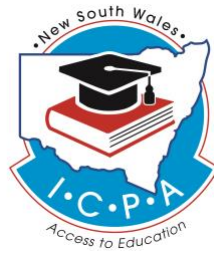


**Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales**  
*Working together for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia.*

**MEDIA**



**RELEASE**

**11 June 2021**

**RELIABLE INTERNET CONNECTION VITAL TO LEARNING**

For nearly a decade, ICPA-NSW has been advocating for a reliable internet connection for rural and remote schools located in New South Wales. We are therefore pleased that the NSW Government's connected classrooms program has reached the milestone of providing high-speed connectivity to more than 1000 public schools, including a number of remote schools previously connected to the internet via satellite.

ICPA-NSW Vice President and Communications Portfolio Leader, Mrs Libby McPhee said "the enthusiasm began last October when Telstra and the NSW Minister for Education, Sarah Mitchell announced that the 12 remaining satellite schools would be transferred to a fibre optic connection within the following 18 months".

Mrs McPhee said "it has been a relief to see some of these schools finally get a connection which will enable them to use the internet for learning purposes and for administration tasks at the school, such as for finance work and daily roll marking. Previously, the drop out in connection was so frequent that it made learning and administrative duties at the schools unworkable and productivity in the classroom was challenging".

"We look forward to the remaining schools being connected."

In addition, the guarantee of 5 mb per second of download per student is another boost to education. Modern education is reliant on the internet and the students attending these rural and remote schools have been disadvantaged for a very long time.

ICPA-NSW is pleased that the upgraded connections have been completed at some of the schools previously on satellite, using a combination of fibre and point to point radio, and further connections are scheduled to occur over the next few months. The twelve schools are: Naradhan, Colo Heights, Weilmoringle, Louth, Enngonia, Clare, Booligal, Wanaaring, North Star, Upper Coopers, Wattle Flat and MacDonald Valley.

"The NSW Department of Education and Telstra have been working collaboratively on these connections, in consultation with ICPA-NSW to enhance the learning for rural and remote students situated in very small schools", said Mrs McPhee.

This has been a key issue for ICPA-NSW and it is pleasing to see this issue, which has been presented as a motion at the annual ICPA-NSW State Conference for many consecutive years, finalised. Notwithstanding this, ICPA-NSW urge the NSW Department of Education to fast-track the long overdue implementation of NBN Satellite into School of The Air and Distance Education homes. The wait for these families continues and we need to ensure these children, our most remote and isolated children have equity also.

Media Contact:

**ICPA-NSW Publicity Officer:**

**Mrs Gabie Le Lievre**

**T: 0428 604 485**

**E: [nswpublicityofficer@icpa.com.au](mailto:nswpublicityofficer@icpa.com.au)**

**[www.icpa.com.au](http://www.icpa.com.au)**