Appropriate Schooling**

**S1 Yalgoo Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Education and others within the WA Government, to keep all camps schools under the jurisdiction of the WA Department of Education, to ensure they remain affordable and accessible to all WA students.”

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Roxanne Morrissey</i>	<i>Yalgoo Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Alys McKeough</i>	<i>Gascoyne Branch</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**A5 Midwest Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) continue to lobby the State Government for WA’s Camp Schools to remain government owned and, as a priority, be kept accessible and affordable for schools and students statewide.”

<b><i>Deemed Covered (S1)</i></b>	<i>Emma Faulkes-Taylor</i>	<i>Midwest Branch</i>	
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**A4 Pilbara Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education to reverse transferring the management of six of the Department of Education Camp Schools to other non-government organisations.”

**Deemed Covered (S1)**      *Lindsay Newland*      *Pilbara Branch*

**S2      Meekatharra Air Branch      *Appropriate Schooling***

“That ICPA (WA) request the Minister for Education to overturn her decision to move Education Department camp schools at Dampier, Geraldton, Point Peron, Bridgetown, Pemberton, and Kalgoorlie to private operators.”

**Deemed Covered (S1)**      *Claire Mahoney*      *Meekatharra Branch*

**A6      Goldfields Eyre Branch      *Appropriate Schooling***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the WA Government and the Minister for Education to keep the 6 Western Australian Camp Schools, located in Kalgoorlie, Dampier, Geraldton, Point Peron, Bridgetown and Pemberton, open in the event that new management or ownership is not found.”

*Moved*      *Lana Lefroy*      *Goldfields Eyre Branch*  
*Seconded*      *Vicki McQuie*      *Goldfields Eyre Branch*      **CARRIED**

**S3      Hyden Branch      *Appropriate Schooling***

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies very strongly to ensure that the Regional Camp Schools that are currently available for the important extension of our children's learning, remain operational and available in the long term.”

**Deemed Covered (S1)**      *Samantha Greay*      *Hyden Branch*

**A8      Midwest Branch      *Appropriate Schooling***

“That ICPA (WA) continue to lobby the State Government for a reversal in the decision to remove 20% from a collective fund, which contributes to the renewal and replacement of machinery and equipment in the Agricultural Colleges and schools which run Agricultural programs.”

*Moved*      *Emma Faulkes-Taylor*      *Midwest Branch*  
*Seconded*      *Sally Brindal*      *Midwest Branch*      **CARRIED**

**A7      Central Wheatbelt North Branch      *Appropriate Schooling***

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the State Government to reconsider the impact of retaining 20% of funds from the Agricultural Education Farms Provision Trust (The Trust) for the purpose of ‘budget repair’. The purpose of the Trust is to support Agricultural Education in both regional and metropolitan farm schools/colleges. The capacity of the Trust system to distribute funds according to need maintains an equal opportunity in education for each student regardless of the site they attend.”

**Deemed Covered (A8)**      *Julie Walsh*      *Central Wheatbelt North Branch*

**A9 Pilbara Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education to reverse her decision to take 20% per year from the Agricultural Education Provisions Trust (AEPT) fund that supports WA’s five Agricultural Colleges and the Esperance Senior High School Farm Training Centre commencing in 2019.”

**Deemed Covered (A8)**      *Lindsay Newland*      *Pilbara Branch*

**S4 Yalgoo Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) continues to lobby the WA government to reverse its decision to take 20% of the funds currently contributed by the Agricultural Colleges and the Esperance Farm School, from the Agricultural Education Farm Provision Trust Fund.”

**Deemed Covered (A8)**      *Roxanne Morrissey*      *Yalgoo Branch*

**S5 Lakes District Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Education Minister that a 20% dividend is not taken annually from the Agricultural schools of WA trust fund.”

**Deemed Covered (A8)**      *Kym Ross*      *Lakes District Branch*

**A10 Midwest Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government to ensure that the Agricultural Colleges and schools who operate farms or agricultural programs, continue to have direct monitoring from the Department of Education and that Agricultural Curriculum continues to be valued and developed.”

*Moved*      *Sally Brindal*      *Midwest Branch*  
*Seconded*      *Emma Faulkes-Taylor*      *Midwest Branch*      **CARRIED**

**S6 Lakes District Branch**

*Appropriate Schooling*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the education minister to reverse the decision to cut funding for those managing and supporting the agricultural curriculum.”

**Deemed Covered (A10)**      *Kym Ross*      *Lakes District Branch*

**S7 Esperance Branch**

*Rural Schools*

“That ICPA (WA) lobbies the Minister for Education and the State Government that all rural and remote schools provide adequate housing, within a reasonable distance to their place of work, to accommodate the teachers working in Rural and Remote Schools.”

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Michelle Barrett</i>	<i>Esperance Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Karina Walter</i>	<i>State Council</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

- **Rural & Remote Schools Report** Liz Sudlow
- **Speaker** Hon. Sue Ellery MLC Minister Education & Training
- **Speaker** Jane Marwick Freelance Journalist
- **Special Award**  
Certificate of Appreciation Jane Marwick
- **Special Award**  
Certificate of Appreciation Wendy Duncan

**Agenda Motions: A2 A3 A1 S15 A26 A24 A25 Distance Education / Miscellaneous**

**A2 Pilbara Branch *Distance Education***

“That ICPA (WA) continues to lobby the Minister for Education to reverse the budget cuts to WA Schools of the Air (SOTAs) which grouped them in the Student-Centered Funding Model (SCFM).”

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Lindsay Newland</i>	<i>Pilbara Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Robin Pensini</i>	<i>State Council</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**A3 Pilbara Branch *Distance Education***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Education Department to obtain a copy of the findings from the review into the Student-Centered Funding Model (SCFM) in relation to its implementation over the five Schools of the Air (SOTAs).”

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Lindsay Newland</i>	<i>Pilbara Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Robin Pensini</i>	<i>State Council</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**A1 Goldfields 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 2018.”

<i>Moved</i>	<i>Vicki McQuie</i>	<i>Goldfields Eyre Branch</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Lana Lefroy</i>	<i>Goldfields Eyre Branch</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>

**S15 Gascoyne Branch**

*Distance Education*

“That ICPA (WA) urges the Minister for Education to consult with advisory groups and with parents collectively from each school before making significant changes to Schools of The Air (SOTAs) in the future.”

*Moved*

*Kristie dePledge*

*Gascoyne Branch*

*Seconded*

*Alys McKeough*

*Gascoyne Branch*

**CARRIED**

**A26 WA State Council**

*Miscellaneous*

“That ICPA (WA) send a letter to the Rural and Remote Advisory Council (RREAC), conveying disappointment at the lack of consultation from the Minister with the RREAC Council, prior to the education cuts announced on December 13.”

*Moved*

*Robin Pensini*

*State Council*

*Seconded*

*Liz Sudlow*

*State Council*

**CARRIED**

**A24 Pilbara Branch**

*Miscellaneous*

“The ICPA (WA) Pilbara Branch would like to pass a special ‘Vote of Thanks’ to State Council for their dedication in fighting the recent education cuts.”

*Moved*

*Lindsay Newland*

*Pilbara Branch*

*Seconded*

*Robin Pensini*

*State Council*

**CARRIED**

**A25 Midwest Branch**

*Miscellaneous*

“The Midwest Branch moves a vote of thanks to the State Council, the working group, and those that have been active on social media, print media, radio, writing letters and at public events for their many and varied contributions to fighting the cuts to regional education.”

*Moved*

*Emma Faulkes-Taylor*

*Midwest Branch*

*Seconded*

*Sally Brindal*

*Midwest Branch*

**CARRIED**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Opened 4.08pm

- **Treasurer's Report** Bianca James

### Election of State Council for 2018 – 2019

All positions were declared vacant and the Returning Officer, Roxanne Morrissey took the chair.

<b>President</b>	<b>Tash Johns</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Amanda Nixon</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Karina Walter</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Karina Walter</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Liz Sudlow</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Tash Johns</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Amanda Nixon</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Michelle Marshall</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Carol Ford</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bianca James</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Michelle Marshall</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Carol Ford</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Publicity Officer/Webmaster</b>	<b>Michelle Marshall</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Bianca James</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Carol Ford</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Lones Officer</b>	<b>Carol Ford</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Elize Scheepers</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Robin Pensini</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Sally Brindal</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Roxanne Morrissey</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Emma Faulkes-Taylor</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Elyce Donaghy</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Liz Sudlow</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Karina Walter</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Robin Pensini</b>	
<i>Nominated</i>	<i>Carol Ford</i>	
<i>Seconded</i>	<i>Elize Scheepers</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Kym Ross</b>	





2.4 To seek assistance for the continuation of recognised residential facilities that provide boarding places for students from regional and isolated areas.

2.6 To lobby appropriate authorities to expand existing specialist services or establish new ones that will improve the educational, social or cultural life of regional and isolated students.

and at point 3.2 the following definition be included.

Regional is defined by all the towns and areas that lie beyond the capital city of Western Australia.”

*Moved*

*Liz Sudlow*

*State Council*

*Seconded*

*Elize Scheepers*

*State Council*

**CARRIED**

**Annual General Meeting declared closed at 4.32pm**

▪ **Closing Acknowledgments & Thanks**

Tash Johns ICPA WA President 2018

## **REPORTS:**

### **2018 ICPA WA President's Report**

**Tash Johns**

Hon. Donna Faragher MLC - Shadow Minister for Education, Hon. Jacqui Boydell MLC – Member for Mining & Pastoral Region, Mr Peter Rundle MLA – Member for Roe, Hon. Jim Chown MLC - Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Royalties for Regions; Member for Agriculture Region, Mr Shane Love MLA – Member for Moore, Hon Robin Scott MLC – Member for Mining & Pastoral Region, Mrs Roxanne Morrissey – ICPA WA Life Member, Mrs Suzanne Wilson & Mrs Jane Moreton – Representatives of ICPA Aust., Guests, Speakers and ICPA Members. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 46<sup>th</sup> Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA Annual State Conference and to present my first report to you as State President.

2017, a year that will certainly go down in the ICPA history pages as the year, regional families were hit hard, by a newly elected Labor Government's education cuts.

**Yr. 7 Exemption:** The newly elected Education Minister, Hon. Sue Ellery, sought advice from the Department of Education, on continuing the exemption to keep year 7 students in some local rural schools. Unfortunately, this advice received from the Education Department saw the Government discontinue the special consideration to retain Year 7s in their local rural school. This was devastating news to many members and in particular for families in the Wheatbelt region. With an extra year of boarding fees, this decision caused families to reevaluate with some either leaving the region entirely or splitting the family up. The ramifications to these small rural communities caused economic and social pain. The Minister did assure ICPA when she personally phoned me, that this decision was certainly not taken lightly.

**Mullewa Bypass:** After many years of lobbying on behalf of our members from the Midwest Branch, ICPA WA received a huge win.

In June 2017, the Department of Education Director General, Sharyn O'Neil wrote to ICPA saying that as of 2018, residents of Mullewa and the surrounding area would be eligible to by-pass the Mullewa DHS and still be eligible to receive both the AIC and BAHA. After receiving this very welcome news, it was the view of State Council, that a case by case approach in other schools would be most appropriate and that widespread media attention of the Mullewa decision would not be in the best interest of future work in other areas of the state.

**BAHA:** Members of State Council met with Minister Ellery in early August 2017 to discuss issues raised at the 2017 State Conference. The Boarding Away from Home Allowance was one of the main topics on the agenda.

We stressed to the Minister that this much relied upon allowance needed to be increased, to bring it into line with the Consumer Price Index and to close the ever-widening gap between what parents receive in allowances from both the State and Federal Governments and the boarding fees parents must pay to provide a suitable education for their children.

The Minister was quite firm and pointed in her responses, she ended the meeting quite promptly within 15 minutes saying that there would certainly be no increase to the BAHA, due to the financial woes they had inherited from the previous Government, a statement we didn't realise at the time would be reiterated time and time again.

It was only a couple of weeks shortly after that meeting with the Minister, that she once again, personally phoned our Vice President this time, saying that there would be an announcement on the Royalties for Regions component of the BAHA and that it would start to reduce from \$2105 at the end of 2017 to \$1320 in 2022.

After meeting with the Minister only 2 weeks previously, State Council could not believe this decision had been made within two weeks of meeting with the Minister and had, most certainly been in the pipeline prior to our meeting. State Council set to work immediately to stop this decision going ahead. Petitions were set up; the media were notified and State Council began to campaign against this severe decision. In the Governments eyes, this reduction would be minimal and that families would only feel a decrease of around \$150 per year over five years.

