



ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
MINUTES
OF THE
49TH ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

Theme: "Educate not Isolate."



Friday 19th March 2021

HELD AT THE

Ingot Hotel, Belmont.

HOSTED BY

GASCOYNE BRANCH

ICPA (WA)

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ICPA (WA) would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Department of Education, WA. Thank you.



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ICPA (WA) STATE COUNCIL 2020 – 2021 (March 2020 AGM)

PRESIDENT

Sally Brindal

VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

WEBMASTER

Kym Ross

TREASURER

Michelle Abbott

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Jane Hughes

LONES OFFICER

Kym Burns

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Tash Johns

COMMITTEE

Naomi Obst

COMMITTEE

Chandra Ridley

COMMITTEE

Samantha Greay

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COMMITTEE

Kym Burns

COMMITTEE

Chandra Ridley

COMMITTEE

Jane Cunningham

COMMITTEE

Louise Ford

COMMITTEE

Lee-Anne White

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ▪ Welcome | Jane Hughes | State Councillor ICPA (WA) |
| ▪ Welcome by Convener | Mrs Alys McKeough | Gascoyne Branch |
| ▪ National Anthem | St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls Students | |
| ▪ Official Opening | Mr Michael Valentine | Hale School |
| ▪ Introduction of Guests/Delegates | Kym Ross | Secretary ICPA (WA) |
| ▪ State President's Report | Sally Brindal | President ICPA (WA) |
| ▪ Speaker | Mr Colin Pettit | Commissioner for Children and Young People |
| ▪ Portfolio Report | Naomi Obst | State Councillor ICPA (WA) |
| ▪ Speaker | Mr Boyd Brown | Regional General Manager Telstra Countrywide
Platinum Sponsor |
| ▪ Branch Report | Mrs Samantha Greay | Eastern Districts Branch President |
| ▪ REVISE Report | Mrs Mary Wake | Chairperson REVISE |
| ▪ Federal ICPA Report | Mrs Lisa Slade | Federal Treasurer ICPA (Aust) |
| ▪ Panel Session | Prof Stephen Winn | Executive Dean of the School of Education, Edith
Cowan University |
| | Mr Paul Mathews | Principal, School of Isolated and Distance
Education |
| | Miss Isabel Nixon | Student, Notre Dame University |
| | Miss Madison Hall | Student, St Brigids College |
| ▪ Branch Report | Mrs Claire Walter | Lakes District Branch President |
| ▪ Speaker | Mr Richard Stokes | CEO Australian Boarding Schools Association |
| ▪ Portfolio Report | Sally Brindal | State President ICPA (WA) |
| ▪ Speaker
Local | Ms Naomi Evans | Head of Regional Community Affairs (WA), nbn |
| ▪ Speaker
Apprenticeship | Ms Sandra McKechnie | Team Leader, Careers & Mentoring at
Support Australia |
| ▪ Speaker | Ms Lisa Rodgers | Director General, Department of Education |
| ▪ AGM of ICPA (WA) | | |

▪ **Presentations, close of business.**

▪ **Confirmation of 2020 Conference Minutes**

Moved: Kym Ross (State Council)

Seconded: Samantha Greay (State Council)

CARRIED

Business Arising

Nil

CONFERENCE MOTIONS

Agenda Motions: Allowances

A1 Pilbara Branch

Allowances

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government to reverse the decrease in the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) and instead increase it in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annually to accommodate the significant increases in boarding fees charged by all boarding facilities.”

Explanation:

The State Government is decreasing the Royalties for Regions component of the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) by 37% over five (5) years. This allowance has already decreased from \$2,105 in 2017 and will reduce down to \$1320 in 2022.

This decision is impacting heavily on isolated families due to boarding schools, both Government and Independent, increasing their annual fees significantly each year. The gap between what parents pay and the allowances received from both the Federal and State Governments is widening. We therefore request that ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government to reverse this decrease to help minimise the financial pressure put on parents from rural and remote areas who are providing their children with an adequate education.

Moved: Pippa Johns (Pilbara Branch)

Seconded: Tash Johns (SC on behalf of Pilbara Branch)

CARRIED

A2 Lakes District Branch

Allowances

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education and the State Government for an annual increase to the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).”

Explanation:

The BAHA is an important subsidy which assists families living in remote areas of our State who send their children away to school. The allowance provides financial relief for those eligible families who are constantly having to find money within tight budgets to cover the ever-increasing cost of school and boarding fees.

Boarding fees continue to rise on average by 2-8% per annum and the continued reduction of the BAHA allowance, increases the financial burden on parents accessing an education for their children.

The reduction of this allowance has seen rural and remote families leave and relocate to larger centres to ensure their children have access to affordable secondary education. For families who have no choice but to send their children away to boarding school, the increase in the gap fee; between what is charged, and the amount parents receive in financial support continues to widen.

For the 2021 school year there is a gap fee of \$4427 between the boarding costs at a Residential College in WA and the AIC and BAHA payments that an eligible family receives from the Federal and State Government. This is an increase in the gap payable up from 2020 by 3.68%.

We therefore request that ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government for an increase to the BAHA on an annual basis in line with the CPI increase as is applied to the Federal AIC allowance; to minimise the financial impact on rural and remote families.

Moved: *Jane Cunningham (Lakes District Branch)*

Deemed covered by A1

CARRIED

A3 Goldfields Eyre Branch

Allowances

“That ICPA (WA) continue to lobby the State Government and the Department of Education for a substantial increase to the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) to take into account the significant annual rise in boarding fees.”

Explanation:

In September 2017 Minister Sue Ellery announced that the BAHA would reduce over five years due to the Royalties for Regions (RfR) funding ceasing after 2017. The Royalties for Regions program started funding support for the BAHA in 2010 with an increase in the BAHA of \$785.

Boarding fees continue to rise annually throughout Western Australia by up to 8%. This is causing a significant gap between what is charged and what is received by parents as support from both Federal and State Government. Families who have no choice but to send their children away to boarding school are increasingly under financial pressure to provide their children with suitable educations. Currently there is a gap of \$4427, at Residential Colleges in WA, that isolated families must pay after receiving the AIC and BAHA payments (without AIC additional) from both the Federal and State Governments.

We therefore request that ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government to increase the Boarding Away from Home Allowance to minimise this financial pressure put on parents in the effort to provide their children with a suitable education.

Moved: *Elyce Donaghy (Goldfields Eyre Branch)*

Deemed covered by A1

CARRIED

A4 Kimberley Air Branch

Allowances

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the State Government for an increase in the Boarding Away from Home Allowance.”

Moved: *Kirsty Forshaw (Kimberley Air Branch)*

Deemed covered by A1

CARRIED

Agenda Motions: Communications

S1 Lakes District Branch

Communications

“That ICPA (WA) lobby Telstra and the Minister for Regional Development to ensure the time taken to restore faults, and the entitlements for every working day of delay beyond an agreed repair date is within the Customer Service Guarantee guidelines, in Rural and Remote WA.”

Explanation:

Members within the Lakes District area were without a fixed service landline for a period of six (6) weeks from the date first reported. Throughout this period of time members continued to be billed for a service that was not operational. Members were not offered an alternative service and due to poor mobile coverage, they were unable to rely on a consistent and reliable service from the existing mobile tower.

Moved: Jane Cunningham (Lakes District Branch) **Seconded:** Claire Walter (Lakes District Branch) **CARRIED**

Agenda Motions: Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum

A5 Goldfields Eyre Branch

Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum

“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 2021.”

Explanation:

ICPA (WA) have lobbied for the recognition from the State Government of the importance of the STL position within SOTAs. There have been instances in the past where the Department has considered removing this position. Continued lobbying has shown the importance of this role within the context of our schools.

The role of the STL is to provide a support service for those geographically isolated students studying via school of the air, with specific learning requirements including learning difficulties and gifted and talented programs.

The STL teachers:

- Are specialized and highly trained.
- Support teachers in developing, implementing and evaluating individual educational programmes (IEP).
- Assess and evaluate students, using second and third tier assessments and implement interventions.
- Provide detailed assessment records for the entire school.
- Provide a link between outside organisations and the school community through referrals to specialists.
- Visit students in the home learning environment to do assessments and support the implementation of IEPs.
- Facilitate individualised lessons for students with learning difficulties and disabilities. These lessons are offered in addition to the student’s regular class lessons.
- Develop and provide professional learning for teaching staff and home tutors.
- Source materials and resources to cater for students, staff and home tutors.
- Are a vital, confidential and personal link between school and home, between child, teacher, home tutor and parent.

Students continue to benefit directly from this service. It is imperative that the STL service is not diminished in anyway.

Moved: *Elyce Donaghy (Goldfields Eyre Branch)* **Seconded:** *Sam White (Goldfields Eyre Branch)* **CARRIED**

S2 **Gascoyne Branch** ***Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum***

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education to change the funding model for Schools of the Air to a service delivery model rather than the student-centred funding model to ensure that Schools of the Air do not have to cut services delivered.”

Explanation:

Schools of the Air are not only dealing with rolling funding cuts since the decision was reversed to close them, but they are also now faced with the problem that they cannot deliver services that make School of the Air.

Services that should be delivered no matter how many students:

- Face to face contact at least once per term to interact with other students and their teachers plus activities that all school students should have that attend school.

At Carnarvon School of the Air this includes:

- Home Tutors Seminar: One (1) week in Carnarvon with students and parents; students attend face to face with teachers and parents are updated on set work, expectations of the school attend meetings with teachers to name a few.
- Sports and activity days: Two (2) days in term twice a year to attend school for team sports and attend lesson with teachers.
- Sports camp: For years 3-6 to attend Geraldton to participate in sports activities.
- Canberra trip: Held biannually for years 5 and 6 students. (Heavily subsidised through fundraising by the school community.)
- Presentation concert, activity days for Kindergarten – year 3 and muster for years 4 – 6.
- Home visits: These should be three (3) times a year but have been reduced to one (1) or none with the current funding model which is really unacceptable.

Moved: *Mary Wake (Gascoyne Branch)* **Seconded:** *Alys McKeough (Gascoyne Branch)* **CARRIED**

F1 **Kimberley Air Branch** ***Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum***

“That ICPA (WA) works with the Education Department to explore a transition from the current Education Port for accessing satellite internet across to Sky Muster Plus to provide for a more reliable and effective service for online distance education programs .”

Explanation:

Although the provision of internet to distance education classrooms via the Education Port is greatly appreciated, the introduction of the NBN Sky Muster Plus product with unmetered access to online education sites would result in a more effective service to families who rely on internet for educational purposes.

Moved: *Jo Camilleri (Kimberley Air Branch)* **Seconded:** *Kirsty Forshaw (Kimberley Air Branch)* **CARRIED**

Agenda Motions: Rural & Remote Schools

A6 Central Wheatbelt North Branch *Rural & Remote Schools*

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Minister for Education to ensure that services such as the mobile Dental Therapy Centre (DTC) are not rationalized purely due to school population.”

Explanation:

Our branch is concerned about the erosion of services to rural schools and ask that ICPA (WA) advocate on our behalf so that rural schools do not continue to be disadvantaged by the removal of services. The dental health service states in its mission statement that it provides dental care for all enrolled school children and provides access to dental care to financially or geographically disadvantaged persons in the community.

The State Government provides a public dental service for eligible school students via the School Dental Service (SDS). This provides free general dental care to enrolled school children between the ages of 5 and 16 years old.

Loss of the mobile Dental Therapy Centre to small rural schools’ places extra pressure on school attendance, access to dental care and parent travel time and expense.

Moved: *Amanda Nixon (CWN Branch)* **Seconded:** *Isabel Nixon (CWN Branch)*

CARRIED

Agenda Motions: Student Accommodation

A7 Kimberley Air Branch *Student Accommodation*

“That ICPA (WA) work with the relevant departments to ensure that our WA children who are boarding at schools outside the state are allowed the same permissions as essential workers and granted special permission to quarantine at home rather than in a hotel away from family (if state regulations require a quarantine period).”

Explanation:

Families are being separated across state borders due to the mandatory hotel quarantine. Families within our region are being faced with the difficult choice; change schools to WA based boarding school or, in the case of another hard border closure, potentially not see their children for an unforeseen amount of time. The children in question are attending specialist equine programs interstate that are not offered in WA schools and moving these children at this stage in their education would be disruptive academically, emotionally and socially.

Currently “essential workers” do not have to quarantine when traveling across state borders so long as they do not leave the airport. Why then are our boarding school children being asked to do a mandatory quarantine period when traveling home from school?

Moved: *Jo Camilleri (Kimberley Air Branch)* **Seconded:** *Kirsty Forshaw (Kimberley Air Branch)*

CARRIED

A8 Lakes District Branch

Student Accommodation

“That ICPA (WA) requests the Minister for Education work collaboratively with the Department of Education, the Catholic Education Office of WA and the Association of Independent Schools WA; and any other relevant authorities to develop policy that will ensure the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) guidelines be adhered to with uniformity and consistency across all boarding school facilities in Western Australia.”

Explanation:

Lakes District Branch acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020 brought many challenges to our schools and in particular our boarding facilities and that often decisions were being made at an everchanging pace.

However, the inconsistent and varying arrangements that were introduced caused additional stress to both students and families in extremely worrying times.

