



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

Advocating for equitable access to education for students in rural and remote Australia



MEDIA ALERT

ICPA (Aust) Federal Conference set to address the disparity in educational opportunities for geographically isolated children

200 members and guests of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia, ICPA (Aust), will converge on Darwin next Wednesday 26, and Thursday 27 July 2023 for the 52nd annual ICPA Federal Conference to debate the disparity in educational opportunities and outcomes needed for our geographically isolated students.

Australia's Regional Education Commissioner, the Hon, Fiona Nash will open the conference that includes a full two-day program of guest speakers, debating motions, and discussing reports.

Federal President of the ICPA (Aust), Alana Moller, said;

“Most of our members are parents that live in geographically isolated properties and towns all over rural and remote Australia. The annual Federal Conference is a rare opportunity for us all to come together to connect, share stories, and raise awareness of the challenges of being geographically isolated and wanting to provide children with the best education possible.”

ICPA Australia welcomes any interested media to attend the event, or alternatively welcomes any opportunity to speak with the media to help raise awareness of the issues geographically isolated families face during the event.

When: Wednesday 26 & Thursday 27 July 2023
Where: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Darwin NT
What: Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia, Federal Conference

Opportunities:

- Interviews with ICPA Federal President, Alana Moller about some of the big issues geographically isolated families face, and the ICPA requests to government
- Interviews with families impacted by the disparity in educational assistance and access
- Interviews with Federal Council members on the significant impact of the Federal Government overlooking increases in educational allowances for geographically isolated children and their families in this year's budget
- Photo and vision opportunities at Federal Conference with 200 members and guests
- Potential interviews with guest speakers

Media Contacts:

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Background:

ICPA (AUST) is a voluntary, non-profit, apolitical parent body dedicated to ensuring all geographically isolated children's educational needs and aspirations are not disadvantaged because of where they live. The Association was established in 1971 and represents over 2,500 families and individual members. ICPA (AUST) advocates on members' behalf at a national level. ICPA (AUST) lobbies for equity in education for rural and remote children from birth to tertiary with a team of Federal Councillors working on the various issues under specialist portfolios.

ICPA (Aust) role is to advocate for member's issues. This year, ICPA has been working hard to raise awareness and seek government support for a range of educational assistance and access measure which were sadly overlooked in this year's budget. These issues are sure to be hot topics at the conference again this year, and include:

- An increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance for geographically isolated students, to reflect the real cost of educating geographically isolated students, where the only option is to board, and to help alleviate financial pressures families face, especially with the current cost of living.
- Ensuring that families living in rural and remote areas have access to communication services that are reliable, fit for purpose and are maintained at a fully functioning standard, to enable the delivery of rural and remote education.
- The need for a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) in recognition of the role of the Home Tutor in educating geographically isolated students via distance education.
- Extension of the AIC Distance Education Allowance to include 3-4-year-olds accessing approved Distance Education early learning programs.
- The need for geographically isolated families to be able to access the In Home Care program in a way that meets their unique needs.
- Addressing the difficulties families face when accessing early childhood education and care in rural and remote Australia.

For further information on the conference program, including all motions that will be address, events, updates and announcements please see the [Conference Website](#).