The Minister tried to turn it into a Public/Private school issue, saying that most of the recipients of the BAHA were students from wealthy farms whose parents were able to afford to send them to rich city private schools and could quite easily afford to do so. Like many of us can attest to, this is certainly not the case and for many families throughout WA, they work incredibly hard to send their children away to either a Government Residential College or an Independent school in Perth. For most families, this can be a struggle, but as is most often the case with regional families, they find a way.

As a parent and I know this myself, we put our children's education above most things in our lives, to provide them with an education and opportunities they deserve and are entitled to no matter where they come from.

In February this year, ICPA sent a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs in need of an inquiry into the BAHA cuts. This has come about from the petition presented by the National Party to the Legislative Council in December 2017. We are awaiting to see the findings from this.

**Regional Education Cuts:** December 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, the Minister for Education, Sue Ellery, announced without notice or consultation, closures and funding cuts to areas of regional education across Western Australia.

These included:

- Five Schools of the Air to close at the end of the 2018 school year. Minister Ellery cited a 'duplication of services' between the regional and remote located Schools of the Air and the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) based in suburban Perth.
- Six regional camp schools to cease operating - institutions considered 'not core business of education' even though they have filled educational needs for many years.
- Residential colleges at Moora and Northam to shut. The closures will impact on the Central Midlands SHS and Northam SHS as many students come from remote locations.
- Vacation swimming lessons to cost more.
- Level 3 classroom teacher program intake on hold until 2020.
- Gifted and Talented programs to have reduced funding for some.

*These closures came on the back of other changes to regional education:*

- The loss of twenty-three Aboriginal Liaison Officers from the regions.
- Five Agricultural colleges and Esperance Farm School to lose 20% of the revenue generated from the profits of their farm enterprises.

Families across Western Australia were left reeling from this news and were left shocked, disappointed and outraged by these decisions.

Then on January 11<sup>th</sup> the Premier announced a backflip and reversed the decision on some of the cuts. These included: -

- Schools of the Air would remain open in regional Western Australia
- Funding for the Gifted and Talented Program in schools to be maintained
- The intake into the Level 3 classroom teacher program would not be put on hold
- Accommodation at Northam Residential College would remain open

ICPA members and people throughout regional WA could not believe that a newly elected Government would take such drastic measures without the consultation from parents, school communities and our own organisation. This was seen by many as an attack on country WA by a Government who was unprepared to listen and understand the needs of regional students.

The fight to reverse these cuts have been enormous and highlighted that our city friends were just as outraged as their country counterparts when it came to these cuts.

While many were on Christmas holidays, we were fighting a battle which seemed overwhelming.

ICPA WA continued to be the lead organisation in this people power campaign, by encouraging people to contact their local MPs, calling in to talkback radio or posting about regional students on social media.

Reading the many letters of support daily in the newspaper was enormously encouraging. The support regional WA received by our friends in the metro area was astounding. It truly showed there most certainly was no country/city divide.

ICPA are disappointed that the Moora Residential College is still set to close. As Moora expands to become a regional food bowl, this college and school are vital. When we met with Minister Ellery on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, she stood quite firm in her decision not to keep Moora open. We requested that she release the costings from the building reports the Minister said had been completed recently. To date, the Minister has not released the costings from these reports and it is our view that there has been no building report completed.

The Government's commandeering of funds from an existing trust set aside for agricultural education is deeply disappointing.

Our agricultural colleges successfully prepare students who wish to pursue practical educational experiences, enabling them to pursue careers in the sector.

When the colleges make a profit from their farm enterprises, 40% of the profit is placed in a trust with monies redirected back into agricultural education.

The government is taking 20% from the trust that will go back to the state, and will not be earmarked for education, eroding agricultural programs in WA schools.

The success of the agricultural colleges is due to the knowledge imparted by industry experts who volunteer on farm advisory committees for the betterment of agriculture and education.

ICPA have met with both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development to discuss these issues and advocate for changes to these cuts. The arrogance shown by this Government highlights the fact they do not want to listen to the issues and concerns of regional WA and it seems that their focus is predominately directed towards the metro area and in particular the strong Labor seats. It seems that Regional WA is being punished, with the Government cutting funding from the bush to pay for their election promises.

To the Goldfields Eyre Branch. Elyce, Vicki, Tauri, Sue and your many helpers. Your efforts and commitment in convening conference, have been amazing and I would like to thank you all.

And lastly, I would like to thank my family. My husband Seton and my three children Pippa, Darcy and Molly. Thank you all for the love and support you have given me throughout the year and in particular since the announced education cuts. I know that the past 6 months have seen me totally consumed with fighting the cuts to regional education. So, I thank you my precious family, you too have all lived and breathed ICPA, given advise and shared your opinion on everything we have fought against. When you take on this position it's not just you on your own, your family are there alongside you.

And in closing I would like to share a quote my youngest daughter Molly refers to often -

*"Fairness doesn't mean everyone gets what they want,*

*it means, everyone gets what they need.*

*And to get what you want, is to go get it yourself"*

### **ICPA Australia Federal Council Report**

**Jane Morton**

Madam President, Hon Donna Faragher MLC- Shadow Minister for Education, Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC- Member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Mr Peter Rundle MLA- Member for Roe, Hon Jim Chown MLC- Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Royalties for Regions, Member for Agricultural region, Mr Shane love MLA- Member for Moore, Hon Robin Scott MLC- Member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Roxanne Morrissey WA State Life Member, Raelene Hall WA State Life Member, Western Australia State Council, fellow ICPA members and guests, thank you for the opportunity to update you on the work of Federal Council.

It has been an encouraging time for ICPA (Aust) as there seems to be a rejuvenated focus on regional, rural and remote education in many areas. After travelling to the heart of Australia for the Federal Conference held in Alice Springs last August, Federal Council set to work actioning the 100 motions that were carried at the conference. With numerous government position changes over the past few months, it has at times been challenging as we try to keep our foothold and maintain the momentum that we had achieved on several issues. ICPA (Aust) continues to work closely with numerous other organisations, as well as various Commonwealth Departments and we have a good working relationship with many in government.

The Federal Motion Update, which outlines how Federal Council has been actioning the motions, outcomes achieved and our future plans, was distributed to members earlier this week and it can also be found on the ICPA website.

Besides the meetings, delegations, letters and consultations we have been involved in, Federal Council has worked on numerous written submissions. In the current climate, the federal government has been seeking input and discussion in many areas and there seems to be a submission available for comment on just about any topic imaginable. Attending to these submissions is keeping Federal Council very busy and also honing our proofreading and editing skills. We have completed 9 submissions since the Federal Conference.

Our largest submission undertaking by far was the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education or IRRRRE.

A promise from the 2016 federal election, the IRRRRE saw, for the first time in decades, government showing a significant focus on regional, rural and remote education. Professor John Halsey was chosen to lead the Review and members of Federal and State Councils met with Professor Halsey at the last Federal Conference. ICPA (Aust) attended various consultations around the country to try to bring to the forefront multiple rural and remote issues. This Review provided ICPA with an avenue to address the majority of the issues and concerns that members have raised over past years. Trying to define and compile in their entirety the many educational challenges that our rural and remote students have faced for years and fit them into one document certainly tested the mettle of our Federal Council, particularly as submissions were called for almost immediately after our Federal Conference which had seen a number of new councillors join our team. In the end, we ended up with a 44-page submission and our council became cohesive in working through the submission process. The final report from the Review was submitted to the Australian Government Minister for Education and Training in January 2018 and is being considered by Government. ICPA (Aust) is anxiously awaiting the outcomes and recommendations of the Review.

A section we included in our IRRRRE submission referred to the Election Commitment funding pledged for geographically isolated families to help them access education by the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Barnaby Joyce. While a portion of the election promise has been fulfilled in the 50% increase to the AIC Additional Boarding Allowance, (and of course our families who receive this portion of the allowance are grateful), the balance of this funding has yet to be allocated and our children still wait. The need to see this funding used in the manner to which it was pledged, was also raised in our Pre-Budget 2018-19 submission and included in correspondence with the new Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack. Federal Council continues to inquire about the election promise funding at every given opportunity.

Many of the concerns that ICPA (Aust) is working on are covered in the Motion Update that has just been sent out, I encourage all members to read the motion update and please contact us if you have further questions or want more information.

Communications continues to be a major sector of our efforts. ICPA (Aust) remains a member of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition and this has been a very welcomed forum where we can take our members' issues. By being a part of the RRRCC, we have managed to strengthen our voice as the Communications Coalition now encompasses 21-member bodies and they have recently been on delegation in Canberra with good results.

The RRRCC is calling for 2018 to be a year of action and we hope to see further improvements to communications services for those in living outside of city centres.

**Internet:** Our members seek adequate, affordable and reliable internet. ICPA (Aust) has regular contact with nbn and we continue to put forward situations that our members bring to us. We continue to strongly advocate for the expansion of the Education Port to include all rural students who rely on a Sky Muster service at home

regardless of whether they study via distance education, attend a small rural school, board away from home needing to use the service when home on school breaks for assignments, or study at the tertiary level. Federal Council has spoken to a number of other groups who now also have taken up this lobby.

There is still confusion and difficulty in reporting internet faults and Federal Council continues to advocate for a simpler, direct process along with the necessity for the creation of a Rural and Remote Communications Help Centre that understands rural and remote customers' needs and can assist them with troubleshooting problems in addition to providing correct information for securing communications products and services.

To try to address the fault reporting "circle of blame", nbn has created "nbn Local" which allows stakeholder groups to escalate reports of nbn service difficulties on behalf of their members directly to an nbn Local area representative if the regular channels of reporting are not getting results. ICPA is now able to facilitate our members, contacting the nbn Local representative for their area to assist if nbn service problems are unresolved after being reported to their RSP. Members are encouraged to contact either their State Council or Federal Council if they are experiencing difficulty in resolving their internet issues.

**Phones and Mobile:** A major concern for our members has been the uncertainty of the future of landline services for voice. ICPA (Aust) and RRRCC have met with numerous government representatives and strongly voiced our members' concerns over a potential loss of landlines and the possibility of landlines being replaced by VoIP services which currently do not adequately meet the need of those living in rural and remote Australia. ICPA (Aust) also maintains that Australians living outside of large metropolitan centres must have at least two methods of accessing communications (i.e. landline and satellite internet) due to the distance to other means of communication and the implications for safety when one service fails. This message seems to have been understood and supported by many in government and we are hopeful that this consideration for voice services for those in regional, rural and remote areas will continue to be upheld.

The need for expanded mobile coverage and recognition of areas with a rural school which has no mobile coverage being prioritised in any future Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) funding rounds has been mentioned by ICPA (Aust) in numerous forums including meetings with the Regional Communications Minister, members of government, ACCC and Department of Communications. At the 2017 Federal Conference, Telstra Country Wide offered to investigate mobile possibilities in areas containing a rural school and they asked ICPA to provide information on rural schools outside the mobile service footprint. ICPA State Councils have assisted in providing lists where possible of these schools and the lists have been passed on to TCW and we continue to have discussions with them about this.

ICPA (Aust) has recently negotiated with Telstra Country Wide to be able to offer ICPA members a discount on the purchase of Cel-Fi Go units which are transportable mobile signal boosters (often used in vehicles) similar to the discounts that have been offered to our members when buying Smart Antennae for increased mobile coverage at home. More details on this will be coming out about this in the next Federal Branch Bulletin.

The last few months have been very busy in the area of Early Childhood Education and Care. Federal Councillor, I have attended numerous meetings and sessions around the new In-Home Care model that is set to replace In Home Care and the Nanny Pilot Program. At the moment the new program seems to be keeping the name "In Home Care" and should be in place from 2 July 2018. A few things have changed with the revised program. There are a couple of positives: The Activity Test has been widened to enable unpaid workers in the family business to receive the new Child Care Subsidy. In addition to this, ICPA (Aust) has recently been informed by the Department



of Education and Training, and we have had this confirmed by Minister Birmingham's office, that even though the National IHC Guidelines still say that IHC educators may not supervise distance education, the interpretation is that they can continue to supervise Distance Education students outside of 'formal schooling hours' (i.e. on-air or audio lesson hours) as the schoolwork is classified as 'homework' from the Department's point of view, which should help distance education families a great deal. The Department has recommended that a private arrangement between a family and the IHC educator be made to ensure continued care during those 'formal schooling hours' but families will not be able to claim the Child Care Subsidy during that time.

ICPA has welcomed this clarification, however we will be raising the safety issue of students being 'alone' or uncared for during on air lessons, where the SOTA teacher is deemed to be "in control" of the child but is not physically in the room with them and therefore creating a possibly unsafe environment, and we will seek that on-air lesson time also fall under In-Home Care for this reason.