After the first wave of COVID-19 when schools reopened some boarders had not actually returned to school. It quickly became apparent that the AHPPC guidelines for boarding students are contradictory. For example: the social distancing requirement in a boarding house under the AHPPC is much more restrictive than for example those children that were housed in a private accommodation and compared to the freedoms of a day student.

There are broad interpretations from school to school which adds to the confusion and uncertainty. Policy and guidelines need to be implemented with the assistance and guidance of stakeholders such as ABSA, who know our families and know boarding.

Moved: Jane Cunningham (Lakes District Branch) **Seconded:** Claire Walter (Lakes District Branch) **CARRIED**

Agenda Motions: Travel

A9 Pilbara Branch

Travel

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Department of Transport to accept and process requests for refunds for airfares under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS) up until 31 December for the full school year when all travel has been undertaken as is the case for the Road Travel Subsidy (RTS).”

Explanation:

The STSS provides travel assistance in the form of a fares allowance and/or a road travel subsidy subject to a number of eligibility criteria being met. The STSS is available to eligible students who:

- hold Australian Citizenship or permanent residency status.
- are below the age of 26.
- are dependant financially on their parent(s)/guardian(s).
- are not receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy.
- had a gap of no more than 12 months between secondary and tertiary study.
- **To be eligible for air, bus or train fare allowances**, the student and parents must ordinarily reside in the ‘Defined Remote Area of Western Australia’.

Eligible applicants are entitled to:

- 8 round road trips per family under the RTS.
- 4 return air/bus/train trips for school students under a subsidised fare.
- 4 return air/bus/train trips for first year tertiary students (less than 20 years old) under a subsidised fare who have not claimed previously.
- 3 return air/bus/train trips for first year tertiary students aged less than 20 years of age who have claimed previously.
- 2 return air/bus/train trips for all other tertiary students.

The subsidised fare is limited to the cost of the air/bus/train fare for the most direct route by air/bus/train between the principal family home or usual place of residence and Perth. Any additional cost must be borne by the parent(s).

Subsidised fares can be accessed using a travel voucher or by requesting a refund. If a family chooses to book and pay for air, bus or train travel rather than applying for a travel voucher, they may apply for a reimbursement; however, completed refund applications for airfares must be submitted no later than one month after the last date of travel on the e-Ticket or tax invoice.

Families should be allowed to submit refund applications up until the end of the calendar year in order to maximize the advantage of the subsidy. When managing the logistics of secondary students boarding away from home from remote areas, circumstances often change during the year altering plans of transporting students to and from boarding school.

One of the key objectives of the scheme is to alleviate the difficulties associated with access to secondary/tertiary education related transport in regional and remote WA. One of these difficulties is funding transport to and from boarding school. The flexibility of allowing airfare refunds until 31 December ensures families are receiving the entitlements the scheme has been designed for. We therefore request the Department of Transport to remove the strict one-month time constraint.

Moved: *Pippa Johns (Pilbara Branch)*

Seconded: *Tash Johns (SC on behalf of Pilbara Branch)*

CARRIED

A10 Pilbara Branch

Travel

“That ICPA (WA) lobby the Department of Transport to allow for special circumstances as to the location a student is flying to and/or from when applying for a refund or voucher for airfare under the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS).”

Explanation:

When applying for a refund or voucher through the STSS, a student is only eligible to submit a request for flights via the most direct route by air/bus/train between the principal family home or usual place of residence and Perth.

Families in remote areas can travel large distances to access needs and services for a variety of reasons, such as student pick-ups from school camps for younger siblings, medical and/or business. If a student is flying to a location from boarding school that is more practical to be picked up at an airport than the airport located nearest to their usual place of residence, the family should be entitled to a voucher or refund equivalent to that of the fare to the airport nearest to their usual place of residence.

For example, if a family's nearest airport is Paraburdoo but they are attending a School of the Air camp in Karratha with younger siblings, it makes sense that their child attending boarding school would fly to Karratha rather than Paraburdoo. The current scheme does not allow for a voucher or refund for this situation.

A student should be eligible to request a voucher or claim the amount of a fare to their usual place of residence regardless of the location they are flying to.

Moved: *Pippa Johns (Pilbara Branch)* **Seconded:** *Tash Johns (SC on behalf of Pilbara Branch)* **CARRIED**

A11 Eastern Districts Branch *Travel*

"That ICPA (WA) lobby the Department of Transport to review their policy regarding the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS)-Road Travel Subsidy to more appropriately fit rural travel situations and therefore change their criteria to enable our children to receive the education that is comparable to that of metropolitan students."

Explanation:

Families who have previously qualified for the Road Travel Subsidy prior to 2019 are now still having their claims rejected. This is due to a TransWA bus service running through their town, or within a 56km radius. The scheduled timetables are often on days not suitable to school timetables.

Example: The TransWA bus travels from Perth to Esperance coming through Hyden on a Tuesday. The return bus is on a Thursday from Esperance; meaning students would accrue anywhere from 8 to 16 days absent over a school term. Over a 6-year period of boarding this is a minimum of 9.6 weeks of school missed.

When the bus is not available on the appropriate days, students are expected to travel to Perth and stay in hotels (at parents' expense) with no adult supervision until their school opens. This could mean five (5) nights in a hotel alone. Many of these students are minors, unaccompanied by an adult and particularly pertinent as some children are still 11 years of age.

Moved: *Coby Smith (Eastern Districts Branch)* **Seconded:** *Carla Hyde (Eastern Districts Branch)* **CARRIED**

A12 Lakes District Branch *Travel*

"That ICPA (WA) lobby the On-demand Transport - Department of Transport service and the State Government for a review into the eligibility criteria of the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme - Road Travel Subsidy."

Explanation:

Families who have previously received the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme - Road Travel Subsidy allowance are continuing to be rejected due to the introduction of TransWA services; and that they now reside less than 56kms from the nearest transport hub, with a regular passenger transport service.

The timetabling of these services is not suitable for transporting rural students to and from their nearest appropriate educational boarding facility as the days these services run are mid-week and would result in the student missing out on up to 20 days of schooling per year.

This reduction of attendance at an educational institution is proven to have detrimental outcomes on a student's academic performance.

The eroding of allowances is an added increase to the cost of educating rural students and shows a lack of support for rural families.

Moved: Jane Cunningham (Lakes District Branch) **Seconded:** Claire Walter (Lakes District Branch) **CARRIED**

A13 **Eastern Districts Branch**

Travel

“That ICPA (WA) requests that the On-demand Transport - Department of Transport (ODT) review the transport hub policy criteria for the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS)-Road Travel Subsidy. The criteria should state that the nearest transport hub should travel to the nearest appropriate government school.”

Explanation:

The official criteria are as follows:

The Student Travel Subsidy Scheme provides travel assistance to school and tertiary students who are geographically isolated. The two main types of travel support are:

- Subsidised fares for air, bus and train travel for eligible students who live within the defined remote area of Western Australia (see map).
- A road travel subsidy for eligible students who live anywhere within western Australia but who must be driven in a private vehicle more than 56km from home to the nearest:
 - Appropriate government school with boarding facilities offering classes in the grade or level in which the student is enrolled, or
 - Regular passenger transport (bus stop, airport, or train station- please visit the TransWA - [plan your journey](#) website for regular passenger transport hubs and routes), or
 - A school bus service operating between the student’s home and the school they are attending.

Families are being refused STSS-Road Travel Subsidy when the nearest appropriate hub is more than 56km away, for the 2020 school year.

Example 1: Hyden is 192km from Narrogin Senior High School, our nearest appropriate government school. There is no direct bus route from Hyden to Narrogin, so the transport hub criteria are unsuitable to our demographics.

Example 2: When a rejection claim was inquired by a member, the response from an ODT Customer Service officer to the member was as follows:

***“I understand that the bus hub is less than 56km from you. With our assessment to be eligible you need to reside more than 56km from your nearest government boarding facility or regular passenger transport service. We therefore pay the allowance to the closest facility/transport hub whichever comes first. To be able to claim the allowance, you must live more than 56kms and each kilometre after, you will be paid a rate of \$0.2038 per kilometre.*”**

The nearest bus service does not go to the closest appropriate government facility at Narrogin, it goes to Perth, the opposite direction.

Example 3: Another member enquired why their family application was rejected and she was advised:

“If you look at the TransWA map that they could get their child from Kulin to Narrogin.”

Turns out she can just on two different bus routes and it may take a day and a half to make the journey. This would include a night's stay in Perth with no adult supervision. The closest boarding facility (Narrogin) has no direct bus on a daily or weekly basis.

Moved: *Coby Smith (Eastern Districts Branch)*

Deemed covered by A12

CARRIED

A14 Lakes District Branch

Travel

"That ICPA (WA) lobby the Public Transport Authority to ensure that all school bus contractors adhere to the Student Transport Assistance Policy and Operational Guidelines and their contractual obligations; and that remotely affected families are provided with an avenue of recourse should a breach to the code of conduct and/or the contractual obligations by bus contractors occur."

Explanation:

Concerns have been expressed for the safety of students when contractors fail to maintain buses to a safe and hygienic standard and fails to comply with procedures relating to leaving students unattended at bus stops.

Example 1: Bus driver failed to notify they were going to be early in the afternoons and dropped students at their stop. At the time, this student was six (6) years old and it was raining. When the driver was questioned, he told her to 'just run quickly'.

Example 2. Bus that experienced many breakdowns including blown tyres, flat battery, lack of preparedness for school commencement and ongoing issues with the door not closing correctly. Parents had been requested to close the door when students were put on the bus.

Example 3. Cleanliness of the bus, both inside and out with poor visibility out of the windows due to a lack of cleaning.

Example 4. Contractor using an older bus when the regular bus was being serviced or was broken down. This meant no seatbelts for students and the inability to safely fit booster seats for younger students.

Example 5. Following a two-week trial to change the bus route the contractor extended the route unbeknown to School Bus Services and the distance was changed from 95km in 85 minutes of which 40% was on unsealed roads to 112km in 81 minutes with 56% on unsealed roads. This means the school bus is travelling in excess of the permitted speed of 80km/hour.

The number one priority should be the safety of the children.

Moved: *Jane Cunningham (Lakes District Branch)*

Seconded: *Claire Walter (Lakes District Branch)*

CARRIED

A15 Kimberley Air Branch

Travel

"That ICPA (WA) lobby the relevant State Government departments to ensure students boarding away from their home base within WA are allowed the same travel permissions as essential workers. The purpose being to travel home without restriction, at short notice."

Explanation:

In 2020, due to the COVID 19 pandemic a number of students have been left stranded when short notice lockdowns have taken place and boarding houses have closed. If these students were given permissions that lasted the full year, rather than applying for a G2G pass every time a lockdown is put into effect, it would enable parents to get their children home rather than relying on friends and family in Perth to take them in.

Giving these students the same travel privileges as 'essential workers' would allow them exemption from quarantine restrictions (if and when applicable) when travelling to and from school.

Moved: Kirsty Forshaw (*Kimberley Air Branch*) **Seconded:** Jo Camilleri (*Kimberley Air Branch*) **CARRIED**

A16 **Eastern Districts Branch**

Travel

"That ICPA (WA) lobby School Bus Services (SBS) to ensure that four (4) bus service routes are provided for students in the Hyden District. These routes are to be flexible when student numbers and/or residential distribution of students change. Bus routes should not be dictated or decided by the bus contractor as they have a vested financial interest."

Explanation:

The Hyden Primary School Bus Committee were informed earlier this year that the entire Northern Hyden corridor may be without a bus as of end of Term 2 2021 due to current low student numbers. This is extremely concerning not only to those families currently utilising this service but will negatively impact our community now and into the future.

According to the SBS Student Transport Assistance Policy and Operation Guidelines; one of the four operation principles states that the Policy will be applied in a manner that is *"reasonable, equitable and aims to meet the needs of individual communities"*.

Due to our serious concern, the Hyden Primary School Bus Committee compiled a list of all eligible students for the next four (4) years (2021 – 2024 inclusive) and devised four (4) amended bus routes. These four (4) routes ensure all students will have an opportunity to access the School Bus Service and attend Hyden Primary School as planned, as well as maintaining adequate student numbers on each route.

These proposed routes have been compiled by a group of unvested individuals that have all the current and future children of Hyden best interests at their forefront; they want to ensure they have access to a bus route. School bus routes need to be flexible and accommodating rather than being locked into fixed contracts.

Moved: Coby Smith (*Eastern Districts Branch*) **Seconded:** Carla Hyde (*Eastern Districts Branch*) **CARRIED**

S4 **Lakes District Branch**

Travel

"That ICPA (WA) lobby the Public Transport Authority for an annual review of all orange school bus service routes."

Explanation:

Changes in student numbers for some bus services has put additional pressure on some bus contractors in both the distances the bus routes are required to travel and the time taken.

There is currently no flexibility with bus contractors and bus service routes. Each appears to be intent on retaining their existing service without considering what is the best option to provide an appropriate, safe and fair service for eligible students and families in the area.

School bus routes need to be flexible and accommodating to meet the everchanging nature of rural/farming families and should be reviewed on an annual basis in conjunction with local school bus representatives.