ICPA continues to monitor the transition from Budget Based Funding for mobile playgroups and other mobile services utilised by rural families to the new model.

A very positive result in our tertiary portfolio was the welcome change in Youth Allowance for those rural and remote students qualifying for independent Youth Allowance through part-time work or earnings in the reduction of the Gap Year from 18 months to 14 months. This effectively allows a student who has earned the necessary amount of income to attend study the next year instead of needing to begin during the middle of the year as was often the case previously. Members can visit the Youth Allowance website for further information. ICPA (Aust) has been lobbying for this change for many years and now these efforts have been rewarded.

A couple of other Federal Council initiatives that I would like to quickly mention is the Distance Education Tutoring Document which was created by the Distance Education Portfolio to try to help families seeking a Distance Education Tutor as well as those interested in becoming a tutor with information about how to go about applying for those positions.

The Boarding Schools portfolio has also been very busy working on a project to follow on from Qld ICPA's "IamICPA" with a series of video clips involving the motto "Iamaboarder" and showcasing our wonderful boarding students, what they enjoy about boarding and what they miss about home. It is hoped these videos will help highlight the challenges our boarding students face by showing details such as how far they live from school, what they leave behind and the journeys they make to access schooling.

The new online membership process has been working very well with a larger number of members now renewing prior to the December 31 closing date. Federal Council would like to thank our membership officer Jane O'Brien for the tremendous job she has done in assisting our members make the most this newly available system. Jane has kept in regular touch with State and Branch treasurers and we also thank all of the treasurers for the effort they have put in learning the new membership method. We also appreciate the work that Sue Shotton has done in working with the website and setting up the online membership platform as well as the work that Judy Sinclair-Newton has done in working with the states and branches with the Federal, State and Branch constitutions to ensure the necessary changes have been made at all levels to allow online membership to come into effect.

One of ICPA's strengths is the way we unite and support each other. State and Federal councils have continued to work together this year in various ways including teleconferences between the state and federal portfolios and executives. In mid- February, representatives from most State and Federal Councils met in Sydney for face to face

meetings and an information session at the nbn Discovery Centre. It was a very productive few days and extremely rewarding.

Federal Council would like to thank the Western Australia State Council for their ongoing support of federal issues and their dedication and commitment. WA State Council is a very dedicated group of people who work tirelessly to try to bring about better outcomes for WA families. We have seen this recently in the wake of the WA Labor Budget cuts where so many vital regional WA educational facilities were destined for elimination. WA State Council, WA ICPA members such as Raelene Hall with her great Social Media skills as well as other organisations such as CWA have saved the WA SOTA, and Federal Council stands behind you to help prevent closures of the Moora Residential College and the transfer of Camp Schools from the Department of Education, as well as the other cuts that need reversing.

ICPA (Aust) will welcome the new State Council elected at the AGM this afternoon and wish you success in your future endeavours. Federal Council looks forward to continuing to work with state councils, branches and members.

Federal Council hopes to see many of you at this year's Federal Conference which is being hosted by New South Wales State Council and held in Canberra on August 1 and 2. This year once again promises members the opportunity to hear from a great line up of speakers, meet ICPA members from all over Australia and allows you to have a say on issues that impact our rural and remote families and their children's education.

I'll finish with a quote from Gary Snyder, "Nature is not a place to visit. It is home."

### **2018 REVISE Conference Report**

**Sandie McCombie (Chair) – read by Sue Potter (Coordinator)**

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

REVISE is made up of a dedicated group of retired teachers who travel to stations and communities all over the state of Western Australia to teach children who are learning by distance education. They generally stay on average 4 weeks but some will stay longer or even do a second placement later in the school year. The busiest time for REVISE is 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> term, due to several factors. There are traditionally Home Tutors seminars in first term and also it is still quite warm in the North West. It is also cyclone season so not many requests are made and it is difficult to find tutors to be placed at this time especially above the 26 parallel.

There were seven new tutors who joined REVISE last year. Four of these tutors were successfully placed last year.

Second term is usually very busy and 6 placements occurred last year. Third term saw 7 placements and term five placements. Our co-coordinators Sue and Alan Potter working tirelessly to ensure that all requests for assistance are considered, as it's not always possible to match a tutor to a family for various reasons but all attempts are made to secure successful placements. Many tutors return year after year to the same properties and become part of the family. We are always looking for more tutors as each year we receive a number of resignations so it's great to see new people become members. We currently have 33 tutors available to be placed.

Sue and Allan coordinate the placements and the travel for the tutors, and in return the families are asked to make a donation to REVISE which helps to supplement the travel costs. These donations are very much appreciated as it allows REVISE to continue to provide this invaluable service to Rural and Remote families all over

WA. We also receive donations from ICPA branches and this is very much appreciated. We also have a government grant which we apply for every 3 years which again assists with travel costs to allow to the service to continue

Our AGM was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December and we had 20 members and 2 guests attend. Elected office bearers:

Chair: Sandie McCombie

Vice Chair: Emma Foulkes-Taylor

Coordinators: Sue and Alan Potter

Secretary: Pam Prince

Treasurer: Peter Dunn

Webmasters: Sue Potter and Aurora Stefani. Aurora is also the editor of the REVISE newsletter, and we thank her for all the hard work that goes into putting this together.

Our committee members this year are: Elaine Prince, Alan Prince, Pat Peake, Nancy Dorant and Meg Salazaar.

Jacque Sandhu from SIDE spoke about their 100-year anniversary this year and the possibility of REVISE WA involvement with this celebration.

Certificates for their Outstanding Volunteer Service to REVISE WA, were awarded to John and Sylvia Griffiths.

We are looking forward to another great year and requests and placements for term two are well underway.

This very dedicated group of people continue to be part of many families' lives and lifelong friendships are often made during these placements.

I would like to acknowledge the members of REVISE and thank them for their ongoing commitment to this service.

If you have any questions around how REVISE works or how we may be able to assist you please do not hesitate to contact us. [revisewa.com.au](http://revisewa.com.au)

## **PORTFOLIOS – STATE COUNCIL**

### **SOTA, Distance Education & Curriculum Report**

**Tash Johns**

There were a number of motions presented at the 2017 State Conference relating to the SOTA, Distance Education & Curriculum Portfolio. Issues raised by ICPA WA members were Schools of the Air (SOTA) cuts due to coming onto the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM), web conferencing options to improve the current online classroom application, SABA Centra and requests to ensure better access to in-term swimming lessons. State Council set to work promptly with raising these issues with the relevant Minister or Department.

#### **SOTA & Distance Ed**

A letter was sent to the Minister for Education, Hon. Sue Ellery requesting that the Education Department reconsider the decision made under the previous Government, to bring each of the five WA SOTAs under the SCFM and recognise them as unique schools again, due to the extreme geographical location of each student's classroom and not that of the school itself.

The Minister made it very clear in her response that the SCFM was fit-for-purpose as a funding mechanism for the SOTAs. The Minister made mention that the average carry-forward for the SOTAs was \$230,370, with only two out of the five SOTAs meeting the Department's Minimum Expenditure Requirement, which obliges schools to expend 96% of their annual allocation. Even raising the point that students were experiencing a reduced number of vital face to face opportunities with their classes and with parents having to pay much more for students to

attend camps was not enough. The Minister felt the model is supplying sufficient funds to these schools to provide these activities.

These five SOTAs are scheduled for a review into how they are managing on the SCFM in February 2018.

ICPA WA wrote to Mr Glenn Veen, Director of Infrastructure and Telecommunications at the Department of Education in relation to Motion A6, requesting that the Education Department explore other options other than the SABA Centra online interactive classroom application currently used by the SOTAs.

It was at the 2017 Federal ICPA Conference in Alice Springs, that we were shown a demonstration of the REACT application developed by Michael & Suzanne Wilson of M & S Consultants Pty Ltd and was developed from the input of teachers and Schools of the Air. REACT is a video conferencing application for Distance Education in real time. Up to 70 students at a time are able to attend an online classroom, it doesn't need expensive infrastructure to operate and is tailored to work over the nbn Skymuster Satellite Network.

In December 2017, the McGowan Government announced they were closing the five WA Schools of the Air due to the "duplication of services" and budget repair. It was the Government's plan to close all five SOTAs at the end of 2018, with all students transferring to the WA School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE). After a very strong campaign to reverse these cuts, that engaged the whole Western Australian community, including people from the metropolitan areas, we saw, in mid-January a reversal in this decision.

Minister Ellery did say, when ICPA State Council met with her after the reversal, that she would still be looking for possible savings and would like to have the conversation on ways of doing things better and that she was interested to get feedback from parents. The Minister also declared she had no pre-conceived ideas on possible changes and would wait for parents to come back to her with suggestions.

Another decision that was announced back in December that would affect SOTA students was the decision to close six of the Camp Schools throughout WA. These schools are located at Dampier, Geraldton, Bridgetown, Kalgoorlie, Pemberton and Point Peron. The Minister's reason behind the closures was that they are "not the core business of education and there are other government and commercial providers of similar services". These camp schools are utilised by all five Schools of the Air to accommodate students during face to face opportunities, such as seminars and sports camps. The Minister has not reversed her decision but did state however when ICPA State Council met with her on 17<sup>th</sup> January, that they would not be sold, just managed by another Department or Non-Government Organisation (NGO). This decision is still quite concerning to ICPA due to the lack of details released by the Minister and with time now being of the essence.

### **Curriculum**

Supplementary Motion S4 was raised at Conference in relation to the lack of swimming lessons offered to students in regional areas. State Council raised this issue with Minister Ellery at our meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017, the Minister assured us that the Department of Education (DoE) was addressing the problems associated with the lack of programs. After our meeting, the Minister's office advised ICPA WA that the following initiatives would come into place for the 2017/2018 swimming season: -

**Fly-in-Fly-out coordinators and instructors** - Program has been approved with the intention for Fly-in Fly-out coordinators and instructors to be in place for 2017/2018 (Dec/Jan) and Term 1 2018 Interm Swimming.

1. **Attraction strategy** –Swimming and Water Safety branch (in DoE) has commenced work in this area by advertising for instructors for VacSwim and Interm through the data base of AUSTSWIM qualified instructors (6000 swimming instructors).
2. **Procuring services from other providers** - Planning has commenced.
3. **Increasing the pool of instructors** - Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ASCTA) qualifications have now been approved to for use in Department swimming programs. Swimming and Water Safety branch is meeting with ASCTA in Term 3 to develop strategies to transition ASCTA teachers into Department programs as soon as possible, with a focus on including regional and remote areas.

State Council will wait until the end of the swimming season to gain feedback from its members to see if these new initiatives came into effect during this period and to find out what programs were made available to students.

NAPLAN Online will be gradually rolled out this year with some schools moving online by May 2018 and by 2020 it is expected that all schools will be delivering NAPLAN online. There have been some transitioning schools who have completed readiness activities to ensure they are well prepared. The Education Council (EC) recently stated that education ministers “welcome the many benefits that online testing can deliver to students, their parents and teachers through improved diagnostics and the faster turnaround of NAPLAN results”. The EC have also said that automated essay scoring will not be used for the marking of the NAPLAN writing component. Research by The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), has shown that automated essay scoring has the potential to be a viable option for marking writing scripts; however, there are still concerns from stakeholders. It is because of these concerns raised and to help facilitate a smooth transition to the online model, the EC have decided not to include automated marking for the writing component. All other components of NAPLAN will continue to be computer marked

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In 2017, the WA Education Department announced that as of 2018 it will be compulsory for all public and private primary schools to teach a language to children in Year 3. This change will be phased in gradually, meaning that by 2023, all students from Years 3 to 8 will learn a language. There are many schools throughout WA who already teach languages to Year 3 students. It will however mean that for the 269 schools that do not currently offer languages, there will be a struggle to find qualified teaching staff. It will be left up to the individual schools to decide on which languages to offer. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCASA) has developed syllabuses for the six most popular languages, Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, French, German & Italian. If schools

decide to offer other languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, Korean or an Aboriginal language, they will be able to use an alternative curriculum approved by SCASA

**Benefits of learning a language:**

- Improves memory and brain function — strengthens the area of the brain responsible for memory, speech and sensory perception.
- Enhances literacy skills — children become more aware of grammar, conjugation and sentence structures.
- Enhances comprehension and accelerates ability to read and write.
- Develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills — better able to ignore misleading and irrelevant information.
- Improves overall performance at school — studies show bilingual and multilingual children outperform children who speak only one language.
- Fosters respect and understanding of other cultures

*Source: WA Dept of Education*

## **Rural and Remote Report**

**Liz Sudlow**

It goes without saying, that the 2017/18 has been a particularly busy one for the rural and remote portfolio, particularly over the Christmas period.