Moved: *Jane Cunningham (Lakes District Branch)* **Seconded:** *Claire Walter (Lakes District Branch)* **CARRIED**

S5 **Gascoyne Branch**

Travel

“That ICPA (WA) investigate why ABSTUDY students are not entitled to the travel scheme. Same allowances as the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS)

Explanation:

If a child is on the ABSTUDY school fees allowance, which is paid directly to the boarding school they attend, then that child is unable to apply for a Student Travel Subsidy Scheme – Fares Allowance through the Department of Transport. Instead, they are only able to utilise the ABSTUDY fares allowance, which has some differences.

- ABSTUDY fares allowance will cover up to 3 return flights a year, while Student Travel Subsidy Scheme covers 4 return flights a year.
- ABSTUDY fares allowance requires a minimum of 6 weeks’ notice while STSS encourages early application.
- ABSTUDY Fares Allowance – not eligible for long weekends. This is very inflexible with flight timetables, students cannot use ABSTUDY Fares Allowance to fly home for long weekends, Easter (unless in school holiday times) or for boarder weekends. This is not the case with the STSS.

For families with children at boarding school who qualify for STSS and other children in the same family who receive the ABSTUDY Fares Allowance, they are incurring additional expenses for some children who must pay for extra flights.

This can become very expensive, especially when flying into Carnarvon, at over \$1000 per child for a return flight.

Moved: *Alys McKeough (Gascoyne Branch)* **Seconded:** *Mary Wake (Gascoyne Branch)* **LOST**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Opened 4.00pm

▪ **Treasurer's Financial Report**

Michelle Abbott

AGM Motions:

AGM 1

State Council

"That the 2020 Financial Statement and report be accepted as presented."

Moved: Michelle Abbott (State Council) Seconded: Kym Burns (State Council)

CARRIED

AGM 2

State Council

"That Barris Accountants Perth WA is appointed as the ICPA (WA) Auditor for 2022."

Moved: Michelle Abbott (State Council) Seconded: Kym Burns (State Council)

CARRIED

AGM 3

State Council

"That ICPA (WA) state affiliation fee remains at \$50 per member family for 2022."

Moved: Michelle Abbott (State Council) Seconded: Kym Burns (State Council)

CARRIED

Election of State Council for 2021 – 2022

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

President

Nominated: Samantha Greay

Sally Brindal

Seconded: Kym Burns

Duly Elected

Vice President

Nominated: Chandra Ridley

Naomi Obst

Seconded: Jane Hughes

Duly Elected

Secretary

Nominated: Naomi Obst

Kym Ross

Seconded: Chandra Ridley

Duly Elected

Treasurer

Nominated: Tash Johns

Michelle Abbott

Seconded: Kym Ross

Duly Elected

Publicity Officer

Nominated: Kym Ross

Jane Hughes

Seconded: Tash Johns

Duly Elected

Webmaster <i>Nominated: Naomi Obst</i>	<u>Kym Ross</u> <i>Seconded: Chandra Ridley</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<u>Lones Officer</u> <i>Nominated: Tash Johns</i>	<u>Samantha Greay</u> <i>Seconded: Kym Ross</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<u>Committee</u> <i>Nominated: Sally Brindal</i>	<u>Kym Burns</u> <i>Seconded: Samantha Greay</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<u>Committee</u> <i>Nominated: Naomi Obst</i>	<u>Chandra Ridley</u> <i>Seconded: Kym Ross</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<u>Committee</u> <i>Nominated: Elyce Donaghy</i>	<u>Lee-Anne White</u> <i>Seconded: Sam White</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<u>Committee</u> <i>Nominated: Chandra Ridley</i>	<u>Louise Ford</u> <i>Seconded: Sally Brindal</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>
<u>Committee</u> <i>Nominated: Jane Hughes</i>	<u>Jane Cunningham</u> <i>Seconded: Claire Walter</i>	<i>Duly Elected</i>

Annual General Meeting declared closed at 4.25pm

REPORTS:

2021 ICPA (WA) President's Report

Sally Brindal

WOW! What a year!

Shane Love MLA, Deputy Leader Nationals WA, Peter Rundle MLA, Mrs Roxanne Morrissey – ICPA Federal Life Member and WA Life Member, Mrs Jo Camilleri, Mrs Lisa Slade and Mrs Briony Sinclair representatives from ICPA Federal Council, Guests, Speakers and ICPA members. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 49th Annual Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Western Australia State Conference and to present my report as State President.

Our theme this year is 'Educate not Isolate'. Twelve months ago, in the words of one reporter, "as the world prepares to isolate, the isolated parents come together".

It was Friday 13th and shortly after conference our world as we know it went into lockdown. It certainly was a baptism of fire as I entered my new role as President quenching the medias thirst for interviews. As the whole country navigated its way through the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic, education and boarding were at the forefront of concerns for parents and families Australia wide. The rapid advancement of COVID-19 resulted in schools closing early and delays in returning to school after holidays. Many decisions regarding travel, access to education and boarding restrictions initially caused a great deal of anxiety to parents and students. I would like to thank the WA Government, the Department of Education, the Department of Transport and relevant representatives for listening to concerns raised by ICPA WA and making adjustments.

Parents and children, all throughout Western Australia were faced with the task of remote online learning at home. It was the beginning of a new education journey for so many people, but one that many ICPA families know so well. Many parents faced different challenges in accessing, facilitating and supervising the online learning, resulting in extra Government resources and an increase in communication technologies being made available. Prime Minister Scott Morrison himself admitted that,

"It's been a lot harder for (younger children) with online learning. It hasn't worked....., it's always best to have children learning in the classroom. That I don't think is disputed...., "but for kindergarten to Year 6, I think it's even harder for that to work online.

May be now, those that are the decision makers have a better understanding of the struggles faced by families who have no choice other than to do remote learning at home online and maybe they can also appreciate the additional the costs involved by those families who travel great distances to ensure their children access face to face learning. COVID-19 highlighted that although we may have been isolated from one another, it does not mean we are, or indeed need to be isolated from education. COVID-19 show cased that any child can be isolated from accessing education, not just children in remote areas of Australia, "Educate not Isolate".

ICPA WA were involved in a stakeholder review of the return to education by the Department of Education. A number of organisations were represented and ICPA WA ensured the issues that had been created around boarding restrictions, self-isolating requirements and the logistical return to school were clearly understood.

ICPA WA continue to be a part of conversations with the Department of Education looking at ways to maximise the new skills and resources, that have occurred across the whole education sector as a result of COVID-19, to continue to benefit the education of our children.

2020 has certainly been the year to be celebrating our adaptability, resilience, tenacity and determination in all matters relating to education. The years of advocacy by ICPA saw Australia well placed to continue with educating our children during this COVID-19 pandemic. So, thank you to all past and present volunteers.

Throughout 2020 and the ensuing pandemic WA State Council have continued to action motions raised at the 2020 State Conference. The Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) continues to be high on the agenda for State Council. The BAHA reduction has been explained by the Government as being a necessary part of reducing budgets, however given the February announcement of a budget surplus of \$3.1 billion this year, the continued annual reduction of around \$215,875 seems inequitable for families and students who benefit from this much relied upon allowance.

State Council continues to receive reports from members concerning the Department of Transport, Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS) Fares Allowance and Road Travel Allowance. Despite meetings and many letters from WA State Council the continued reference to a transport hub as a means of rejecting travel subsidy claims, irrespective of the route, the frequency or even where the transport goes in the complete opposite direction continues to frustrate families.

Both these issues were raised during October delegations with Peter Rundle, Nationals Spokesperson for Education and Donna Faragher, the then Shadow Minister for Education. Other topics of discussion included: the request for additional help with the transition to further education/apprenticeships from the State Government for students post Year 12, Education Funding Model changes to be introduced between now and 2029 using the direct measure of income formulae potentially costing many schools millions of dollars which will impact boarding families and the WA State Government Wander out Yonder program varying eligibility between city and country.

A delegation also met with Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, Minister for Education where discussions were had regarding the Schools of Special Education Needs programs (SSEN) and the need for greater awareness of the assistance available to families, the Government's professional development program offering support to new Principals and the reduction of services to rural schools such as dental therapy vans.

Support for our Schools of the Air and rural schools, and the loss of services is an increasing concern as numbers in rural areas continue to decline with an apparent direct correlation between school numbers and a reduction in programs and services.

The current website format is no longer supported resulting in our website becoming obsolete. Federal Council, together with each State Webmaster, have been working tirelessly on the development of a new website, which is planned go live sometime in April. All states have had the opportunity to provide input and be a part of discussions into their future requirements. Hopefully, the new website will alleviate some of the membership renewal issues that members have been experiencing.

Due to COVID-19 border restrictions there was no face-to-face Federal Joint Councils meeting in February, instead a joint Zoom meeting gave States the opportunity to update Federal on local issues and for all parties to share information.

I would like to thank the outgoing 2020/2021 State Council for their contribution in advocating on behalf of our members. At last year's State Conference, we welcomed two new councillors, Michelle Abbott - Midwest Branch, who also took on the role of State Treasurer and Samantha Greay - Eastern Districts Branch. We have been a smaller council this year and without their hard work and commitment we could not continue. I would like to thank them for volunteering their time and knowledge to such a worthy organisation, that is so well-respected Australia wide.

Thank you to the WA Department of Education for the support ICPA WA receives in the form of an operating grant for the purpose of advocating for the equity of access to an appropriate education for rural and remote students in Western Australia.

I would also like to thank our members for attending today and representing your branch, for advocating in your areas of IPCA and keeping ICPA relevant and at the forefront. But I do worry, and I have said it before 'Where would we be without ICPA?'

Who would be the voice for our children for allowances and when families or rural schools have issues with internet connectivity to access online programs?

Where would help come from for Early Childhood programs, In-Home care issues, Distant Education, Schools of the Air and Curriculum concerns?

Who would be the voice for our children when there are issues in our small rural schools and a lack of support for principals and who will ensure our post-compulsory students are not overlooked or forgotten in their pursuit of their post Year 12 pathways?

Who is going to be the one **voice** that encompasses all the above? Who would you turn to for help with your concerns? Who is there that would help make a difference? I do not have the answer to these questions which highlights the importance of the role of ICPA in our children's education.

As you listen to our speakers and ponder the theme "educate not isolate" it is important that we too educate those who are not familiar with ICPA and do not isolate them from the vast array of areas that we advocate in. As we have said goodbye to 2020 what is different about 2021. One. Just one. It is just 2020 PLUS 1 and I ask that you consider making 2021 the year of PLUS 1. As an organisation that relies heavily on membership subscription to continue to be **your voice** it would be fantastic if everyone could bring a Plus 1 to membership. This would increase our numbers which is important when advocating for change.

In finishing I wish you all an enjoyable and enlightening day, take the opportunity to ask questions, enjoy the conversations and learn from one another.

Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

Michelle Abbott

Good Afternoon Members. This is my first report as Treasurer.

Firstly, I would like to thank Bianca James, Kym Ross and Sally Brindal for their help and support when I initially took over the roll. We had planned to have a face-to-face hand over but COVID-19 put a stop to that. Thank you all for your patience with all my telephone calls and questions.

We were lucky enough to be able to change accounting software programs thanks to the support of Byfield's Business Advisors.

Due to this there are some changes in allocations and numbers in this audit. You will notice some changes in totals in the report especially in the expenses side that were affected by this. Any other differences I will endeavour to explain also.

In 2020 we had 267 members which is 30 down on 2019 membership.

This is reflected in the financial statements showing a decrease in subscriptions income. Also given that the membership year starts in November this years audited statements do not reflect the income for 2020 as some 2020 memberships would have been paid for in late 2019.

The Department of Education have continued supporting ICPA(WA) with a \$10,000 grant. We will reapply for this grant in 2021.

ICPA (WA) would like to extend its gratitude to Pilbara, Lakes District, Goldfields Eyre and Midwest branches for their generous donations.

2020 State Conference held in March was conveyed by Meekatharra Air branch. ICPA (WA) received a profit of \$5088 from this event. Thank you to Meekatharra Air branch for making the conference such a success. Meekatharra Air secured \$26,188 in sponsorship for this event. This though is reflected more in the 2019 audited reports as much of the sponsorship income was received months before the event which justifies the lower income figure for State Conference in 2020. It is just a matter of timing and dates.

Due to COVID-19 ICPA (WA) committee members were unable to attend events such as field days which has seen an impact on fundraising in the form of merchandise sales.

Expenses overall were on a par from 2019 but you will notice a difference in certain accounts such as meeting expenses, travel costs and printing postage and stationery.

There was a large jump in meeting expenses due to an increase in venue hire for State Conference and also due to COVID-19 we were unable to hold one of our face-to-face meetings at SIDE and therefore incurred room hire costs.

Travel costs were up in 2020. There were costs held over from attending Federal Conference also guest speaker travel costs to attend State Conference in 2020.

Printing, postage and stationery appears to have increased in 2020. This is fundamentally a change in codes and allocation, overall, these expenses remain the same from year to year.

Finally, thank you to Nicholas Barris from Barris Accounting who completed our audit again this year.



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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT 2020

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 2020**. 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 2020.