At the 2017 conference, four motions were passed that were directly related to rural schools.

**Motion A7** sought ICPA WA Council to request a more influential mentoring program be implemented by the Department of Education to assist principals and promote longevity of placements, and to provide greater continuity in learning programmes for students and stability for children, staff and the wider school community at affected schools.

We were advised by Minister Ellery that “Principals can obtain support from Principal Consultants, available to support and coach principals and broker other support services”. We were also informed, “the McGowan Government made an election commitment to establish a Partnership on School Leadership with key education stakeholders to deliver high-quality professional development, and to look at ways to attract and retain teachers and leaders at rural and remote schools.”

**Motion A8** requested the WA Government to extend the exemption to allow Year 7 students to have Year 7 school curriculum delivered via rural, remote and School of the Air (SOTA) Primary Schools past the end of 2017.

The Minister sought advice on this matter and gave it due consideration, for some time last year, before announcing in September that the exemption would cease at the end of 2017, as originally planned.

**Motion A9** requested that Mullewa DHS be acknowledged as a special program school, so that students who, under the Federal Assistance for Isolated children (AIC) guidelines, lived too close to the school, were able to bypass the school and still be eligible for the allowance and the WA state Boarding Away From Home Allowance (BAHA).



We received a letter from Department of Education Director General, Sharyn O'Neil informing us of a favourable outcome to this request.

**Motion S4** requested that the WA Department of Education provide resources to ensure that remote children have access to in-term swimming lessons, when requested by schools.

As a result of our request, the Department of Education moved to create provision to Fly in-fly out coordinators and instructors for the Dec/Jan period and Term 1 Interm swimming, increase advertising for instructors through the AUSTSWIM data base and procure services from other providers such as the Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association (ASCTA).

**Summary of the previous 12 months:**

The McGowan Government fulfilled an election promise and reinstated approximately 100 additional education assistants. Education Minister, Sue Ellery's office provided us with a table showing a three-year plan, whereby 60 schools will benefit from an additional 103.5 EAs in 2018, 137 schools will receive an additional 195.5 FTE in 2019 and 238 schools will receive 290.0 FTE in 2020, many of these in the regions.

An additional 21.9 Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers will be placed into 51 schools in 2018 and 43 into 74 schools next year.

Increased specialist support for regional schools was announced in September through:

- the appointment of an Independent Learning Coordinator (ILC) in 10 regional schools to assist students undertaking courses through the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE). These schools are Albany, Collie, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Karratha, Newman, Port Hedland, Broome, Kununurra. The Learning Coordinators will be located in the schools.
- a regional Learning Specialist team of eight, in the curriculum areas of science, social science, mathematics and English, will be established to visit regional schools and run classes for students and the support the work of ILCs.

An adjustment to the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM) for Senior High Schools, was also announced. Schools over 1,200 students size will lose \$1000 per student and will be re-distributed to smaller schools. 900 students is the enrolment number that is expected to be the cut-off for securing money or not. As a result, 26 schools will lose money and 37 will pick up money, including some in the regions. The country schools in order of smallest to largest are:

Central Midlands (190 students), Harvey, Tom Price, Newman, Katanning, Denmark, Collie, Manjimup, Eaton, Narrogin, Northam, Busselton, Cape Naturaliste (600-700 students), NASH (Albany), Newton Moore, Dalyellup, Pinjarra, Hedland, Broome (850 students).

From September through to 13<sup>th</sup> December, there were a number of announcements which saw the reduction in services to regional students.

- The decision not to continue with the exemption to Year 7, which enabled some students to remain in their primary school, where a secondary school was not available near-by.
- The removal of the R4R component of the Boarding Away From Home Allowance (BAHA) which will reduce over four years:  
2018 - \$1948.00  
2019 - \$1791.00

2020 - \$1643.00

2021 - \$1477.00

NB: The BAHA was last increased in 2010 from \$1320.00 to \$2105.00, with \$785.00 coming from R4R funding.

- The loss of 23 Aboriginal Liaison Officers from the regions, whose role it is to liaise between the school, aboriginal education workers and community. The responsibility to work with community will be the role of the Principal at each school.

The Media Statement of 13<sup>th</sup> December, which announced with no warning or consultation:

- The closure of the five Schools of the Air.
- The closure of six regional camp schools at Bridgetown, Dampier, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Pemberton and Point Peron.
- The closure of Moora and Northam Government Residential Colleges.
- The intake into the Level 3 classroom teacher program to be on hold until 2020.
- Funding for Gifted and Talented programs at 18 schools to be reduced by 25 per cent.
- Fees for vacation swimming lessons (VacSwim) will increase from \$13.50 to \$30 for a 10-day program.
- Tuart College to be repurposed with students no longer being enrolled. The site will be retained by the Department of Education, but no decision made on its future use.
- Program delivery at Canning College will only deliver programs to overseas fee-paying students.
- Funding for Landsdale Farm School to cease, and an alternate provider sourced.
- The five Agricultural Colleges and Esperance Farm School to lose 20% of the Gross income generated from enterprises at each of the schools. Currently, the individual school retains 60% of the profit it makes and the remainder 40% goes into a trust fund to be shared by all of the Ag schools, as well as other schools, some of them in the Metro area.) The Ag Colleges stand to lose approximately \$300,000 in 2019.
- The Director of Agricultural Education position was previously removed, and the curriculum unit disbanded.

Lead by ICPA WA but supported by many other organisations and individuals across regional and metropolitan WA, there has been an intense campaign to fight these decisions.

On 11<sup>th</sup> Jan, the McGowan government, due to public pressure, announced it would reverse the SOTA closure decision, re-instate the Gifted and Talented Program and the Level 3 classroom teacher program and reverse the decision to close Northam Residential College.

ICPA WA together with organisations such as CWA, WA Farmers, PGA and KPCA is continuing to fight these reductions to regional education.

## **Accommodation Report**

**Elize Scheepers**

2017 saw a change in the governance of our Residential Colleges. Country High Schools Hostel Authority, CHSHA, folded on 1 July 2017 to be replaced by Residential Colleges, which is now a department within the Department of Education with Deborah Hardie at the helm.

Substantial renovations done to Broome Residential College during 2016 had the College run with new vigour this past year. 2 new junior dorms, 4 new staff houses, 2 bedsits were added to existing dorms, a recreational hall, basketball court as well a 15m swimming pool were enjoyed.



At the time of writing my report the official numbers of the student census statistics gathered by the Department were not available to the public. All Residential Colleges, including City Beach, have beds available and are fully staffed. Residential Colleges of Broome, Esperance and Geraldton will have access to additional staff members who are there solely to support all Aboriginal students attending these Residential Colleges. 2018 Broome will have two and Esperance one of the support staff join them. 2019 Albany, Esperance and Broome will see additional staff join them to support their Aboriginal students.

On 12 December 2017 two government Residential Colleges, Northam and St. James' in Moora, were earmarked by the State government to be closed down. On 10 January 2018, Mr. McGowan admitted many decisions made to save the government budget were done in haste and they had "got the balance wrong" between budget savings and the impact on rural families. However, the decision was only reversed for Northam Residential College, Moora remained ear marked to be closed. This decision has brought extreme stress not only to the current students and their families but to many other families across the state who had planned on sending their children to Moora. Why on earth send your child to Moora?? Perhaps the fact that CMSHS had the highest median ATAR score of all senior high schools in the Wheatbelt (including Northam and Narrogin) may be a very good reason! At present Moora has the third highest occupancy rate of the 8 Residential Colleges in WA.

There seems to be a grey cloud regarding the figures thrown out in regards to the upgrade of Moora, which has clouded the judgement of those undecided about giving their support or not. Tracey Errington, current President of CMSHS P&C explained it very simply and I feel it is important to share in this report.

The figure of \$8.7million is what many understand is required for the upgrade, when in fact only \$500,000 is required to stay open. The \$8.7million is the *balance of the initial* (approximately \$55m) funding set aside by government about 10 years ago. The exact timing and figure are awaiting confirmation. Utilising this money, each Residential College was progressively updated – Moora being the last. \$8.7million is what was left of the funds after the second last upgrade. Work on the last Residential College upgrade in the program was to commence in March 2018... in Moora. Mr. McGowan's newly elected Labour Government commissioned a report on what would be required at Moora to upgrade the current facility. The report itself cost \$150,000 – the upgrade itself was never finally costed as the consultants' contract was terminated before the costing stage. On 1 July 2017, the Education Department took over all Residential Colleges and their assets from the Country Hostels Association, and, through recommendations from the Blaxall Report, cancelled the remaining upgrade and redirected the remaining \$8.7million elsewhere.

The last building assessment carried out by BMW (Building Maintenance and Works) department for maintenance and repairs was done in 2012. They put the figure required at \$160,000. The maintenance was not carried out then as the planned upgrade was imminent, thereby killing two birds with one stone. As all schools and colleges, an annual funding is received by the Residential College of \$315,000. This figure, added to that quoted in 2012, rounded off comes to \$500,000.

Advance Housing in Albany have opened a new facility for tertiary students. Apartments housing 20 fully furnished rooms each with an en suite bathroom are located opposite the University of WA. One of the single roomed apartments is built in a wheelchair friendly structure. A further 40 rooms are in the planning stage. This accommodation is not only for university students but available to any tertiary students in Albany over 18 years of age. Many student accommodation facilities in Perth are also not solely for the use of university students. An example is that of ECU Student Village in Joondalup which accommodates any actively studying tertiary student,

whether at a university or TAFE. I urge parents to contact student accommodation facilities near your child's place of study before going to the expense of setting your child up in their own accommodation.

I'd like to close my report with a request to each of our ICPA members across the State... please show your support and stand behind fellow rural families, who like you also work and live on the land. Please give add a voice, or a letter to the P&C giving them your moral support to have Moora Residential College remain open to receive their children.

## Allowances Report

**Elaine Egan**

Motions A1, A2 and A3: Regarding an increase to the Boarding Away From Home Allowance (BAHA), currently \$2,050 per student. The Royalties for Regions contribution of \$785 to the annual BAHA started in 2009.

The Minister for Education and Training Hon Sue Ellery MLC replied in writing in June to a written request by ICPA WA to increase the BAHA. Whilst understanding the importance of the BAHA to rural and remote families, the Minister stated the Government must prioritise funding. The Minister encouraged families to refer to the Department of Transport webpage as there are travel subsidies available.

In early August delegates met with Minister Ellery. ICPA WA were informed that due to budget restrictions there would be no increase to the BAHA.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, Minister Ellery announced that the BAHA would decrease as of 2018. The BAHA will reduce over 5 years due to the Royalties for Regions funding ceasing after 2017. The following rates will apply: -

- 2018 \$1,948
- 2019 \$1,791
- 2020 \$1,643
- 2021 \$1,477
- 2022 \$1,320

ICPA WA wrote to Minister Ellery in September reiterating that at the August meeting she had given no indication that the allowance would decrease. The Minister replied by letter in October, stating the full impact of the reduction in the Royalties for Regions contribution will not occur until 2022.

In February 2018 ICPA WA made a submission to the Environment and Public Affairs Committee regarding Petition No. 042 – Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA).

There are 4 types of payment:

- Isolated children
- Children in respite
- Agricultural College Special Subsidy (all Ag students qualify if boarding)
- Gifted and Talented program

BAHA	Number of Students	Actual Cost to Government
2012	2,056	\$3.5M

2013	1,474	\$3.0
2014	1,233	\$2.5M
2015	1,346	\$2.8M
2016	1,556	3.2M

- 272 students boarding at the WA Colleges of Agriculture, supported through the Special Subsidy Boarding Away from Home Allowance at a cost of just under \$0.6m, similar to 2015.
- The WA State Government will save between \$228,000 and \$244,000 per year by removing the Royalties for Regions component of the BAHA.

	Students	BAHA cuts/student	Government Savings
2018	1,556	\$157	\$244,292
2019	1,556	\$157	\$244,292
2020	1,556	\$148	\$230,228
2021	1,556	\$166	\$228,296
2022	1,556	\$157	\$244,292
			\$1,191,400

The Boarding Away from Home Allowance is only available to resident Western Australians who have qualified for the Commonwealth Government Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) or Second Home Allowance (which is available from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink)).

#### **BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE (FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN)**

This allowance assists parents in isolated locations who do not have access to a primary or secondary school.