1st February 2021

Nicholas Barris CPA
Barris Accounting

 TAXATION FOR INDIVIDUALS & SMALL BUSINESS
 SELF-MANAGED SUPERANNUATION COMPLIANCE
 BUSINESS ADVISORY



**THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENT'S
ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED
31/12/2020**

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT:

INCOME	2020	2019
Department of Education Grant	9,091	9,091
Donations, Registrations & Sponsorship	5,547	4,413
Fundraising Income	285	1,055
Interest Received	156	516
State Conference Funds	16,221	28,461
Subscriptions	17,815	25,551
Sundry Income	-	3,585
TOTAL INCOME	49,114	72,673
EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	470	450
Advertising	545	1,401
Bank Charges	5	109
Computer Repairs & Maintenance	-	117
Depreciation Expense	808	2,491
Donations	3,772	1,023
Federal Conference Costs	-	4,483
Insurance	3,618	3,530
Postage	994	348
Printing & Stationery	3,367	130
Purchases (including Promotional Items)	235	375
Room Hire	545	-
State Meeting Expenses (including related Travel Costs)	26,914	20,664
Subscriptions (Branch & Federal Council)	5,421	10,253
Sundry Expenses (Storage Costs & Fundraising Books & Mugs)	1,028	4,815
Teleconference Costs	332	214
Travel Expenses (Other)	4,336	1,447
TOTAL EXPENSES	52,390	51,850
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	(3,276)	20,822

Note: Figures above exclusive of GST

**THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENT'S
ASSOCIATION OF WA (INC.)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED
31/12/2020**

BALANCE SHEET:

CURRENT ASSETS **2020** **2019**

Bank Accounts:

Commonwealth Bank Cheque Account	42,807	40,221
Commonwealth Bank Term Deposit Account (357)	44,185	44,079
Commonwealth Bank Friends Account	2,483	2,483
Paypal Account	500	4,970

Australian Taxation Office:

GST Adjustment Account	311	55
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TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS **90,286** **91,807**

NON CURRENT ASSETS

Fixed Assets:

* Plant & Equipment (Pre 2012)	17,127	17,127
* Less: Accumulated Depreciation (Pre 2012)	(11,652)	(11,652)
Plant & Equipment	5,723	5,723
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(5,061)	(4,253)

TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS **6,137** **6,945**

TOTAL ASSETS **96,423** **98,752**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	614	-
GST Payable	199	-

TOTAL LIABILITIES **813** **0**

NET ASSETS **95,610** **98,752**

EQUITY

Members Funds	98,886	78,064
Current Earnings	(3,276)	20,822

TOTAL EQUITY **95,610** **98,886**

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

**ICPA
Depreciation Register
For the Year Ended 31 December 2020**

Equipment Description	Date	Amount	OWDV	Adjustments	Dep Rate	Business %	Dep Amt	WDV
Note: Pre 2012 Asset Register (No Details Provided)	30/06/2012	17,127	5,499	-	0%	0%	0	5,499
Equipment Purchased	16/02/2016	624	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Go To Meeting Licence	27/02/2017	624	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Cannon MG5765 Printer	26/06/2017	63	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Seagate Harddrive	19/07/2017	96	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Harvey Norman Computer for Treasurer	13/04/2018	1,206	540	-	50%	100%	270	270
2TB Hard Drive	31/01/2018	84	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Flag Pole	28/02/2019	162	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Logo Embroidery Set Costs	01/04/2019	104	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Flag Accessories	02/07/2019	547	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Portable Display	02/07/2019	1,432	1,075	-	50%	100%	538	538
Table Clothes	02/07/2019	676	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Display Stand	22/07/2019	105	0	-	100%	100%	0	0
Total		22,849	7,114				808	6,307

ICPA Australia Federal Council Report

Alana Moller President ICPA (Aust)

ICPA Western Australia President, distinguished guests, Federal Life Members, Western Australia State Life members, fellow ICPA members and friends it is with great pleasure that I present the 2021 Western Australia State Conference Federal Update, encouraged by all you here today.

Winston Churchill once said, “Kites rise higher against the wind, not with it” and testament to the efforts, struggles and triumphs of ICPA here we are today having risen above challenges and trials, not only over the past twelve months, but over 50 years since that very first meeting back in 1971. May I take this opportunity on behalf of Federal Council to commend South Australia State Council on their determined endeavours this past twelve months and to thank them and conference convenors for giving me the opportunity to deliver the Federal Council Update today.

As we know, 2020 did not pan out in the way that most of us envisaged. Regardless though, the role of ICPA did not diminish and indeed new challenges and pursuits were presented to us. As the COVID-19 pandemic took hold and lockdowns were imposed, we worked through issues as they arose and were able to assist members with some of their concerns and issues. It was heartening that out of the crisis came some improvements in the area of communications, as well as a recognition of the unique needs of geographically isolated children when it comes to the Assistance for Isolated Children scheme. Unfortunately, though the pandemic also highlighted and, in many instances, magnified some of the inequities associated with educating children from geographically isolated contexts at all times, not just during a pandemic. For early childhood education and care, and more specifically for remote families who access In Home Care, the inception of the Relief Childcare Package was problematic. We spent many hours working with the office of then Minister for Education, the Honourable Dan Tehan MP, to raise and try to alleviate some of these issues at the time. Following on from this and motions from the 2020 Federal Conference, we continue to highlight that a blanket approach to educational and childcare issues, when applied to rural and remote situations is often inappropriate, unworkable and inequitable and seek the establishment of specialised models and programs to address the unique disadvantages and needs associated with caring for and educating children in geographically isolated locations.

The pandemic also raised issues for tertiary gap year students, rural and remote apprentices and trainees and of course the inconsistent and sometimes confusing processes and guidelines in relation to boarding schools and

geographically isolated boarding students, especially with regards to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Guidelines and border restrictions.

ICPA (Aust) has welcomed and would like to show our appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education Hon Andrew Gee MP, all State Councils and other stakeholders to address these issues. We welcomed the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion on this and in collaboration with all ICPA State Councils, a Submission was made in November 2020 to Minister Gee indicating the vision of a National Framework to support interstate borders. This Submission was forwarded by the Minister to all State Chief Medical/Health Officers.

To date, these topics are still not resolved with inconsistencies and uncertainty still being experienced across jurisdictions. We continue to advocate that it is essential that a long term, consistent approach to supporting geographically isolated boarding students is achieved.

The impacts of the pandemic on ICPA and our members perhaps culminated with the move to an online conference in August. For those listening who may not have attended our federal conference, despite a myriad of challenges to overcome, which were largely out our control, including a solar flare which caused the Sky Muster network to fail an hour before the conference was due to begin, the Conference was well attended by ICPA branch delegates and guests from all over Australia. All agenda motions were presented, with healthy debate and discussion and how grateful we were for the support, understanding, patience and positivity of all of those involved.

It is an honour to have been re-elected as Federal President at the conference and to work with all of the amazing individuals from all over our great nation on Federal Council for another year. At Federal Conference we were sorry to farewell the remarkable Jane Morton from Federal Council, I can assure you she has been sorely missed. We were thrilled however to welcome two further Queensland faces to our team, being Nikki Mahony from Theodore and from Richmond Kim Hughes, who is also a former ICPA Queensland State President. While the COVID-19 pandemic, has hampered our ability to come together as a Federal Council in person, it has not hindered our ability to continue our work. We have recently held 2 full days of hybrid Federal Council meetings, with 7 councillors travelling to Hobart for meetings in February, while 6 others participated via Zoom. We are also working towards F2F meetings and delegations in Canberra in the coming months.

As we well know, obstacles to accessing and obtaining their education are ongoing for geographically isolated students not just during a crisis and Federal Council continue to emphasise that these students are a unique disadvantage group who need specialised and targeted assistance and support to access and attain equitable educational opportunities and outcomes and our advocacy across all education topics has continued unimpeded.

While perhaps not always ideal, the opportunity to participate virtually in meetings, consultations, forums, delegations and other activities has meant that we have been able to continue our work despite the inability to travel and come together and indeed has actually been a great opportunity to give a small glimpse into our worlds, with Federal Councillors participating from their home schoolrooms, sitting on the windowsill of their house to get internet connection, rushing into meetings after loading cattle, shearing sheep, feeding poddies or harvesting crops and generally dedicating themselves to ICPA in amongst the hustle and bustle of their daily lives. I am sure there are many members who can absolutely relate to this!

To this end, we have had the opportunity to raise the many issues facing our members, through meeting with Minister Andrew Gee on a number of occasions, as well as maintained regular contact with his office. We have also attended virtual delegation meetings with the Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP and Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, the Hon Mark Coulton MP. In virtual delegation meetings we have been able to raise issues associated with In Home

Care, the Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance, the Distance Education Teaching Allowance, telehealth, the Regional Tech Hub and the need for portable internet equipment for geographically isolated distance education students. We also continue to maintain contact with other politicians and their advisers and staff including Minister David Littleproud and Minister Anne Ruston. I have had the privilege of meeting face to face with Senator Susan McDonald.

Federal Council continued to correspond regularly with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) and Services Australia and have welcomed the opportunity to meet virtually on several occasions with representatives from the DESE team. We aim to continue the relationships we have with the Departments in order to be able to act as a conduit for our members' information, queries and concerns.

As noted on this slide, Federal Council have also completed a number of submissions since February 2020, including:

- 2021 -2022 Pre-Budget Submission
- Consumer Safeguards Review Part C – Choice and Fairness
- Australian Education Amendment (Direct Measure of Income) Bill 2020 [Provisions]
- Inquiry into Remote and Complex Environments Home learning and teaching in COVID-19
- 2020 NAPLAN Review
- National Framework for Interstate Boarding Students
- NDIS Community Consultation on Supporting young children and their families 2021
- Review of Disability Standards
- Review of the Regional Schooling Resource Standard Loadings

In the Pre-Budget Submission, in other correspondence and during our virtual delegations, we have urged the Government to implement the recommendations made in the report handed down from the Inquiry into Education in Remote and Complex Environments, especially in relation to our long term advocacy for AIC for 3-4 year olds and ongoing guaranteed funding for mobile playgroups. ICPA (Aust) lodged two submissions to this inquiry, along with several state councils and we implore the Government to also execute other recommendations from the report, including those focussed on improvements to tertiary and training access, funding and enhancements.

Portfolio activities have continued in earnest, with the 35 Motions carried at conference having been actioned over the past 6 months. Most recently we have been working on Portfolio Motion Updates and these were recently sent to all members and are available on our website. Despite the 2020 Federal Conference motions being limited to only those issues not already in policy due to constraints with the online format, a variety of other actions, undertakings and developments have occurred across Portfolios.

Communications continues to be an area where developments and changes can occur almost daily. A number of developments have occurred in recent months and we especially wish to draw attention to the new Regional Tech Hub, a Federal Government initiative to offer free, independent advice to regional Australians on the best internet and mobile phone connection for their needs. The Regional Tech Hub has been initiated after requests from ICPA and other organisations for regional, rural and remote communications assistance to be made available. Federal Council are optimistic that the Hub will achieve this and we encourage members to become acquainted with this initiative and access their services using the options appearing on this slide. We are working closely with the Hub staff, including being a part of the Regional Tech Hub Stakeholder Reference Group. We also wish to remind members of new initiatives in communications, including enhancements to Sky Muster Plus satellite services. More information on these can be found in our Communications information.

In the area of Distance Education, Federal Council have instigated a range of actions aimed at raising the profile of geographically isolated distance education families and to reinforce our Distance Education Teaching Allowance

Advocacy. Along with writing to key Ministers, Members of Parliament and Senators, and raising the issue in virtual delegations and other meetings, ICPA (Aust) embarked on an awareness campaign, declaring 1 December 2020 as our inaugural Geographically Isolated Distance Education (GIDE) Day, to honour the ongoing plight of geographically isolated families who must educate their children at home at all times and call for recognition for these families. We received positive responses and support from a range of individuals and other organisations and thank members for their involvement in the initiative. We look forward to continuing to hold GIDE Day into the future. Following on from our GIDE Day and well documented acknowledgement by Governments of the challenge's parents faced educating their children at home during COVID-19, Federal Council have most recently written to the Prime Minister urging him to consider, recognise and acknowledge Geographically Isolated Distance Education families who must educate their children in that way at all times.

Notably in the Tertiary field, some welcomed developments have occurred, off the back of some long term advocacy as well as a result of our actions around COVID-19 concerns which will impact positively on the rural and remote tertiary cohort.

ICPA has been calling for a Tertiary Access Allowance (TAA) to support students who have to relocate to access a tertiary education with expenses including start-up expenses, costs of living, direct costs of education or training and the cost of traveling home in semester breaks. Encouragingly, the Federal Government has introduced on 1 January 2021, the Tertiary Access Payment, a one-off, means-tested payment for school leavers from outer regional, remote and very remote areas who relocate more than 90 minutes by public transport from their family home to undertake a full-time, eligible higher level tertiary education course (Certificate IV or above). In 2020, COVID-19 impacted rural and remote gap year students' ability to fulfil their working criteria, to demonstrate independence and qualify for Youth Allowance (student) and ABSTUDY under the Concessional Workforce Independence Criteria (CWIC). Following on from ICPA representations on this issue, legislation was passed addressing this concern, meaning students in the six-month period between 25 March and 24 September 2020 are deemed to have earned 75 per cent of the National Training Wage Schedule weekly rate (unless in receipt of a higher income) or worked 15 hours per week. Additionally, young people who are planning on taking a working gap year in 2021, can qualify for Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY as an independent if they fulfil the criteria of earning at least \$15,000 through agricultural work during the period 30 November 2020 and 31 December 2021. Further welcome developments include the reduction of the waiting period for the first claim of Fares Allowance for Youth Allowance recipients to 3 months and the reintroduction of the HECS-HELP upfront payment discount as part of additional support for regional and remote students.