The allowance for 2017 is \$2 105 for students who board away for the full year, with payment being made at the end of Term four. Where a student only boards at the college for part of the year, a pro-rata payment will be made based on the number of terms attended. The minimum stay with a Boarding Provider is four weeks for a pro-rata payment. The payment/advice will be sent directly to the boarding provider where the student attends a Country High School Hostels Authority residential college (i.e. Albany, Broome, City Beach, Esperance, Geraldton, Merredin, Narrogin, Northam or St James Residential College Moora); or where a student attends a Western Australian College of Agriculture (ie. Cunderdin, Denmark, Harvey, Morawa, Narrogin) and is to be deducted from the residential boarding fees only. If the student does not board at a Country High School Hostels Authority residential college or Western Australian College of Agriculture then the allowance is paid to one of the following at the discretion of the parent: the boarding facility, school or parent.

#### **BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE FOR STUDENTS IN RESPITE**

Respite students may board away from home because of physical or intellectual disabilities, health related conditions or learning difficulties. These students attend or board at a special institution which caters for their needs. Students who reside in respite care facilities (e.g. Activ Foundation or Autism Association) are eligible for a proportionate allowance if they attend 20 days or greater over the school year. Payment for respite will be calculated from the first day of the school term, until the last day of the school year (including attendance throughout school term holidays and weekends). Parents/Guardians who receive the Commonwealth Government Department of Human Services (Centrelink) Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) for short term

boarding allowance can contact the Schools Resourcing and Support Directorate directly for the forms. Applications must be completed annually

#### **BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE – AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES SPECIAL SUBSIDY**

This allowance is to assist parents with secondary students attending and boarding at a Western Australian College of Agriculture. Claimants apply for the subsidy through the Western Australian College of Agriculture where their child is boarding. The college posts application forms out to parents in March and payment is made directly to the Agricultural College in October 2017. The closing date for the Agricultural College Special Subsidy Boarding Away from Home Allowance is 31 July 2017.

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Student is enrolled and boarding at the Catholic Agricultural College or the Student is enrolled and boarding in a Western Australian College of Agriculture. The Parent/Student is not in receipt of: Youth Allowance at the away from home rate; Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance (through the Department of Human Services (Centrelink)); or ABSTUDY Boarding. Note: This allowance is only available to students boarding at the Agricultural Colleges. If students are boarding at another location, they are not entitled to claim this special subsidy (they may be eligible for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance for Isolated Children, if they are in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) boarding or Second Home Allowance from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink)).

**PAYMENT:** The Allowance for 2017 is \$2 105. The payment/advice will be sent directly to each Agricultural College and it is to be deducted from the residential boarding fees only. If a student only boards at the Western Australian College of Agriculture or Catholic Agricultural College for part of the year, a pro-rata payment will be made based on the number of terms attended. The minimum stay with a Boarding Provider is four weeks for a pro-rata payment.

#### **BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE – GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM**

This allowance is to assist rural and remote parents with secondary students enrolled in gifted and talented programs at public schools and boarding at City Beach Residential College. The closing date for the Gifted and Talented Program Boarding Away from Home Allowance is 31 July. Forms should be submitted direct to City Beach Residential College. Applications must be completed annually (an application does NOT automatically cover all school years).

**ELIGIBILITY:** The Student is enrolled in a gifted and talented program at a public school; and the Student is boarding at City Beach Residential College Parent/student is not in receipt of: Youth Allowance at the away from home rate; Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance (through the Department of Human Services (Centrelink)); or ABSTUDY Boarding. Note: If students are boarding at another location, they are not entitled to claim this special subsidy (they may be eligible for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance for Isolated Children if they are in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) boarding or Second Home Allowance from the Department of Human Services (Centrelink)).

**PAYMENT** The allowance for 2017 is \$2 105 for students who board away for the full year, with payment being made at the end of Term 4. The allowance is paid directly to City Beach Residential College.

## Communications Report

**Amanda Nixon**

The 2017 Communications Portfolio has seen ICPA Federal and State Councils work collaboratively to advocate for access and reliability to communication services for families educating children living in rural and remote locations. Improvements to affordable, reliable internet and voice services have dominated media releases during the past year. As a council, we have been involved in this discussion. We have submitted 2 letters supporting the *ACCC draft decision not to declare mobile roaming*. Attended Broadband for the Bush forum in Fremantle and teleconferences with *Federal/State communication portfolio holders* run by ICPA Australia.

**Collaboration between Federal & State Councils:** 2017 Motion S3 from the Kimberley Air Branch required the collaboration between Federal Council and WA State Council to address the need for urgent upgrades to remote radio telephone services. Given the enormity of this task, the WA Area General Manager of Telstra Countrywide, Boyd Brown gave ICPA Federal and State an invitation to work directly with his office to address WA remote radio repair issues.

**Broadband for the Bush Forum.** Fremantle 22&23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. Attended by State council reps Tash Johns, Elaine Egan & Amanda Nixon. Roxanne Morrissey presented in a panel session on behalf of ICPA (Aust), "Demands on online services by students engaging in and building, new interactive technologies in learning". In this session it was interesting to hear about interactive curriculum resources and capturing indigenous culture and story. However, a similar story ran through most workshop sessions; that remote access was limited by data traffic and allocation.

ICPA WA State Council have been supplied with 2 **trial mobile phone boosters for vehicles (Cel-Fi Go)** and we agreed to give feedback to Telstra countrywide. There is a great summation by Tash Johns in Sept ICPA WA newsletter Bits & Pieces. The booster was invaluable for Tash to host the monthly State Council 'GoTo' meeting from her fenceline camp in the Pilbara (see cover page). We have also received comments and recommendations from industry consultants in Eastern Wheatbelt areas as to coverage increases.

**Dowerin Field Day ICPA booth** – Good ICPA conversation generated by presence in Telstra Tent. After 4 years spent attached to the Education Tent ICPA accepted the invitation to join Telstra Countrywide in their tent. This was a great opportunity to promote ICPA's efforts in lobbying for equity solutions to communication issues for education.

**Mobile Black Spot Program:** The third round of government Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP) funding locations was announced in May 2017, with an aim to address areas that may not be commercially profitable but have a need for coverage. This round will target 125 specific priority locations that were not included in previous rounds. There is an indication that Mobile Black Spot Rounds will continue, although possibly not in the format we have seen up to now. ICPA will continue our lobbying efforts as we advocate for more rural and remote areas to be covered by the program. We still have many members in areas of limited or non-existent mobile service.

**nbn wholesale data allowance announcement saw the** monthly data allowance for satellite customers double as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Wholesale allowable peak plans on the Sky Muster™ service go to 150 GB (from 75GB) and total monthly plans go to 300GB (from 150GB). Retail service providers able to offer at a similar pre-October price. This announcement also provides Distance Education students and small rural schools with extra data through the dedicated Education Port which will allow for further opportunities to access a full curriculum.

**Nbn Education Port:** The education port is available for geographically isolated distance education students receiving the Assistance of Isolated Children (AIC) allowance. Since the first education port connection in Queensland in June 2016 there is now take up in all states and territories of Australia. Queensland and Western Australia have the majority of working connections to date. The nbn sets the access rules and the wholesale price for the Education Port. The individual RSPs set the retail price, however not all RSPs provide access to the Education Port. Currently the education port providers are:

Activ8- <http://www.activ8me.net.au/internet/skymuster>

ANT- <https://www.ant.com.au/nbn/lts/education>

HarbourISP- <https://www.harbourisp.com.au/plan/nbn-educational-pip-plan/>

Skymesh- <https://www.skymesh.net.au/services/nbn/satellite/education.php>

Clearnetworks- <https://www.clear.com.au/residential/nbn-sky-muster/plans-pricing/>

One strong message is that nbn cannot fix a problem if they do not know about it and we encourage members to contact us if they are experiencing difficulties with their service in relation to their students' schooling.

**Domestic Mobile Roaming:** ACCC's draft recommendation that wholesale mobile roaming not be implemented was released on May 5, 2017. ICPA WA has submitted 2 letters *supporting draft ACCC decision* not to declare mobile roaming. ICPA Federal and State message is that priority for our members is expansion of mobile coverage into the areas where they live, work and are educated. We also support the comment that if mobile roaming is not being undertaken, that service providers in the bush need to fulfil their obligations and expand infrastructure to additional areas as well as maintaining services.

Since coverage cannot be extended further without new investment, it is equally critical that mobile providers continue to invest in their rural networks on both a standalone basis and as co-investment partners with governments. ICPA believes that unless more investment is made in the development of communication infrastructure in rural and remote locations, discrimination against rural and remote residents will continue.

**Reform of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) and its significance to fixed landline access:**

The Productivity Commissions (PC) report on the Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation (USO), which ensures that all premises can access a voice service, was released to the public on June 19, 2017. The PC found that the current system does not deliver for consumers or Government and have recommended significant changes, including removing the current contract with Telstra that delivers voice services, leveraging the National Broadband Network to deliver data services and the introduction of targeted programs specifically to provide for voice and community services. ICPA's position has been and remains that all customers must have access to an affordable, reliable and adequate/appropriate voice service which is standalone from satellite internet so that they have two communications services available to them, just as those in the city do (mobile and then an nbn service for internet). One day, something that is an improvement on landlines may be available for rural and remote customers and we want to ensure we support the investigation of this but are clear that removal of landlines cannot be considered until such a service is available. The guarantee around broadband in the USO is something that ICPA does support and welcomes the assurance of this. It was very encouraging to see that the gov't's response to the USO inquiry made so much mention of remote and regional customers.

The government formally responded to this report in December 2017, saying it will be working to develop a new Universal Service Guarantee (USG) that will ensure that all Australians have access to voice and broadband services, regardless of where they live in the country. The new USG will still ensure access to payphones or equivalent technologies in areas with no mobile coverage or in remote Australia.



**Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia (BIRRR)** has put together information documents for people who are navigating the broadband jungle. Thank you to BIRRR for collating this information and allowing ICPA to provide it to our members:

How to choose an **nbn** provider – follow this [link](#):

<https://birraus.com/2017/10/30/how-to-choose-an-nbn-provider/>

Internet provider details printout sheet – follow this [link](#):

<https://birraus.com/2017/10/30/internet-provider-details-printout/>

**Wi-Fi Trial:** Many members have been concerned about the current Qantas Wi-Fi trial. nbn have assured ICPA (Aust) that this is a trial, designed to not have an impact on Sky Muster™ users and they are 100% committed to ensuring that regional and remote Australia remains their top priority. The trial with QANTAS and ViaSat should help fast track technology that could support similar services. A 6-month trial for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, so RFDS planes can communicate with specialists on the ground, will commenced in September 2017. The software developed in the trial will open the door to the development of products to support mobile satellite units for various situations requiring emergency services when there is a natural disaster and also explore the possibility of mobile Sky Muster™ receivers for tractors and utilities.

Providing ICPA with your case studies and communications issues helps us advocate for this portfolio. Thank you for the support of ICPA federal council in supplying information to create a unified message.

## Early Childhood Report

**Carol Ford**

The Early Childhood Education area has been the focus of quite a bit of attention over the last couple of years especially. We have had very similar motions presented at State Conference each year as a result of issues being on going, with frustration I know but changes take time and are often out of our control.

A media release in February 2018 from Minister for Education and Training Senator Simon Birmingham outlines that the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education has been extended to 2019. With the allocation of \$427.8 million in 2018 and \$440 million in 2019 and an overhaul of the Child Care system there are big changes afoot in many areas. The minister states “This will include more than 348,000 children having access to 15 hours quality early learning in the year before school. The States must find ways to motivate parents of educationally vulnerable pre-schoolers to both enrol and attend. The extension of the National Partnership gives the government time to work through the issues that keep children from attending pre-school and to develop enduring policy beyond 2019 that ensures children are not just enrolling but also attending and benefitting from pre-school programs in readiness for school.”

Under the new package the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will replace the existing Childcare Benefit and Child Care Rebate. CCS will be the main way the government assists families with their Child Care fees. CCS will be supported by the Child Care Safety Net, which aims to give the most vulnerable children a strong start while supporting parents into work. Families currently using childcare will be contacted in early 2018 with more details about the changes.

In Home Care from July 2, 2018.

Federal Council put in a submission for the IHC National Guidelines in January 2018. Final Guidelines are expected to be released March 2018.

The new arrangements will reset the current In Home Care (IHC) program and replace the Nanny Pilot Scheme with IHC Support Agencies to service each State & Territory to distribute places to Child Care Subsidy approved services. 3000 places will be available throughout Australia. The policy for IHC is based on the findings from the reviews of the current IHC arrangements, the evaluation of the Nanny Pilot Scheme and feedback from families, services and other key stakeholders. The government received over 200 responses and has considered the feedback in finalizing the guidelines.