Federal Council have also been updating a number of our documents and processes and notably completed a full revamp of our Briefing Papers, with the aim of making them appealing and user-friendly. We encourage members to head to our Portfolio section on the website to browse through these. These have been shared far and wide to help build an understanding and garner support of our advocacies. Federal Council have also recently pursued our Faces of ICPA campaign in an endeavour to raise awareness of our work and encourage membership and have taken part in podcasts and various media.

ICPA have connections and collaborations with a number of other organisations, including but not limited to the NFF, nbn, Telstra, ACCAN and ACARA. At this point I would like to draw members' attention to the immense support ICPA receives from many sources, including other organisations, but also members, branches and individuals. I would especially like to acknowledge and show appreciation on behalf of Federal Council to the McDonald Family and the Four Seasons Company, with the generous gesture of ICPA being a beneficiary of a percentage of the sales from ZM nutrition blocks for cattle released in honour of beef industry leader, the late Zanda McDonald. It is with a great sense of pride and humility that we are a part of this initiative. Zanda's family are longstanding supporters and volunteers for ICPA and geographically isolated children.

A massive undertaking occurring as I speak and close to completion has been the development of our new enhanced ICPA website. This has been a mammoth task and I would be remiss to not mention Nikki Macqueen, Sue Shotton and all State Council web masters who have been collaborating to bring this to fruition. We are excited to be counting down the days until the launch of the site and to share this dynamic new online experience with our members.

Whether it is the website, or perhaps more importantly key advocacies on behalf of our members, it continues to be an absolute delight to work with our fellow Councils. Jim Casey once said, "Determined people working together can do anything" and although our last face to face Joint Councils meeting was in February 2020, COVID-19 has given rise to opportunities and indeed the need for us to work closely and collaboratively on a number of issues which have arisen.

I thank all State Councils and my fellow Federal Councillors for the amazing efforts they all continue to maintain across Australia and I can assure Western Australia members that Federal Council and your State Council are most certainly here to support you in whatever way you need and will continue to do so through whatever should come our way. May I take this opportunity to express my congratulations to Sally for her impeccable leadership over the past twelve months and wish the incoming Western Australia State Council every success.

As I draw to a close, I wish to let all members know that ICPA Australia is looking forward to celebrating, hopefully with many of you, 50 years of ICPA in Longreach in 2021. Between now and then though, let's not forget that whether face to face, virtual or anything in between we are all here to support each other, and this is no more obvious than when we come together at Conferences, because as I have said before, being isolated does not mean you are alone.

REVISE Conference Report

Mary Wake (Chairperson)

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

The aim is to provide assistance to improve the educational outcomes for children studying at home in remote and isolated locations in WA.

In practical terms this means that we have a group of volunteers who travel to stations and other isolated locations to give families a break from teaching. This can be especially helpful at mustering time, the arrival of a new baby or just to give parents and children a break from each other in the school room. REVISE Tutors bring with them a variety of skills and experiences which can make such a difference to students who are schooled at home.

Our organization liaises between station or other remote families and volunteer retired teachers. It organizes and funds their travel to the station where they stay for 4 -6 weeks. Sue and Allen Potter are our coordinators and they cleverly match tutors with placements. We are always looking for new volunteers and sources of funding. We have mainly primary school teachers but also some secondary teachers. We would like to make families aware that we are able to provide assistance for high school students as well as primary.

Tutor placements last year were restricted by COVID-19, but we had a few more placements after the initial travel restrictions. As we had quite a few new Tutors, it was decided to have a meeting of all new Tutors in the form of a morning tea. This was organized by Sue Potter and was very successful. This year has started out with 4 placements

in the first term. Many families are unable to employ home Tutors due to travel restrictions. Fortunately REVISE Tutors have been able to step in and offer some respite.

In 2020 the Committee spent a great deal of time updating our Guidelines. The guidelines had been written by our parent organization ICPA (WA) and mainly needed to be modernized in keeping with the times. We received assistance from the State Council of ICPA and after approval the guidelines were ratified at our meeting in July.

Funding – We do ask parents for a contribution towards each placement but most of the cost is funded by REVISE. We had some wonderful news in 2020 as we received a grant of \$33,000 over 3 years, from the Education Department. It took quite a bit of tenacity on the part of committee member, Aurora Steffani, to achieve this but in the end, after a chat at last year's conference, to Steven Baxter, it got to the right desk!

Unfortunately, feedback is coming back that parents are unaware of the service offered by REVISE or are not ready to use our services. We know the schools have the information, but the communication is not proving effective. We are working on increasing the uptake of Tutors in 2021 and to that end I am seeking "REVISE" parents from each school to give an address to parents at their home tutor camps or other camps during the year. This does take place but perhaps needs greater emphasis.

Plans are being made for a morning tea for REVISE Tutors in April as there currently is not the opportunity for face-to-face catch ups between Tutors. At our AGM in December several of our Tutors were given awards for their outstanding contributions and number of placements. We thank our Tutors who were able to go out last year and we hope that we will be able to place all our new Tutors this year. Thanks also to fellow Committee members and a special thanks to our coordinators Sue & Alan Potter who not only go out on placement but coordinate all the other placements.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL

Allowances Report

Sam Greay – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

Allowances motions A1, A2, A3 and A5 raised at the 2020 State Conference were in regard to increasing the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA).

It has been made quite clear that the current Government considers the Royalties for Regions (RfR) BAHA supplementation only to be funded for a finite period and is not considering reinstating it. The cessation by 2022 of the (RfR) BAHA component will result in a loss of financial support of \$785, not per family, but per student. This allowance has already decreased from \$2,105 to \$1,634 in 2020, with an overall decrease to \$1,320 in 2022. This equates to a 37% decrease over five (5) years.

With the increase in costs and decrease in accessibility, education is increasingly becoming less affordable for some rural and remote families. We are seeing families who are having to fragment with one family member moving away from the family home to access an affordable secondary education for their children.

The option of a second home allowance is often more advantageous but is so detrimental to family life, health and well-being, not to mention the impact this is having on rural communities. When the eldest child starts secondary school, all the children from the one family move. Coming from a small rural area, I have seen examples of this within my own community.

ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN (AIC) DISTANCE EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

This allowance assists students living in isolated locations who do not have appropriate access to a primary or secondary school who study via distance learning. Students who are in receipt of this allowance are either geographically isolated, have no reasonable access to a local school or have special education needs.

The 2020 annual rate for the Distance Education Allowance was \$4278.

ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN (AIC) BOARDING ALLOWANCE

This allowance assists students from isolated locations who do not have access to an appropriate education and have no other option but to board away from home.

The basic allowance for 2020 was \$8557 for students who board away for the full year, with payment being made in four (4) instalments usually at the end of each term. 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 (4) weeks for a pro-rata payment.

Parents may also qualify for the AIC Additional Boarding Allowance which is subject to parental income and actual boarding costs. This additional allowance was \$2454 for 2020.

The payment/advice is sent directly to the boarding provider when the student attends a country Residential College (i.e., Albany, Broome, Esperance, Geraldton, Merredin, Narrogin, Northam, or St James Residential College, Moora) or where a student attends a Western Australian College of Agriculture (i.e., Cunderdin, Denmark, Harvey, Morawa, Narrogin) and is to be deducted from the residential boarding fees only.

If the student does not reside at a Residential College or Western Australian College of Agriculture then the allowance is paid to one of the following at the direction of the parent: the boarding facility, school, or parent.

ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN (AIC) SECOND HOME ALLOWANCE

Another allowance that falls under the AIC is the Second Home Allowance. This allowance helps families with the costs associated with having to take on a second family home for geographically isolated students to access appropriate schooling. This allowance is paid fortnightly at rate of \$248 (2020 rate) per fortnight, per student up to a maximum of three students. A claim needs to be lodged for each child.

You will not be eligible for the AIC Second Home Allowance if you received a First Homeowner Grant, stamp-duty concession or similar assistance when you bought the home.

BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE (BAHA)

The Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA) is only available to Western Australian students who qualify for the Commonwealth Government's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Boarding Allowance or the Second Home Allowance. This allowance is funded through the Western Australian Department of Education. Applications must be submitted before the end of November of the school year that you are applying for directly to the Department.

Table of BAHA Rates 2013 – 2022:

2013	\$2,105
2014	\$2,105
2015	\$2,105
2016	\$2,105

Table of Applications 2014 – 2020:

School Year	Total Applications
2014	1247
2015	1397
2016	1503

2017	\$2,105
2018	\$1,948
2019	\$1,791
2020	\$1,634
2021	\$1,477
2022	\$1,320

2017	1453
2018	1244
2019	1375
2020	1307*

* Applications still being accepted and paid

BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE FOR STUDENTS IN RESPITE

The provision of a Boarding Away from Home Allowance for students who may board away from home because of physical or intellectual disabilities, health related conditions or learning difficulties was REMOVED, effective 1st January 2020.

BOARDING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE - AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE 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.

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 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 2020 is \$1,634. 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 selected public schools and boarding at City Beach Residential College. The closing date for the Gifted and Talented Program Boarding Away from Home Allowance is 31st 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 selected public schools and the student is boarding at City Beach Residential College.

The 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 2020 is \$1,634 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.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SKILL AND EMPLOYMENT

On 19th October 2020, the Australian Government's Job-ready Graduates Package passed in parliament. This package aims to provide more opportunities for people to gain the qualifications they will require for the jobs of the future and will see opportunities for regional and remote students to attend university plus more investment in regional university campuses.

TERTIARY ACCESS PAYMENT

The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a one-off payment of \$5,000 paid in two (2) instalments to assist school-leavers from outer regional or remote areas who relocate more than 90 minutes from their home to undertake full-time, higher-level tertiary education (Certificate IV or above).

The payment is intended to assist students with the additional costs associated with relocating to undertake tertiary study.

Vocational Educational and Training (VET) students must apply through Services Australia. Students studying via a university apply through their university. This payment is subject to parental income of \$250,000 or less.

A comprehensive list of allowances and eligibility criteria were published in the Bits and Pieces magazine; and are also available on the ICPA website or by contacting the portfolio holder.

YOUTH ALLOWANCE - INDEPENDENT (FEDERAL)

All applicants must check the Centrelink website www.centrelink.gov.au for detailed information and eligibility.

You may be an independent student if you support yourself through paid work. Applicants need to have:

- earned at least 75% of the National Training Wage Schedule within a 14 month period since leaving school, or
- worked part-time (minimum 15 hours each week) for the last 2 years since leaving school.
- Employed for 30 hours per week for 18 months in a 2 year period on leaving school.

The age of independence was 22 years in 2020. Eligibility for Youth Allowance also depends on your parents' or guardians' income. Your parents can have a combined parental income of \$160,000 per year. There is also an extra \$10,000 added to the parental income limit for each of your eligible siblings.

STUDENT START UP LOANS

Available to all Youth Allowance recipients. You may apply for up to two loan payments each calendar year. Loan periods run from 1st January to 31st December each year. The Start Up loan rate is \$1094 per loan period.

RELOCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Is only available to Dependent Youth Allowance recipients that need to live away from home to study. Relocation payments start at \$4626 for the first year and \$2314 for years the second and third year.

FARES ALLOWANCE

Available to eligible Youth Allowance recipients only who are enrolled in either on campus or external tertiary study. You are entitled to up to 2 return trips per study year. Applications must be made by 31st March following the year of study.

LIVING AWAY FROM HOME ALLOWANCE

Available to eligible young people who must move away from home to take up or continue with an apprenticeship or traineeship.

Payment is based on full-time or part-time apprentice or school-based programs.

Rates are: First year \$77.17
 Second Year \$38.59
 Third year \$25.

Applications are to be made through your local Australian Apprenticeship Support Network provider.

www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Communications Report

Sally Brindal – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

Communications motions raised at the 2020 ICPA (WA) State Conference sought to have ICPA (WA) support ICPA (Australia) in lobbying the Minister for Regional Development and telecommunication providers to investigate mobile call dropouts and restoration times on mobile tower back up batteries.

WA State Council raised this issue as a communications motion at Federal Conference 2020. A letter of support was also written to ICPA Federal Council for their work so far in this area. Other motions presented at Federal Conference related to:

- Universal broadband internet to Australia, including alternative satellite-based internet services and technologies, which would improve access to equitable education for all students in rural, regional and remote Australia
- A customer end technology roadmap for the transition from existing mobile phone configurations to country 5G due in 2024 by Telstra
- Rebates for rural and remote customers who will need to upgrade equipment (aerials and boosters) to change from 3G to 4G

The COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement for all students to be educated via an online platform certainly put the spotlight on communications and internet connectivity. As a result, planned improvements to services, product adjustments and accessibility were accelerated by all telcos.