#### Working With Children Check

The 2015 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report recommends “that all State and Territory governments should amend their WWCC laws to enable WWCC from other jurisdictions to be recognized and accepted.”

Responses to correspondence with the government and opposition don’t sound overly hopeful that things will change quickly. Federal meeting with Dept. Education & Training ECE in December 2017 reported that they have a national working group working on this and recommendations for any decisions are likely to be made in the first half of 2018.

#### AIC Distance Education Allowance for 4 Yr Olds

This is still on the agenda and Federal are advocating to get this allowance in place for 4 year olds doing Distance Education.

### **Post Compulsory Report**

**Michelle Marshall**

Post Compulsory has seen quite a few changes in the last 12 months.

**VET SECTOR:** The VET-FEE amendments have had quite an impact on this sector. The Legislation and Amendment or Provider Integrity and Other Measures Bill 2017 saw new legislation introduced to bring into line all training providers. This bill saw measures brought in that will protect both the student and providers. Many disreputable training providers were closed down. This should bring about a strengthening of the VET sector.

**APPRENTICESHIPS:** An early support mentoring program for apprentices and their trainees, called the Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices Program was introduced to increase apprentice retention rates, particularly in the first 2 years of training, in order to improve completion rates and support the supply of skilled workers.

**ENTRY STANDARDS:** After a review by the Federal Government in 2017, universities will be forced to release more information about their entry standards. The review stated that some admission processes have become more complex and hard to understand. It was found that prospective students found it difficult to make informed choices because of the confusion about the ATAR required for different courses and the way bonus points schemes were applied.



UNIVERSITY NEWS: UWA announced in April that there are 3 training hubs for regional medical training in Midwest/Goldfields, Kimberley/Pilbara and the Great Southern/Wheatbelt regions. These hubs will aim to increase the medical workforce in regional WA and remote sparsely populated, under-served and disadvantaged areas. The most popular university courses signed up for in 2018 were commerce, teaching, engineering, psychology, law and nursing. Across the institutions, UWA demands the highest ATAR results from its entrants. In December a program was announced to make access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics easier for 1200 students living in regional and remote areas of Australia. Dedicated scholarships of up to \$18,000 were made available. The program is designed to suit the needs of rural and regional students.

### Special/Specific Needs Report

**Amanda Nixon**

Specific and Special issues include early identification of learning difficulties, access and cost of services, support and training for families and educators and support for gifted students.

The beginning of the 2018 school year will see the WA Department of Education supply of the following: Specialist support through the appointment of an Independent Learning Coordinator (ILC) in 10 regional schools. A Regional Learning Specialist team in the curriculum areas of science, social science, mathematics and English. An additional 300 education assistants and 50 Aboriginal and Islander education officers employed at WA schools over the next few years. Education assistants employed at 238 schools across kindergarten to Year 2, with most allocated to socially disadvantaged students. The indigenous education officers will be employed at 74 schools in regional WA, including high schools and remote community schools.

ICPA welcomed the reversal to the 25 per cent funding cut for programs for gifted and talented students. ICPA WA greatly appreciate the immediate support received from Perth Modernian Society President Peter Farr in lobbying support for the education cuts that effected regional WA. Many society members are regional community members, and many city parents contributed to the campaign. Regional students who are enrolled in a Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Program at select metropolitan secondary schools are able to board at City Beach Residential College. The third week in March is the annual National Gifted Awareness Week. [www.clearingskies.com.au](http://www.clearingskies.com.au)

ICPA WA supported the petition to **prevent the closure of Noah's Ark WA – the state's only specialist toy and resource library. In October 2017** Noah's Ark Library received notice it would be shut down by the end of 2017. It lends specially adapted toys to children with disabilities for the past 42 years. It is based in Morley, Perth and operates a mobile delivery service to regional areas. As at 25th January 2018, the library remains closed. The Independent living center is still in the application process for a preferred applicant to take on Noah's Ark WA services.

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

- The Patient Assistance Travel Scheme to include subsidised travel and accommodation for diagnosed children needing to see Specialists in the field of Specific or Special Needs wherever those specialists may be located; whether in a hospital or not.
- Provision of a Medicare rebate for services provided by Telehealth clinicians to rural and remote families.
- All rural and remote students have access to identification and intervention for learning difficulties

- Specific training/PD for teachers to cater for students with learning difficulties, and talented & gifted programs.

A further lobby in the Tertiary Portfolio also relates to the Specific Education Needs Portfolio: that universities that provide teacher training include modules such as Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) in their curriculum.

## Travel Report

**Elaine Egan**

Motion S1: Regarding students aged 12 to 15 years of age travelling on TransWA buses, that they not be classified as Unaccompanied Students, therefore not requiring a Travel Authorisation for Unaccompanied Child Form to be completed by parents. Minister for Transport, Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA replied in writing back in August 2017 and stated that TransWA have reviewed the Carriage of Unaccompanied Children Policy, focusing on the conditions of travel, including the age boundaries. The safety and comfort of minors using public transport is paramount. TransWA rail and bus services stop along the route for refreshments and for other passengers to board and disembark. These stops represent potential points of vulnerability for unaccompanied students. The age boundaries of unaccompanied students will remain unchanged, that being 15 and under.

In August, Qantas announced a 12 month trial period of a discounted airfares scheme for residents of selected regional towns in WA. Qantas will offer return flight discounts of up to 30% for people living in 6 regional centres from November: Broome, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Paraburdoo, Port Hedland and Newman. Passengers are restricted to purchasing four discounted flights per year, and the airfares are only available for personal travel. To book these discounted fares, passengers need to be a frequent flyer member. Qantas have waived the Frequent Flyer joining fee for those not already a member.

In February 2018 ICPA Australia made a submission, with ICPA WA giving input, into the Federal Government Senate Enquiry into the Operation, Regulation and Funding of Air Route Service Delivery to Rural, Regional and Remote Communities. The report will be finalised on 30th March 2018, with the finds released soon after.

Esperance ICPA Branch has worked with Helloworld Esperance and Rex Airlines to get an Esperance Boarder's flight - \$510 return for the 3 boarders' weekends, organised Jan/Feb and paid in advance.

February 2018 there were Administrative changes to the Student Subsidised Travel Scheme. For students claiming travel refunds:

- Student fare refund claims from parents or guardians must be submitted to On-demand Transport no later than one (1) month after the last date of travel on your e-ticket in order to receive a refund. Refunds will not be processed for claims that are not received within this timeframe.
- Road travel claims must be received by 31 January for the previous year. For example, refund claims for 2018 school year, must be submitted by 31 January 2019.
- Student fare refund claims from parents or guardians must be submitted by email to [ondemandtransport@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:ondemandtransport@transport.wa.gov.au). E-mailed claims are required to ensure your payment is processed as quickly as possible.
- Claims will not be approved unless the travel undertaken is the cheapest fare to the relevant destination and the most direct route is taken (unless an indirect route can be demonstrated to be more cost effective).

## Treasurer's Report

Bianca James



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**BARRIS ACCOUNTING**  
CERTIFIED PRACTICING ACCOUNTANT

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT 2017

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 2017**. 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 2017.

12<sup>th</sup> of March 2018

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Barris CPA  
Barris Accounting

   
SIGNATURE

TAXATION  
SELF-MANAGED SUPERANNUATION  
BUSINESS ADVISORY



**THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENT'S  
ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED  
31/12/2017**

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT:**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Department of Education Grant	9,091	9,091
Donations, Registrations & Sponsorship	5,368	10,730
Federal Conference	817	-
Fundraising Income	-	2,389
Interest Received	582	793
State Conference Funds	13,822	8,536
Subscriptions	27,292	22,805
Sundry Income	851	486
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>57,822</b>	<b>54,830</b>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accounting & Audit Fees	427	364
Advertising	1,250	73
Bank Charges	3	-
Computer Repairs & Maintenance	682	-
Depreciation Expense	782	624
Donations	109	-
Federal Conference Costs	5,286	-
Insurance	3,455	3,336
Postage	1,760	715
Printing & Stationery	4,382	2,965
Professional Development Costs	64	-
Purchases (including Promotional Items)	2,018	1,565
Refunds	1,500	-
State Meeting Expenses	17,829	9,152
Subscriptions (Branch & Federal Council)	6,755	5,660
Sundry Expenses (Storage Costs & Fundraising Books & Mugs)	770	742
Travel Expenses	16,063	8,605
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>63,133</b>	<b>33,800</b>
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>(5,311)</b>	<b>21,030</b>

Note: Figures above exclusive of GST

**X** *James*  
SIGNATURE

**THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENT'S  
ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED  
31/12/2017**

**BALANCE SHEET:**

**CURRENT ASSETS** **2017** **2016**

**Bank Accounts:**

Commonwealth Bank Cheque Account	22,121	31,636
Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit Account (557)	42,655	42,073
Commonwealth Bank Friends Account	2,474	2,718
Paypal Account	4,197	0

**Australian Taxation Office:**

ATO GST Refundable Account	114	446
GST Adjustment Account	166	166

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** **71,727** **77,038**

**NON CURRENT ASSETS**

**Fixed Assets:**

* Plant & Equipment (Pre 2012)	17,127	17,127
* Less: Accumulated Depreciation (Pre 2012)	(11,652)	(11,652)
Plant & Equipment	1,551	769
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1,551)	(769)

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

**TOTAL ASSETS** **77,202** **82,513**

**LIABILITIES**

GST Adjustment Account	-	-
------------------------	---	---

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** **0** **0**

**NET ASSETS** **77,202** **82,513**

**EQUITY**

Members Funds		
Current Earnings	82,513	61,483
	(5,311)	21,030
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>77,202</b>	<b>82,513</b>

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

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**ICPA  
Depreciation Register  
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2017**

Equipment Description	Date	Amount	OWDV	Dep Rate	Business %	Dep Amt	WDV
Note: Pre 2012 Asset Register (No Details Provided)	30/06/2012	17,127	5,475	0%	0%	0	5,475
Equipment Purchased	16/02/2016	624	-	100%	100%	0	0
Go To Meeting Licence	27/02/2017	624	624	100%	100%	624	0
Cannon MG5765 Printer	26/06/2017	63	63	100%	100%	63	0
Seagate HardDrive	19/07/2017	96	96	100%	100%	95	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,533</b>	<b>6,258</b>			<b>782</b>	<b>5,475</b>

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**BRANCH REPORTS**

**Central Wheatbelt North Report**

**Lisa Brennan, Secretary**

CWN convened State conference on 17th March 2017 at the Cottesloe Beach Hotel. The convening committee included: Amanda Nixon, Melissa Harms, Loraine Dodd, Dani McCreery, Lisa Brennan and Melinda White. The conference was a great success with lots of positive feedback and our Branch thanks Amanda Nixon for all of her busy efforts.

The next AGM will be held after the State Conference. The current office-bearers are:

President: Amanda Nixon (Kalannie), Vice President: Melinda White (Kellerberrin), Secretary: Lisa Brennan (Ballidu), Treasurer: Melissa Harms (Kalannie)

CWN put forward a motion at the 2017 ICPA State Conference to seek an extension to the Year 7 Special Consideration Exemption - relevant to geographically isolated primary schools. This motion was passed by the ICPA and members of the CWN Branch worked alongside The Right Stage Group to continue to lobby the Government. In a disappointing outcome, Sue Ellery, Minister for Education, announced in August 2017 that this extension would not be granted. This decision has already impacted on many local schools in the CWN area, with student numbers declining as a result.

BAHA, the planned closure to local boarding facilities (Northam, Moora) and other Government cuts have been a focal point of the CWN Branch, with letters and petitions circulated by many of our Branch members in 2017.

CWN continues to lose a number of families from the area that are re-locating, with families stating that future education of children is one of the dominant reasons, especially for non-farming families, but more increasingly farming families also.

Two of our CWN members attended the Federal Conference. They reported that it was a very informative and interesting Conference, hearing the many and varied issues that affect education in our vast country.

CWN Branch held a stall at the Dowerin Field Day, promoting ICPA and informing people about the significant role that ICPA plays.

Telecommunications is also another very important issue for CWN members, especially given many of our members reside in a Mobile Black Spot area. Amanda Nixon has recently met with these members and many other key stakeholders, making plans in relation to this issue.

CWN Branch has put forward 4 motions for this year's State Conference in relation to: Allowances, Communications, Accommodation and Ag Colleges.

### **Esperance Branch Report**

**Karina Walter, President**

**New Beginnings 2018:** In October the Esperance ICPA branch had its AGM with a complete new committee being formed.

The Esperance Branch would sincerely like to thank Elaine Egan (past President of many years), Stacey Vermeersch and Sharon Barber for all your years of service on our Esperance branch.