NBN CO

Sky Muster Plus Enhancements:

From 1st April 2020 there were a number of Sky Muster Plus enhancements:

- Unmetered activities were significantly expanded to cover all online content and applications, with only two exclusions – video streaming (Netflix, YouTube, Tiktok, Foxtel, Stan) and VPN traffic – which continue to be metered. Unmetered examples include WhatsApp, Google Duo, Instagram Live, Viber, Microsoft Teams, WebEx, Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype, Facebook Messenger, Facetime, Snapchat, GoToMeeting.
- The introduction of a new 25GB entry plan offering 25GB of peak data and 25GB off peak data, and the option of ‘top up’ data should customers exhaust their monthly metered data allowance.

Gaming and video streaming still contribute to data download allowances.

Standard Sky Muster:

From 1st April 2020 Sky Muster users also benefitted from improvements:

- Temporary access to an additional 45GB of download data for each standard Sky Muster plan for a period up to three months.

March 2020; NBN Co introduced a 40% additional wholesale Connectivity Virtual Circuit (CVC) capacity offer to support the nation’s additional data demands as more people relied on their home broadband connections for work, study and entertainment. In September, NBN Co announced a further extension of its capacity offer at no extra cost to internet retailers until 30 November 2020. NBN Co also extended its offer to increase the fair use thresholds for its standard Sky™ Muster satellite service to 90GB* of wholesale download data also until 30 November.

If you are having difficulties with your Sky Muster connection, there are a number of trouble-shooting measures that can be done prior to contacting your Retail Satellite Providers (RSPs):

- **Turn off ALL devices.** If you have a nbn Sky Muster connection unscrew the white cable from the SAT port that goes from the wall into the nbn box (NTD).
- Wait at least **5 minutes**.
- Turn the **Devices on in order**
 - Screw in the white cable, then turn on the **NBN box first** (also known as the NTD or modem). Wait until all the lights are on and indicate an active connection (this may take a few minutes). Active connection for NBN Sky Muster is a blue light.
 - Then turn on your router. Wait until all the lights are on the router indicate an active connection.
 - Then turn on all your other devices.

If you are finding that your connection, no matter what the type, is not performing as it should, or your plan does not meet your needs, you need to contact your provider. More trouble shooting tips can be found on the BIRRR website using the following links:

<https://birrraus.com/2016/10/22/skymuster-not-working/>

or

<https://birrraus.com/nbn/nbn-fixed-line/>

or

<https://birrraus.com/2016/05/10/troubleshooting-your-fixed-wireless-internet-connection/> depending on your type of connection.

The BIRRR (Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia) website www.birrraus.com has a wealth of information on the whole range of internet options, various providers, trouble-shooting tips and COVID-19 updates.

The following link will take you to their Sky Muster/Sky Muster Plus plan comparison and further information. <https://birrraus.com/2018/11/12/skymusterfaq/>.

Sky Muster Installs:

- Currently there is no cost to have the hardware required for a Sky Muster NBN internet service installed at your place.
- This government funded incentive was originally only guaranteed until 2020 but is still continuing. ICPA (Australia) urges members to take advantage of this while they can. Information on providers and plans can be found here. <https://birrraus.com/satellite/satellite-providers/>.

NBN help to connect low-income families with home-schooling needs:

To help Australians respond to the COVID-19 pandemic nbn provided up to \$50 million to assist phone and internet providers to support low-income family households with school aged children who do not currently have an active nbn connection at home. Participating nbn Sky Muster providers who were ready to connect customers on a 5GB/5GB Peak/Off Peak Sky Muster Plus Plan for \$0 for 3 months were:

- Activ8me
- IPSTAR Broadband
- SkyMesh
- Southern Phone

NBN Co later:

- Extended its Education Assistance offer for unconnected low-income households with online schooling needs until 15 January 2021; and
- Has broadened the 'Illuminate' (First Timers') wholesale discounts for premises that have not yet connected to the nbn network and have passed 18 months since their premises were able to connect or have disconnected after having an active service and have been inactive for more than 6 months.

100 Free Laptops:

NBN distributed 100 recycled laptops to schools with students in need in rural and remote schools. ICPA (Aust) took part in the discussions to assist with identifying schools in our states and NBN worked with ICPA (Aust) to understand how best to distribute the 100 nationally. All laptops have been allocated and delivered. NBN asked that the schools provide some indication of impact/feedback on how the laptops were being used by the students who have received them, e.g., some good news stories, but this feedback process is fairly open and simple.

NBN Co/ACCAN Local Round Table:

In May I participated in a virtual round table discussion hosted by Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) in partnership with NBN Co. ACCAN is the peak body that represents all consumers on communication issues including telecommunications, broadband and emerging new services.

The 33 participants involved in the round table discussion represented a broad cross section of community groups, across all of WA, who work with disabled, vulnerable, at risk or isolated people.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic millions of Australians have increasingly relied on their phone and home broadband services. Unfortunately, some Australians are at risk of being left behind because they are unable to afford a home broadband service. ACCAN is aware of this plight and wants 'No Australian Left Offline: affordable broadband for Regional, Rural and Remote Australian and All Australians'.

During the roundtable NBN Co looked at how it can work to lift digital capability, gave a progress update of the NBN rollout in WA and the key priorities for 2020 - including assisting our vulnerable communities.

It was important to understand what digital capability means, explore what lifting digital capability would look like and what benefits connectivity would provide to the most vulnerable members of community.

NBN LOCAL

Regional Business Unit:

October 2019 nbn announced it would be creating a new business unit that was committed to better serving and engaging with regional communities. The Regional Business Unit is to take control of fixed wireless and satellite networks as well as expanding community and stakeholder capability to ensure customer expectations are understood. Naomi Evans was appointed the Head of Regional and Community Affairs (WA) for nbn Local in July 2020 and in the months since has been building a team that will live and work in the regions.

If anyone has any regional issues, concerns or opportunities please feel free to email her.

Testimonials:

NBN is seeking testimonials from members who are using a Sky Muster Plus connection for tertiary studies. If you know of anyone and you think they may be prepared to discuss their experience, please either pass my contact details on to them, or give me theirs with their permission.

Scam Warning:

Just a reminder - Members are advised that there are still scams occurring in relation to nbn. Customers are contacted by someone claiming to be from nbn asking for personal information and/or a threat to services being cut.

TELSTRA

Telstra made improvements to their plans and services for their customers as a result of COVID-19, offering:

- Unlimited data for home and small business broadband customers (ADSL, NBN, Cable) until 30 June 2020.
- Mobile Broadband plans received an additional 10GB data allowance on the small and medium plans increasing their data allowance to 20GB and 60GB respectively, and the large plan doubled to 200GB of data allowance.
- 25GB extra data to use in Australia, available for 30 days, for post-paid personal and small business mobile customers. Customers could apply for the extra data via the Telstra 24x7 and My Telstra Apps until 30 June 2020.
- 10GB extra data available for 28 to 30 days (depending on your plan) for the \$40+ pre-paid customers.
- Unlimited standard calls within Australia for eligible pensioner customers on landlines between 19 March – 30 April 2020.
- Switching on SMS over Wi-Fi on the mobile network.

Bridging the Divide:

From their Australian Digital Inclusion Index research, Telstra are aware that not all families can afford or have access to digital technology which meant their children's learning had the potential to be severely impacted if they could not attend school during the COVID-19 pandemic. To help bridge this divide Telstra provided 30,000 internet-enabled sims at no cost to state and territory education departments and Catholic Education to distribute to families in their states who were most at risk of not being able to access online learning. Telstra also worked with education departments to provide additional student and teacher devices, equipment, connectivity and digital platforms, such as Cisco Web-Ex or Microsoft Teams to enable virtual classrooms.

Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP):

Under Round 5 of the MBSP regional Australia will benefit from 182 new mobile small cell base stations with 27 in WA.

- Across all rounds of the MBSP program more than 740 sites are completed nationally.
- Completed more than 200 small cells for remote communities (at Telstra's expense).
- 200 additional sites are yet to be delivered, mostly from Round 5 of the program.

4G Update:

Telstra are making sure regional Australia benefits from breakthrough technology – like the innovation that [doubles the coverage range](#) of 4G towers in some locations – along with connectivity-enhancing products like the [Telstra Go Repeater](#). Telstra is on track to ensuring their regional customers have access to fast 4G well in advance of the 3G Network closure in 2024. Plus, the benefits of their [Narrow Band Internet of Things Network](#) – at nearly 4 million km2 it is by far the largest in the country.

5G Rollout:

- Telstra's 5G reaches more than 40% of the population and will expand to 75% of the Australian population by the end of June 2021.
- More than 1,400 suburbs have 50% or greater coverage.
- There are more than 60 cities and towns across the country where Telstra's 5G rollout is now underway.
- Telstra has switched on more than 2,000 5G sites nationally.

Telstra WA Regional Advisory Council (RAC):

As President of ICPA (WA) I was invited to be a part of the Telstra WA Regional Advisory Council. The RAC was established in 2017. The purpose of the RAC is for Telstra to work together with 13 external key regional stakeholders from leading industry and community groups, who are invited to the Council by Telstra, to identify, and where appropriate, address the telecommunication challenges and opportunities facing rural, regional and remote Australians and their communities.

The WA RAC meet up two to three times a year. At the May meeting the discussion focused on the experiences of the various groups in accessing mobile technology and any barriers that exist.

Telstra also heard great feedback including - new towers are making a difference to the local communities, skilling up and training of digital mentors to help regional people, and new and innovative ways to deliver education and digitally upskill teachers.

MMS Services:

Earlier this year Telstra enabled SMS services to be used over Wi-Fi calling. By the end of September, MMS messages had the capability to be used over Wi-Fi calling. The way to ensure your handset can do this is to install any phone updates as they come through. Some older handsets and devices will not be able to use this facility. iPhone 6 and below and android equivalents are included in this list.

NGWL:

Telstra advised that they were withdrawing their Next Gen Wireless Link (NGWL) fax services from 10 November 2020. Where Telstra supplied a NGWL service to fulfil their USO voice obligation, the NGWL fax service had been offered as an additional service for an extra \$1 per month. NGWL voice services will not be impacted. There were over 2000 customers with the NGWL fax service, most of which are regional, and half are businesses. Around 600 customers had used it between July and October.

Federal Council welcomed feedback on this, to ascertain whether Telstra's decision was going to be problematic for users of the service, and gauge whether they have easy access to other replacement options like scanning and emailing.

Unmetering of Education Sites:

Telstra has contacted ICPA regarding sites and applications that are used for education that they may look at unmetering on their network. Federal requested States to get a list together of what they think their "top 10" sites/applications would be. In 2015 Telstra did commit to unmetering some sites, and we have asked them to revisit this and see if it needs changing/updating.

Please see the list here for each of the sites in our States.

https://www.icpa.com.au/module/latestNews/item_attachment/16/download-icpa-telstra-unmetered-site-list-2016-02-24.pdf

BIRRR:

A survey was sent out to members to help both BIRRR and ICPA gather information to assist with their lobbying. It was an independent survey designed to help nbn Sky Muster users choose a good provider. It was open to people with active nbn Sky Muster connections.

Alternative Voice Service Trials:

The WA Government is undertaking Alternative Voice Service Trials. More information can be found here:

<https://www.communications.gov.au/what-we-do/phone/phone-services/universal-service-guarantee-telecommunications/alternative-voice-services-trials-program#:~:text=The%20Alternative%20Voice%20Services%20Trials,fixed%20wireless%20and%20satellite%20footprints.>

Regional Advisory Network:

The new Regional Advisory Network has recently been launched by Telstra.

"The RAN program has been designed to help customers who are having connectivity issues in their home, business premises or on the road. We want to be able to fix these problems the way that our regional customers need: by putting the right people on the job who understand the issue in detail and who can recommend a solution". - Telstra

More information can be found by following this link.

<https://exchange.telstra.com.au/helping-our-regional-and-rural-customers/>

Schedule a Regional Network Advisor (RNA) visit:

- The aim of the RNA team is to provide an Australia wide team of regional and rural based Telstra advisors, who can work with customers in their local area on mobile issues.
- This team consists of 5 RNAs and approximately 60 Local Communications Advisors (LCA's).
- RNAs are predominately wireless access skilled and are based in regional Queensland, Northern NSW, Victoria / Southern NSW, Southern WA and the Northern Territory.
- LCAs are located across Australia who provide customer service to rural and regional customers.
- Telstra have received positive feedback from customers and stakeholders from the expansion of this team.

STAND (Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters):

Improving telco network resilience;

STAND sites

- Federal Government funded \$37.1m package was announced on 17 May 2020 and includes four key elements:
 - \$18m for improving the resilience of base stations by providing longer lasting backup power sources in the event mains power is disrupted.
 - \$10m for portable communications facilities such as Telstra's Cell on Wheels to allow faster restoration of service in the event infrastructure is damaged by a natural disaster.
 - \$2.1 to improve information provided about access to telecommunications in an emergency.
 - \$7m to deploy ~2000 NBN satellite services to rural fire authorities and evacuation centres.
- Telstra are actively supporting this program and have put in bids for the Temporary Telecommunications Infrastructure Deployment and Mobile Network Hardening Grant opportunities.

ICPA (Aust) Federal Communications Portfolio:

Transportable connectivity - transportable connectivity solutions for itinerant geographically isolated students, for example, droving camps, mustering contractors and the like. Typically, these families move regularly to live at current workplaces and do not have a building (or such) to establish a Sky Muster connection. ICPA (Aust) is currently working closely with government and other key stakeholders to see what could be done to help these families. If you know of any families that would be in this position, could you please ask them if you could pass their details? It would be great to get some idea of the number of families and their individual scenarios in this position.

Regional Tub Hub - is now up and running. ICPA (Aust) sits on The Regional Tech Hub - Stakeholder Reference Group, which meets regularly to discuss how the Hub can help our members in the best way it possibly can. Go to <https://regionaltechhub.org.au/> or call their hotline on 1300 081 029 for Independent, free advice about telecommunications services for regional, rural, and remote Australians. Please let them know how your experience or your member's experiences go, so ICPA (Aust) can pass feedback on their performance to The Ministers and department.

Distance Education, SOTA & Curriculum Report

Chandra Ridley – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

At the 2020 State Conference there was one motion, A7, presented relating to the Distance Education/SOTA/Curriculum Portfolio concerning funding for the Support Teacher Learning (STL) in Schools of the Air (SOTA).

Letters were sent to various Government Departments with Ms Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Department of Education responding, assuring ICPA that there are no plans to change the funding for the STL or cease the funding beyond 2020.

CURRICULUM

The 2019 NAPLAN report was released in February 2020. Nationally Year 5 Numeracy, Year 3 and 5 Reading, Year 3 and 5 Spelling and Year 3 Grammar were significantly above the 2008 average when NAPLAN began.

Cumulative gains by Indigenous students are positive. The rate of improvement for Indigenous students is almost twice the rate of improvement for the general population since testing began.

The full report can be found at <https://nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/naplan-2019-national-report>

On Friday 18th March 2020 it was announced that, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, NAPLAN 2020 would be cancelled. Those students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in 2021 will sit the assessments.

In June it was decided that the full transition to online NAPLAN testing would be delayed until 2022 due to the 2020 NAPLAN testing being cancelled and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

For Year 9 students unable to sit NAPLAN more flexibility will be introduced into Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA). Year 9 students will be given the opportunity to demonstrate Literacy and Numeracy standards to achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

In April it was announced that every Year 12 and ATAR student will be able to obtain a WACE and an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) in 2020. Students working towards Vocational Education and Training (VET) will not be disadvantaged due to workplace cancellations.

In May Minister Ellery announced that all ATAR written exams would go ahead as scheduled from 2nd November 2020. Reporting on student achievements would be amended: The Semester 1 report would include information about student's general learning progress without using grades. Also, the individual's performance in relation to their peer group. Semester 2 reports would be made following the usual minimum reporting standards.

On 8th June 2020, Minister Ellery announced work placements could resume if employers were complying with COVID-19 Health Guidelines.

ATAR examinations went ahead as planned beginning on 2nd November 2020.

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) announced in June 2020 that it would be reviewing the Foundation to Year 10 Australian curriculum. It is being reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the needs of students now and into the future.

In 2014 Ministers agreed that ACARA should undertake a six-year cycle of review of the Australian Curriculum to keep it up to date. There will be opportunities for consultation with teachers throughout the review process.

Minister Ellery announced in January that development of curriculum Hindi, Korean and Tamil will begin in July and syllabuses will be developed for Pre-Primary to Year 12. The syllabuses for these languages will be available from 2023.

In 2021 every student in Year 3 to 6 at a Western Australian public school will learn a language.

The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) are producing a series of videos designed to help raise awareness around disability and how online tests have enabled students to participate and be included in regular school activities such as NAPLAN.

The Australian Government has introduced an initiative to gauge and support Year 1 students' phonics skills. Understanding phonics is foundational to the development of writing, reading and spelling skills.

A website called The Literacy Hub (www.literacyhub.edu.au) contains resources for parents and teachers including a Phonics Check for teachers, a Reading Awareness Check for families and tips and activities for families to participate in at home.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Due to COVID-19, parents were encouraged to keep their children at home where possible from 30th March 2020 and access online learning. Minister Ellery announced the “Learning at Home” website to provide lessons in line with the Australian Curriculum. There are a variety of resources aimed at each year level with documents showing how they tie in with the Curriculum. There is also a lot of support for parents and carers including tips on how to set up a learning environment and advice for parents to take care of themselves when teaching their children at home.

On 17th April 2020, a soft Term 2 opening for schools was announced. Public schools were to open on 29th April with Years 11 and 12 encouraged to attend. Distance Education packages and online resources were available for all other students to continue learning from home. These arrangements were to be in place until the end of week three.

On 14th May 2020, it was announced that all students except the medically vulnerable or those with a family member who has chronic health issues should return to school. Distance Education resources would continue to be available for those students unable to return.

On 1st December 2020, ICPA held the inaugural Geographically Isolated Distance Education Day. The aim was to recognise the vital role parents play in geographically isolated distance education and to raise awareness of the ongoing plight of families who must educate their children at home at all times.

COVID-19 has highlighted the challenges parents face in educating their children at home which is a situation many rural parents face on a regular basis. The aim was to put forward a positive message celebrating what families do but also calling for recognition.

Early Childhood Report

Jane Hughes – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

Wow what a ride 2020 was! Amongst the turmoil of a future unknown we saw many wonderful services going online to help support families especially support for Early Childhood Education.

There were no Early Childhood Education motions put forward at the March 2020 State Conference.

Throughout the past year, I attended two (2) meetings with the Strategic Advisory Group for Parenting Connection WA. Topics covered were regarding:

- COVID-19,
- Wanslea support groups for parents,
- Updates on Playgroup WA,
- Update on the new Parenting Connection website.

I received an email on 12th June advising that the Parenting Connection WA microsite is now live at: <https://parentingconnectionwa.com.au>

I have been contacted by Matheus Garde from Wanslea several times in the past year regarding their In-Home Care (IHC) service and how they can support remote families. It has been wonderful to work productively on ensuring that the best services are available for rural and remote families.

The Early Childhood sector saw a lot of changes during 2020 regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. IHC suffered greatly with many families not being able to pay their home carers as the government cut funding; claiming that as parents were now having to work from home as part of the self-isolation, they would not need carers, which for many families this simply was not the case.

On 8th June 2020, the Hon. Dan Tehan MP announced that the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) would be returning to normal as of 13th July.

Please find below the announcement from Minister Tehan.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/return-child-care-subsidy>

IN HOME CARE

A transition payment was provided to childcare services from 13th July until 27th September 2020 on top of the Child Care Subsidy, this amounts to 25% of the fees received in the reference fortnight in February. There were several conditions for the period of the transition, these can be read at the following link <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/return-child-care-subsidy>

The Government also eased the activity test until 4th October to support eligible families whose employment has been impacted as a result of COVID-19. These families received up to 100 hours per fortnight of subsidised care during this period.

The IHC guidelines have now corrected the terminology from 'Carer to Educator'; the term carer is now no longer in use.

The most recent In-Home Care National Guidelines can be found at the following link: (Updated August 2020)

<https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/home-care-national-guidelines>

I discovered while reading the updates that they have now listed SOTA arrangements as being on and off air where this was previously a 'grey' area.

DISTANCE EDUCATION AND HOME SCHOOLING

Commonwealth funding is provided to State and Territory Governments for the purposes of providing distance education, including School of the Air (on-air and off-air) arrangements. Families cannot receive childcare subsidies during the time a child is engaged in formal schooling, including for a tutor or governess to supervise the provision of distance education where the care (or part thereof) is for the purpose of the child to undertake a State or Territory education program.

This longstanding policy is stipulated in section 85BA (1) of the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999* and further clarified in Part 2, Section 8 of the *Child Care Subsidy Minister's Rules 2017*. Care provided while a child is completing homework does not constitute formal schooling.

It is wonderful to see the Education in Remote and Complex Environments Report handed down in November had two (2) of the key recommendations that directly addresses long term policy for ICPA.

A copy of these two (2) recommendations are below. ICPA (Australia) have followed this up with the Minister for Regional Education Mr Andrew Gee who has assured them he will continue to advocate for this change.

3.27 The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia Inc. (ICPA Australia) noted that while all jurisdictions offer early learning programs delivered by distance education, families accessing the programs bear 'the entire cost associated with administering, resourcing and teaching the lessons.'²⁹

ICPA Australia noted that no support is available for early learning programs through the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) distance education allowance, and that CCS payments are unavailable because these children are still in their parents' care. As a result of this, 'less than 200 children access recognised 4-year-old programs in their homes through distance education'. 30.

3.39 ICPA Australia expressed concern that funding for mobile playgroups is provided on a temporary basis, and that there is no funding available for KICS to expand into surrounding areas. ICPA Australia called for 'flexibility and surety of funding for these services'. 42.

ICPA Federal Council continues to work towards kindergarten students being eligible for AIC Distance Education Allowance and a National Working with Children Check.

Post Compulsory Report

Kym Burns – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

There was one motion raised for the Post Compulsory portfolio at the 2020 ICPA (WA) State Conference.

The motion raised by ICPA (WA) members asked *"that ICPA (WA) approach universities who offer the "Bachelor of Education" to investigate whether station placements could count towards their practical placements as part of their degree"*.

In response to this motion ICPA (WA) forwarded a letter to Professor Stephen Winn, Executive Dean of Education, Edith Cowan University. It expressed that ICPA (WA) could see some fantastic examples of how this could benefit not only the student completing the degree, but also many Western Australian families.

A very welcome change to Youth Allowance was announced by Federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud. As of 1st November 2020, young people who are working on farms and earning \$15,000 or more will have faster access to Youth Allowance. They will be eligible for the independence certificate needed to qualify for Youth Allowance or Abstudy, rather than having to work for at least 14-18 months or part-time for two (2) years to be able to prove financial independence.

The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a payment for those students moving away from home (more than 90 minutes) and commencing studies straight after Year 12 or equivalent. Certain rules must be met to be eligible to claim this allowance.

A number of allowances are available for students who are undertaking an apprenticeship or tertiary studies, these are subject to eligibility criteria. Further information is available to our members through the Centrelink website, <http://www.centrelink.gov.au>

Rural and Remote Schools Report

Naomi Obst – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

COVID-19 has certainly provided many challenges for 2020 and continues to challenge us in 2021. Being isolated suddenly became an advantage, being able to work and study alone was a newfound skill for many in the urban areas. For those in the regions it was largely business as usual.

For those who had to adjust to online learning it was a totally foreign concept. So foreign that I actually received a letter from a gentleman in England who had found my address through the Midwest ICPA Branch. He requested information on how we managed to teach remotely, what was this “School of the Air”? How do you structure the day? How do you even teach your own kids in your own home? I was able to give him a brief outline and gave him the names of some educators far more experienced in this area than myself. COVID-19, it has been devastating and disruptive for many people. However, I think it has taught many around the world what we have always known and do so well.

It is time for ICPA to capture this movement and make sure that we can have the best education for all our rural students no matter their location when face-to-face teaching cannot occur. We have some very clever and inspiring teachers with an amazing array of technology to lead our children on their learning journey. I hope that we are able to build on the Strengths of SOTA and SIDE (was it mentioned by our political leaders what an amazing institution this is during school closures?) to develop programs for small schools to give them access to inspiring and subject specific teachers via an online platform. COVID-19 and the ensuing shutdowns/school closures has shown the rest of the world what ICPA members have always known and done so well.

DENTAL VANS

Central Wheatbelt North submitted a motion at the 2020 State Conference: *“That ICPA WA lobby the Minister for Education to ensure that services such as the mobile Dental Therapy Centre are not rationalised purely due to population.”*

Concerns from members have highlighted the lack of regular dental care for many children living in rural and remote areas. In the past the “Dental Van” has made an annual visit to all schools to attend to the basic dental requirements and education of dental hygiene.

This service still continues but for many families dental care involves a lengthy car trip to attend a Dental Therapy Van in a larger regional town. If any ongoing work is required then there are more trips to make and more school days are lost due to the distances needing to be travelled.

For some families, the cost of travel or inability to get time off work is having a direct impact on the children’s oral health. There are cases of children not seeing a dentist until they reach high school age in a larger regional school. Children with poor oral health in primary school will have their learning ability impacted.

ICPA State Council has written and met with the Minister for Education, Hon. Sue Ellery MLC throughout a difficult COVID-19 year, on this motion. We thank the Minister for her understanding and listening to our concerns. Minister Ellery followed up this concern with the Minister for Health, Hon. Roger Cook MLA.

The response received from the Minister for Health was that primary health care is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The State Government provides a safety net public dental service for eligible school students via the School Dental Service (SDS). This is operated by Dental Health Services and provides free general dental care to enrolled school children between the ages of five (5) and to the end of Year 11.

Mobile Dental Therapy Centres (DTC) are located across 160 sites throughout Western Australia. Eighty percent of students enrolled in the school dental service are located at feeder schools and are required to travel to a fixed or mobile site to receive dental care. It has been difficult to ascertain the exact number of students and distances required to travel for appointments for our rural students, however it is concerning that many of our students travel in excess of 200km to receive dental care.