The new committee is as follows:

President: Karina Walter	Vice President: Michelle Barrett
Secretary: Tracey Schlink	Treasurer: Sue Stead

In 2018 the Esperance Branch major goal is to increase our numbers and bring awareness to what is ICPA in our region/area. We are planning a fundraiser in June which will be discussed and planned at our next meeting and we may even look at bringing back the ICPA Melbourne Cup lunch day.

I really look forward to the year ahead with a great committee to work with. Thank you

### **Gascoyne Branch Report**

**Alys McKeough, President**

We as parents are so glad that the decision was made to reverse the School of the Air closures – this came as such a shock at the end of 2017 and we are thankful for all the hard work of everyone who made sure our voice was heard – it was a concerted effort by many. It is regrettable that the Government has not overturned the decision on camp schools and residential colleges.

We have our first meeting of the year coming up at the end of 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. We also regularly meet in December to have a brief meeting to recap the year and discuss where our book awards and Bursary have been awarded – we usually have a bit of festive cheer as well. I am yet to confirm a date for our AGM – it has been difficult to get all the committee together at the same time due to commitments within our own businesses.

In December 2017 we presented nearly all the schools in the Gascoyne with a SPIRIT of the Gascoyne book award. This has been a great way to increase our presence within the region. All our awards are open to all the schools in the region and our \$1000 Bursary is open to any student who will be leaving the region to attend boarding school. In 2018 this was awarded to Lesley Snowball - a lovely young lady from Lyndon Station – we wish her and all other boarders the very best for their new adventure in life.

In February we will be having our first fundraising event which will be a Games Night including dinner. We ran this very successfully last year with the chocolate game being a winner. I have some new games prepared for this year that I hope will be new favourites.

Our branch also organises to take photos of all the kids at Carnarvon SOTA which we print and sell as packages to parents – this has proven to be a successful fundraiser.

We have just finished selling all copies of our Outback Kitchens 2015 cookbook, so now that we have new families in our branch we will be calling for new recipes and publishing a new edition with new recipes and favourites from the last two publications.

Thank you to the committee and members of the Gascoyne Branch for your support – we were very vocal on our SOTA closure and I am proud of how we worked together.

## **Goldfields Eyre Branch Report**

**Elyce Donaghy, President**

At the time of writing, 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.

We endeavor to hold three to four meetings every year, either face to face at School of the Air camps or online via Centra or GoTo Meeting. Last year we were able to have two face to face meetings at the Home Tutor Seminar and Sports Seminar, and one online meeting.

The branch did not undertake any significant fundraising in 2017, however during the Home Tutor seminar this year our Branch, in conjunction with the Kalgoorlie School of the Air P&C, will be hosting a Friends of the Bush Cocktail Bash. We are grateful for the continuing donations from the Nullarbor Muster Club and we are financial enough to continue sending delegates to both State and Federal Conferences. Last year's state conference was attended by Kath Fowler and the federal conference was attended by Vicki McQuie and Emma Hog. I would like to thank Kath, Vicki and Emma for taking time out of their home school rooms to attend conference.

Our issues predominantly centre around School of the Air and this past year has 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. A group of Goldfields Eyre members were able to attend the rally held in Kalgoorlie in December, some of these families travelled over 1000kms to show their support. I would like to personally thank our Past President Carina Kopke for attending the rally and speaking to



the media on my behalf. We will once again show our support for WA Camp Schools at a rally to be held in Kalgoorlie in a weeks' time.

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. We have interesting and difficult times ahead and a strong active branch will be needed.

## **Hyden Branch Report**

**Samantha Greay, President**

2017 was a busy and quiet time for me as president and treasurer. Thank you to Bev Airey who took over treasurer so I could become president with Bianca James becoming State treasurer.

2017 State Conference was held at the Cottesloe Beach Hotel in March. I had time to pop down to look at the sculptures by the sea and attend a pre-conference cocktail party the night before conference. Our Guest speaker for this conference was Fleur MacDonald the author from Esperance.

In August 2017 Bev and I had the privilege of going to the Federal Conference in Alice Springs. Federal Conference was held at the Alice Springs convention centre. It was held over 2 days. There were many Guest speakers from the NT. Our guest speaker for the conference was Nicole Gibson (National Mental Health Commissioner and CEO Rouge and Rouge Foundation). Very interesting speech on anorexia and bullying. I have attached the report I did for the waveline news. We also had a wonderful time visiting Uluru, Emily's Gap, Road Transport Hall of Fame and the Old Ghan Museum.

This year's Federal Conference is being held in Canberra. Bev and I will be attending the conference in August. I look forward to writing the report for you when we have returned.

November saw the annual running of our Melbourne Cup. A huge big thanks to all that attended helped out on the day and supplied food. Without all of your help this project doesn't happen. Our theme was cocktail with a relaxed feeling. Thank you to the sponsors on the day for raffles: Top Crop Hair, Essence of Beauty, Asti's soaps, Waveline Hardware and Rosallen Farms. Congrats to all our raffle winners and the Bursary winners. All would agree the rec centre looked fabulous. Thank you to Bev Airey, Bev Gangell, Bianca and Adriana for all her hard work of decorating it for the day. Astrid and Di for doing the takeaway lunches and delivering them. Sarah, Donna, Adriana and Vicky for all your help in the kitchen. Bev Gangell for helping Bev in the bar. I think the cocktails were a hit!!! 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.

I would like to thank our past president Bianca for all the help she has given me in this role. We wish you well in the role as state treasurer this year. Bev Airey for all your hard work as Treasurer.

Last but not least I would like to thank Adriana for the last 4 years as Branch Secretary. You have been a wonderful member and office bearer for this association. Your dedication to the association is paramount. We wish you all the best with the coming years. I would like wish all our members a wonderful 2018 and look forward being a part of the ICPA Branch.

## **Kimberley Air Branch ICPA**

**Jo Camilleri, President**

It was heartening to see our members and wider community rally together at the recent threat of closure to SOTA's, residential colleges and camp schools given the Kimberley Air Branch had prior to this time all but ceased to exist with our executive team struggling to maintain operations. In the past twelve months our president relocated to town and commenced full time employment, secretary moved interstate and treasurer was based outside the region.

This year has seen our region smash all rainfall records and already exceed annual tallies which has been tremendous although further occupying members with the aftermath of cleaning up from cyclones, floods and severe storms.

We were very fortunate to have the support of state council in the successful trialing the GoTo Meetings platform for our branch meetings and the continued financial support of the annual Kimberley and Pilbara Cattleman's Association Ladies Luncheon. The wider community made generous donations of treasure for the silent auction with the proceeds of the substantial bids donated to the branch and ensuring our continued representation at state and federal conference.

There has been a recent spike in activity in the region, with new families contacting with queries about AIC, Boarding allowances, transport assistance and processes for bypassing District High Schools where families are struggling to access appropriate levels and quality of secondary education for their children.

Our next AGM will see the branch challenged with the need to review our membership and structure so we can be sure to continue to lobby for access and equity in education for all Kimberley children.

## **Lakes District Branch Report**

**Lynette Gittos, committee**

2017 saw a change in our model of Branch committee. Elize Scheepers, as president, suggested implementing a more team-like approach to the workings of the committee. It was decided to have the past president as an experienced committee member to reduce the workload for the whole committee as well as be support for the incoming president, helping with succession planning. A motion was also passed, to have Life members on the committee as an advisory role. It was felt that their historic knowledge, experience and advice is invaluable to the running of the branch. We set up an email account which all the committee members have access to. This encouraged the 'team' to work together and helping each other with the workload. It enabled all the committee to have immediate access to all correspondence and inquiries. Elize welcomed the new committee members and thanked the past secretary, Anita Penny, past President Claire Walter and ongoing Treasurer, Gaye Fisher for all the time and effect they had put into supporting our Branch and our members.

Once again Claire Walter did an amazing job of organising and managing our only fundraising event, the Donut Stall at the Newdegate Field day. The new shed looks amazing. We acknowledge the large amount of time and effort put into these 2 days by Claire, her husband, Tim and their sons. Claire being a real trouper, gets on with doing the job with such a positive and passionate attitude. This is our only fundraiser for the year and is run by members who volunteer to work tirelessly over the 2 days - always with a joke and a smile on their faces. The donut stall profit enables us to reduce our branch fees, benefiting all branch members by subsidising their

membership fees. These profits also enable us to send members to conferences at as little cost as funds allow. This would not be possible without the fantastic support we receive from the Newdegate Field Days committee. Their time and services given are invaluable.

Lakes branch was represented at Federal Conference in Alice Springs by Rosy Sinclair and Elize Scheepers who presented our 4 motions, all of which were carried.

Even though the year 7 exemption has not been extended, the year 7 issue is still ongoing for our members. They are hoping the government will still come through with solutions for these concerns.

The events of the last two months, namely the closing of SOTA disturbingly was often heard referred to as "not our problem". Our committee has encouraged support to the fight for ALL regional education. We will require the support of other branches on issues, that they may not understand or "is not their problem", hence the vital necessity of standing together as a larger community, the rural community of Western Australia. Many members came to the fore becoming very supportive of these causes. Letters were written and petitions signed because ALL "**regional students matter**"

A very big thank you to State Council for all the support and work you have done for us and all WA members. Your quick action and hard work to reduce the cuts in regional areas was nothing less than amazing. We appreciate it and thank you. A special thank you for the recent support and ongoing support for our concerns with the year 7 issue. It was great to get your feedback.

Our committed team have had a very productive and active year. Teamwork not only made the experience easier, it was very enjoyable with many laughs and good-hearted banter. We are looking forward to a breath of fresh air when our new committee is formed and we start using 'go to meetings' so that more members can participate.

### **Lone Member Branch Report**

**Carol Ford, Lones Officer**

As always ours is a quiet branch but we are slowly increasing in numbers with quite a few schools and residential colleges coming on board as members along with our families who are spread all over the state. At the time of writing we had 26 members paid up with about 7 still to renew. With the new online membership renewal now available it gives another option for those wishing to further streamline the process.

Although spread far and wide we have had a few more of our members attend conference for the first time and thoroughly enjoy the experience, so hopefully they will be return attendees.

Thank you for your support and although I don't hear from many of our members I like to think that you are all out spreading the word about ICPA and one day if you happen to be in Perth when we have our face to face meetings in

February, July and October you might call into SIDE in Leederville and join us for morning tea. You are always welcome.

I hope you enjoy reading our monthly Tid Bits and Bits & Pieces magazine, if you have anything to contribute or would like to email me with comments or suggestions about anything I would love to hear from you.

## **Meekatharra Air Branch Report**

**Claire Mahony, President**

I still have a very long way to go before I can fill the shoes that Raelene Hall has left me as she stepped down from the Presidents role last year. On behalf of our Branch, we thank you Raelene for all your time and effort you've put in to keep our branch alive and kicking.

Last March we took the opportunity to have a meeting at Meekatharra school of the Air home tutor's seminar in Geraldton as there was quite a few members in attendance, and for those that couldn't be there face to face were able to attend via the schools Centra internet portal. We have had one other meeting mid-way through last year.

I have a small ongoing fundraiser that has brought us in a few bob and is also helping to promote our branch.

On behalf of the Meekatharra Air branch I would like to extend a huge thankyou to our State council for your tireless effort in working to have these present education cuts overturned.

## **Midwest Branch Report**

**Emma Foulkes-Taylor, President**

We currently have around 50 members. Our branch held one meeting in 2017. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our planned second meeting due to people being unable to attend. Even though we have strong numbers, we are spaced out and many members work, so finding a 'good' day/time for a meeting continues to be an issue for the branch.

6 members represented our branch at the State Conference in March. We were not able to send a rep to the Federal Conference.

We held a social/awareness raising event at the Mingenew Races on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March. It was fun to dress up in our finery and enjoy a day at the races while spreading the good word about ICPA. We picked up a couple of members from that day.

We received some very welcome news in mid-June that the State Government had approved the Mullewa DHS for bypassing, thus allowing people within and around Mullewa to claim the AIC and BAHA allowances if they choose to send their children to boarding school. This was a first for WA and a great win for ICPA. We thank the State Council and members for their persistence in lobbying for this change.

In November we held a boarding and allowances information day in Mullewa. The people that attended found it very useful and we gained one or two new members from this initiative.

At the Geraldton rally protesting the education cuts the people of the Midwest did us proud, with approximately 400 people turning out on a hot day, just 4 days before Christmas. It was wonderful to see so much support.

My best wishes to all for 2018.

## **Pilbara Branch Report**

**Abbra Slocombe, President**

2017 was another challenging but productive year. The Pilbara had a total of 19 members including three life members.

The branch started the year with its Annual AGM at the PHSOTA home Tutor Seminar in Port Hedland. After then meeting were held on the GOTO platform.

Fundraising this year has been successful with a generous donation of \$1121 to the branch from the Kimberley Pilbara Bike Relay Raffle that was run by the Rural Leadership Bootcamp team. 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 \$3500 for the branch. Many thanks go out to local business, members of the community and branch members who generously donate items to sell, raffles prizes and helped out on the day. 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 to WA State Conference and Two delegates to Federal Conference in Alice Spring. Thanks to attending members who gave up their time to represent the Pilbara Branch.

We would like to thanks ICPA WA for the use of the GOTO platform to run our meeting, with much help and support from Tash Johns.

## **Yalgoo Branch Report**

**Kathryn Mitchel, President**

For most of 2017 our branch continued to quietly exist without much action. It was great to see that when needed the members were willing to act. Strong support was shown by members over the Education cuts issues. There was a good representation from the branch at the rally in Geraldton. Members also showed their support through a number of letters written to politicians. Many thanks to Roxanne for the support she has given to members.

We have had two long time family members leave the branch this year. Thankyou to Judy Morrissey and Roma Heath for your support to the branch over many years. It is now a time of renewal as some of the younger members are to take on the role of President and Secretary. As this will be my last report as president I would particularly like to thank Roxanne for all the effort she has put into the branch.

## **Life Membership Citation**

**Raelene Hall**

In 2017 Raelene, who lives with her family on Ned's Creek Station, in the East Gascoyne, received a Certificate of Merit for her work as the WA WebMaster. At that time, mention was made of her significant contribution to ICPA WA over many years. Raelene started her ICPA career as a home tutor, including for her 3 kids through their

primary school years. She joined the Meekatharra Air Branch in 1986, where she has held many roles, including President from 2015 – 2017.

Raelene has held the following State positions:

WA State Councillor: 2000 – 2004

Lones Members' Officer: 2000

State Secretary: 2001 - 2004

WA Web Master: 2011 – 2016

She has been a Portfolio Leader in the areas of Distance Education, Teacher Training, Rural & Remote Schools and Travel. She helped to compile the Conference Convening Manual.

Raelene has held the following position on Federal Council:

Federal Pedals Editor: 2005 – present.

In December 2017, when the Government announced a raft of education cuts, including the closure of the 5 Schools of the Air, Raelene showed her fierce dedication to the children and families affected, by immediately becoming involved in the campaign to save them. She established a 'Save Our Schools of the Air' Facebook page, which she monitored constantly and with integrity. Via social media such as Facebook, Messenger and Twitter, Raelene connected people in the campaign, which gained momentum over the Christmas period. She advocated on radio against the cuts, encouraged others to do the same, wrote to papers and worked tirelessly to have the decision reversed.

Once that decision was reversed, Raelene did not rest on her laurels. She has continued to support the Moora community in their fight to save the Residential College and has advocated for a reversal of the unsatisfactory decisions to the camp schools, to agricultural education and to BAHA. At all times throughout this process, she has advocated for ICPA.

This Certificate of Life Membership is to acknowledge that indeed Raelene is a 'life' member of ICPA in the truest sense of the word. Congratulations and on behalf of our members and the regional families of Western Australia, thank you.

### **Appreciation Certificate Citation**

#### **Wendy Duncan**

This certificate is in appreciation of the support that Wendy Duncan showed to ICPA WA during the recent fight to save the Schools of the Air.

Wendy has a long association with rural education in Western Australia. Her parents lobbied for the formation of a School of the Air in Kalgoorlie in the 1960's. Wendy was one of the 28 inaugural students of the Kalgoorlie SOTA and has had an ongoing affiliation with the school ever since. She is a former Nationals MP and came out of retirement to help in the recent fight to stop the closure of the 5 Western Australian Schools of the Air.

ICPA WA appreciates your passion and support Wendy and would like to present you with this Certificate of Appreciation.

## Appreciation Certificate Citation

### **Jane Marwick**

On behalf of ICPA WA, we would like to present Jane Marwick with a Certificate of Appreciation for the enormous amount of work you have put towards fighting the regional education cuts. We are eternally grateful to you for sharing your energy, enthusiasm, experience and passion. Thank you for turning up the volume of the voice for rural, remote and regional education.

## State Conference Guest List

Hon. Sue Ellery MLC	Minister for Education & Training
Hon. Donna Faragher MLC	Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Women's Interests
Hon. Jim Chown MLC	Shadow Minister for Regional Development; Royalties for Regions. Member for Agricultural Region
Hon. Jacquie Boydell MLC	Deputy Leader Nationals. Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Hon Robin Scott MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Shane Love MLA	Member for Moore
Peter Rundle MLA	Member for Roe
Stephen Baxter	Statewide Planning & Delivery, Executive Director (Ed Dept)
John Bailly	Manager, School Bus Services, Public Transport Authority
Michael Darby	Electoral Officer, Member for Mining and Pastoral Region
Roxanne Morrissey	ICPA Federal & State Life Member
Suzanne Wilson	ICPA Federal Secretary
Jane Morton	ICPA Federal Assistant Secretary
Max Gronwald	Principal, Carnarvon SOTA
Eloise Jansen van Vuuren	Principal, Goldfields SOTA
Paul Noble	Principal, Kimberley SOTA
Christine Bevans	Principal, Meekatharra SOTA
Michael Jennings	Principal, Port Hedland SOTA
Neil Morrissey	Past SOTA Alumni
Wendy Duncan	Regional Development Advocate
Dr Kate Hadwen	Principal, Presbyterian Ladies College
Liz Langdon	Director of Boarding, Presbyterian Ladies College
Brad Downing	Christchurch Grammar School
Cath Ashton	Snr Staff Supervisor, St Mary's Anglican College
Teresa Blakely	Housemother, St Mary's Anglican College
Nardine Bilston	Rotary Residential College Director of Community Relations
Brendan Goggins	Head of Boarding, Great Southern Grammar, Albany
Tom Floyd	Head of Boarding, Mazenod College
Jill Miller	Director of Boarding, Perth College
Leonie Jongenelis	Head of Boarding, St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls



Tom Mitchell	Head of College, St Thomas More College
Sue Potter	REVISE Co-ordinator
Alan Potter	REVISE Co-ordinator
Sue Carr	Early Years Manager, Wanslea Family Services
Jamie Bennett	EO, Outdoors WA
Tracy Humphry	Councillor, Moora Shire
Nancy Werder	CWA, Kalannie Branch Secretary
Lyn Slade	Board Member, WA Farmers
Shannen Barrett	EO, Policy (Bees; Education), WA Farmers
Emma White	CEO, Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Assoc.
Natalie Evans	WA Museum Lifelong Learning Team
Boyd Brown	WA Area General Manage, Telstra Countrywide
Mark Thompson	State Media Manager WA, Telstra
Trevor Robb	Corporate Affairs Manager WA, Telstra
Jodie Wooton	CSC Perth Metropolitan, Telstra
Naomi Evans	Community Engagement Specialist WA, Telstra
Cameron Edwards	Telstra
Peter Burchell	State Manager CRT / Town & Country
Richard Hudson	ABC Countryhour
Stephanie Sinclair	Farm Weekly
Reuben Hale	Countryman West Australian Newspaper

### State Conference Apologies

Hon Mark McGowan	Premier of Western Australia
Hon Roger Cook MLA	Deputy Premier
Hon Dr Mike Nahan MLA	Leader of the Opposition
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA	Minister for Transport; Planning: Lands
Hon Ben Wyatt	Treasurer: Minister for Finance; Energy; Aboriginal Affairs
Hon Peter Tinley MLA	Minister for Youth; Housing; Veterans Affairs
Hon Mia Davies MLA	Leader National Party
Hon Mick Murray MLA	Member for Collie-Preston
Mr Don Punch MLA	Member for Bunbury
Hon Adele Farina MLC	Member for South West Region
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral Region; Minister for Environment; Disability Services
Hon Ken Baston MLC	Shadow Minister for Northern Australia; Member for Mining & Pastoral
Mr Kyran O'Donnell MLA	Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Member for Kalgoorlie
Hon Colin Holt MLC	Member for South West Region
Hon Robin Chapple MLC	Member for Mining and Pastoral Region



2018: 46th ANNUAL ICPA(WA) STATE CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEMS, MOTIONS, AGM REPORTS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, ATTENDANCES and APOLOGIES. (wa.icpa.com.au)

Hon Christian Porter	Federal Attorney-General; Member for Pearce
Hon Melissa Price	Federal Member for Durack
Mr Richard Wilson	Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon David Littleproud	Federal Minister for Agriculture & Water Resources
Hon Matthew Canavan	Federal Minister for Northern Australia
Ms Sharyn O'Neill	Director General
Mr Allan Blagaich	Director, School Curriculum Standards Authority
Mr Lindsay Hale	Deputy Director General, Department of Schools
Ms Karen Webster	Assistant Executive Director, State-wide Services Centre
Mr Milton Butcher	Regional Executive Director
Mr Greg Thorne	Regional Executive Director
Ms Kylie Catto	President, WA Council of State School Organisation (WACSSO)
Mr Michael White	Principal, WA College of Agriculture – Cunderdin
Ms Anne Driscoll	Dept of Training & Workforce Development. Director General
Ms Mia Betjeman	RREAC, Principal Executive Officer
Mr Richard Sellers	Dept of Transport, Director General
Ms Jenny Ethell	Perth College, Principal
Mr Jill Miller	Perth College, Director of Boarding
Mr Tony York	WA Farmers Federation, President
Ms Fleur McDonald	Australian Women in Agriculture
Ms Wendy Hick	ICPA Federal President
Mrs Nikki Macqueen	ICPA Federal Publicity
Mrs Sue Shotten	ICPA Federal Website Manager
Mrs Lisa Slade	ICPA Federal Treasurer
Mrs Jane O'Brien	ICPA Federal Membership Officer
Ms Caroline Robinson	ICPA Federal Committee
Mrs Kate Treweeke	ICPA State NSW State President
Ms Tiani Cook	ICPA State NT State President
Mrs Kim Hughes	ICPA State QLD State President
Mrs Gillian Semple	ICPA State QLD Secretary
Mrs Francis Frahn	ICPA State SA State Secretary
Ms Emily Gardner	ICPA State TAS State President
Ms Cate Rocchi	Perth Media
Mr Andrew Lindsay	Sponsor, CRT
Mr Steve Kelly	Sponsor, Rabo Bank
Mr David Mackenzie	Pew Charitable Trust
Ms Suzannah Macbeth	Campaign Communications Manager, Partnership for the Outback
Mr Ken Seymore	Shire President, Moora Shire Council
Mr Trent Kensett-Smith	CEO, WA Farmers

## State Conference Delegates

### State Council Delegates

President	Tash Johns
Vice President	Liz Sudlow
Secretary	Elyce Donaghy
Treasurer	Bianca James
Lones Officer	Carol Ford
Publicity Officer	Michelle Marshall
Councillor	Amanda Nixon
Councillor	Robin Pensini
Councillor	Elize Scheepers
Councillor	Karina Walter

### Branch Delegates

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>	<b>DELEGATE</b>	<b>OBSERVERS</b>
Central Wheatbelt North	Lisa Brennan	Julie Walsh	Bob Nixon
Esperance	Michelle Barrett	Sue Stead	
Gascoyne	Kristie de Pledge	Alys McKeough	Rory de Pledge Rachael Steadman Mary Wake
Goldfields Eyre	Vicki McQuie	Lana Lefroy	Tauri Simone Brie Campbell Katrin James Shannon Prosser Sue Stevens
Hyden	Cherie Walton	Samantha Greay	
Kimberley Air	Kirsty Forshaw	James Wood	
Lakes Branch	Kym Ross	Dennis Gittos	Margaret Sullivan Lynette Gittos
Lones	Linda Bouckaert	Sylvia Byers	Carey Kyme-Hobson Patricia Hatch Joanne Hirsch
Meekatharra Air	Claire Mahony	Chandra Ridley	Natalie Beven Raelene Hall Clyde Hall
Midwest	Emma Foulkes-Taylor	Sally Brindal	Julie More Naomi Obst
Pilbara	Abbra Slocombe	Lindsay Newland	Julie Percy

			Cynthia Stoney
Yalgoo	Roxanne Morrissey		

**State Conference Conveners**

Goldfields Eyre Branch

Elyce Donaghy
Tauri Simone
Vicky McQuie
Sue Stevens
Jo Mulroy