Further communications with the Education and Health Ministers have elicited the following response: *“That...it is not an efficient use of resources for Dental Health Services to provide onsite services to every school in Western Australia. The mobile DTC provides care in schools which are strategically located and have the highest population of students.”*

The locations that a Dental Therapy Centre (DTC) visit is dependent on a number of factors including:

- Number of children to be treated at a location
- The proximity to a nearby Mobile DTC service
- The availability of a suitable location within the school to house the Mobile DTC
- The availability and cost of providing the required utilities to operate the Mobile DTC
- The cost of relocating the Mobile DTC
- The availability and cost of suitable accommodation and travel for SDS staff.

ICPA (WA) State Council and its members are committed to ensuring equity for all students no matter where they live. Poor oral health for some students in our rural and remote areas is impacting their learning and we are happy to continue to lobby on your behalf to re-instate the Dental Van service for all students.

PRINCIPAL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

In 2019, the Esperance Branch raised the motion A8 *“For the Department to provide relevant professional development for all new Level 3 Principals”*. A follow-up conversation with the Minister for Education confirms that in 2020, forty-seven (47) new Principals have been appointed and twenty-four (24) of them have been appointed for the first time. This group of twenty-four (24) have attended the Newly Appointed Principal induction session and 88% of them have also completed the Principal Eligibility Modules. There are fifteen (15) newly appointed Principals in regional Western Australia that have completed the modules.

This is a very positive step that is providing new Principals in our small regional schools a *“tool bag”* of information that is enabling them to confidently lead our schools from day one.

We hope that the Department will continue to support this initiative so that our small rural and remote schools can begin to see some stability and length of tenure in their appointments.

CAMP SCHOOLS

There were concerns in 2019 with the condition and operating procedures at the Fairbridge Camp Schools. Feedback from schools using these facilities in 2020 was good, although limited camps were operating due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will continue to watch this space in 2021 and urge any members with concerns to contact an ICPA State Councillor.

Thank you to Education Department staff and the many teachers and boarding school support staff that our children are so reliant on for an education. 2020 was a difficult year in education but our members and State Council acknowledge your efforts to ensure our children continued to receive an education.

A special thank you to Richard Stokes and Tom Dunsmore for their never-ending support within their organisation of Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) and their recognition of the difficulties many families faced in returning boarders to face-to-face learning.

Special/Specific Needs Report

Kym Burns – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

There were no Special Education motions raised at the 2020 ICPA (WA) State Conference. However as always, the area of Special Education remains of great importance to ICPA (WA) and its members.

As education is a vital part of every child's life families with children who have special and or specific educational needs want reassurance that their children are guaranteed the correct support and services available to their unique learning needs.

The Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM) introduced in 2015 is the funding mechanism allocated to public schools for each student enrolled and additional funding for students needing extra support. The objective of the funding model is:

- allocate resources based on the learning needs of students
- ensure funding is responsive to the needs of individual schools and their students
- increase flexibility for principles in relation to financial and workforce management decisions
- provide a simple and transparent funding mechanism

Further information can be obtained at SCFM@education.wa.edu.au

ICPA both at a State and Federal level continue to lobby for the needs of all students across Australia. ICPA members have highlighted many issues impacting students with special/specific learning needs. A brief summary of these are:

- Provision of a Medicare rebate for Telehealth Services
- Provision of travel and accommodation assistance for travel to face-to-face services
- Improved staff training for teachers in rural and remote locations
- Workshops for rural and remote parents of gifted and talented students
- Early identification and intervention for learning difficulties
- Provision of additional resources in boarding schools for students with disability

Recommendations on the above summaries can be found at:

<https://www.icpa.com.au/page/attachement/217specific-education-needs-briefing-paper-december-2020>

An area of interest to members, especially those with family members who may have special educational needs is, the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health. (SSEN: MMH).

This learning facility provides educational support for those students whose medical or mental health prevents them from successfully participating in their enrolled school programs. They are 1 of 4 schools of Special Educational Needs federated Schools. The others being Behaviour and Engagement, Disability and Sensory.

Support is available to both public and private school students. Referrals are received through the Department of Health, with parent consent. They deliver over 60 teaching and liaison programs in more than 40 "Department of Health" settings statewide.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAMS

Children with exceptional abilities from country Western Australia who wish to participate in a Gifted and Talented Academic, Arts or Languages Secondary Selective Programs have access to a range of options:

- participate in the [Selective Academic Program Online](#)
- attend [Bunbury Senior High School](#) or [Albany Senior High School](#) (from 2022), our regional schools

- study in Perth and board at [City Beach Residential College](#)
- study in Albany and board at [Albany Residential College](#) (from 2022, students must live outside Albany).

Students in regional Western Australia are not required to travel to Perth for testing. They will be allocated a testing venue within their education region based on the location of their current school.

Country testing is coordinated by Regional Assessment Coordinators who organise venues based on the location of students in their region. For more information contact the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit by phone on (08) 9264 4307 or email gtsu@education.wa.edu.au.

Selective Academic Program Online:

If you live in country Western Australia, your child can apply for the Selective Academic Program Online. Using computer links and innovative technology, your child can access the program without moving to Perth.

Each online program is managed by a coordinator from one of the following schools. Who conducts:

- mathematics and science from Perth Modern School
- humanities (English, society and environment) from Kelmscott Senior High School.

If your child will attend a public secondary school in a regional area, they will be able to access the online program.

Selection into these programs is based on the results of the Academic Selective Entrance Test.

For more information about the Selective Academic Program Online, visit the program's [website](#), email PerthModern.GTOnline@education.wa.edu.au or phone (08) 9392 6818.

Residential College:

Country students offered a Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Program placement are able to apply to board at [City Beach Residential College](#), [Rotary Residential College](#) or [Albany Residential College](#).

The Gifted and Talented Boarding Allowance is available to those children boarding at City Beach Residential College who do not qualify for:

- the Australian Government Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme
- a State Government Boarding Away from Home (BAHA) allowance.

In 2020, the Gifted and Talented Boarding Allowance was valued at up to \$1 634 a year.

To find out more, phone:

City Beach Residential College on (08) 9285 2672, email citybeach.rescol@education.wa.edu.au or visit their [website](#).

Rotary Residential College on (08) 9470 4177, email admin@rotaryresidentialcollege.com.au

Albany Residential College on (08) 9842 1007, email albany.rescol@education.wa.edu.au or visit their [website](#).

PRIMARY EXTENSION AND CHALLENGE (PEAC) PROGRAMS

The Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) program is a part-time withdrawal program for upper primary school Year 5 and 6 students in public schools.

Identified students are selected to participate in differentiated programs offered in a range of delivery modes.

Delivery modes include:

- regional based PEAC centres providing a series of specialist courses or programs

- co-ordinator/s who establish courses in a range of schools and/or other sites and teachers are released to teach the courses
- allocation to schools and multi-age programs operate within schools
- online delivery of programs.

Blanket testing of all public school Year 4 students occurs each year with individual schools testing their own students. Parents who do not wish for their children to be tested can opt out by contacting their school in writing.

PEAC programs are managed at a regional level. Contact your local Education Regional Office to find out more.

Student Accommodation Report

Chandra Ridley – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

It was a difficult year for Student Accommodation with the COVID-19 outbreak.

From mid-March 2020 boarding facilities began introducing measures such as social distancing, staggered mealtimes, reduced recreation activities and increased cleaning regimes to help combat COVID-19. By 27th March 2020 boarding facilities were closed.

Students in Years 11 and 12 were required to start attending school again from 29th April. There were no boarding facilities open at this time, with some schools recommending students stay with Perth based family or guardians.

A media statement issued by the Minister of Education and Training on 1st May 2020 announced that all residential boarding facilities would reopen from 5th May 2020. All Year 12 students would be able to return back to public boarding facilities.

Years 10, 11 and 12 could return to Albany, Broome, Esperance, Moora and Narrogin Residential Colleges. All years could return to City Beach, Geraldton, Merredin and Northam Residential Colleges.

Year 12 students were permitted to return to Cunderdin College of Agriculture. Only Years 11 and 12 were able to return to Denmark, Harvey and Narrogin Agricultural Colleges, with all years permitted to return to boarding at Morawa Agricultural College.

Catholic and Independent schools made their own decisions in line with Government guidelines.

An additional \$343,000 was to be spent on cleaners, cleaning staff and cleaning supplies.

Parents had the choice as to whether they sent their children back to boarding. Those students needing to cross residential boundaries could do so via Educational Exemption.

Quite a few restrictions were imposed including:

- No visits home during term time.
- No visitors to boarding, including parents.
- Modified recreational outings.
- Staggered mealtimes.
- Possible temperature monitoring.
- Contact tracing upon returning from leave.
- Flu vaccination recommended before returning to boarding.
- Public transport discouraged.

- Social distancing in boarding houses, boarders spread throughout facility.

Also announced on 1st May 2020 by the Minister was that eighty (80) Public Schools, Education Support Centres and Residential Colleges were taking part in the DETECT Program to test for COVID-19 in schools and the psychosocial impacts of the virus. The tests targeted groups that do not have any symptoms. The testing took place for three to six months and included Albany Residential College, Geraldton Residential College, Western Australian College of Agriculture Harvey and Narrogin. There were three aspects: surveillance study where staff and students are tested over three months, contact tracing of positive test results and psychosocial impacts of COVID-19 among students, parents, and teachers.

From 18th May 2020 all students in residential facilities were allowed to return home on weekends at the discretion of the Principal or Residential Manager. Restrictions on parents, care givers and non-essential visitors from entering school grounds remained in place.

On 8th June 2020, a media release stated restrictions had been lifted for public schools allowing the resumption of several activities including school camps, sports training, assemblies and excursions with a limit of 100 people for indoor events and 300 for outdoor events. School camps were limited to 100 attendees. It was stated that the AHPPC (Australian Health Protection Principal Committee) were reviewing advice regarding risk management for boarding schools.

On 17th June 2020, the AHPPC released an updated statement on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in boarding facilities.

Risk assessments should include but not be limited to a consideration of:

- Accommodation and sleeping arrangements.
- Mealtimes and processes.
- Control of entry and exit to sites.
- Process for and records relating to visitors.
- Off campus visits.
- Cleaning regimes.
- Vulnerable students.
- Vulnerable teachers and other staff.
- Laundry areas and other ancillary areas.
- Mental health of students.

Minister Ellery released a media statement on 18th June 2020 stating that dormitory capacity restrictions had been lifted for public school boarding facilities. Home visits could resume and parents were able to visit the facilities.

School camps were able to fill their dormitories but the 100-person limit for camps remained.

From 27th June 2020 the limit of 100 students at school camps no longer applied, in line with the introduction of Phase 4 of the WA COVID-19 Roadmap.

Some boarding facilities continued to limit access to boarding houses and students needed to complete contact tracing upon returning to boarding after outings.

On 18th August 2020, the McGowan Government announced a \$4 million allocation to establish a Martu Residential Facility in Newman. The project includes converting three BHP owned houses into separate accommodation for male and female students. Construction is expected to begin in early October 2020 and be ready to house up to

twelve students in 2021. This will enable Martu children wishing to further their education to do so close to family and country.

The Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) Chief Executive Officer, Richard Stokes, released a media statement on 18th August 2020 regarding students who board interstate. Students who attended school outside of their home state were unable to travel home for the holidays, or to see their parents if they wish to return to school without quarantining for two weeks. He was asking for consideration of these students needs as a matter of urgency so they could travel home for the holidays. This affects 19 students in Western Australia.

On 31st August 2020, the Minister for Decentralization and Regional Education, Andrew Gee, asked State and Territory Governments to map out a COVID safe pathway to allow interstate boarding students to travel home for the school holidays then return to school. Many students were forced to self-isolate in a hotel or commercial accommodation at their own expense before returning to school.

Many students were returning to homes in remote locations that were COVID-19 free. They should be able to isolate in their own homes before returning to school without posing a risk to the community. Minister Gee was trying to develop a compassionate pathway forward that looked after the health and wellbeing of the community, boarding students and their families.

On 18th September 2020, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) released a statement stating it supported the safe return of boarding students to their homes during the school holidays and recognized the challenges COVID-19 was presenting. Several States implemented appropriate risk-based approaches and class exemptions to support the safe return of students and staff. As the issues were more complex for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding students, these needed to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

On 31st January 2021, a weeklong COVID-19 lockdown was announced by WA Premier Mark McGowan. This coincided with the return to school. Boarding facilities were closed. When they reopened a week later Phase 4 restrictions were put in place. Although masks had to be worn to school, boarding facilities were classed as homes and students were not required to wear masks.

Phase 4 COVID-19 restrictions are still in place in boarding schools.

Some Catholic boarding schools require all visitors to boarding to have the Safe WA app. This includes parents, family members and Perth based guardians.

Teacher Training Report

Naomi Obst – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

No motions were presented to this portfolio in 2020.

TEACHER TRAINING UPDATE

In 2020, all teacher training institutes across Australia are required to undertake a Quality Teacher Performance Assessment (QTPA). This is one of three quality assessment models approved for use by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership. It is aimed at ensuring all pre-service teachers entering the profession are required to meet the highest of standards.

Edith Cowan University assessed and interviewed 607 students in July 2020. Professor Stephen Winn, Executive Dean, School of Education, ECU said the QTPA is in addition to the existing academic assessments and professional

experience requirements and was a massive undertaking for staff and students. The Teacher Professional Assessment will continue to demonstrate how ECU'S pre-service teacher graduates will maintain public confidence that teachers are classroom ready upon graduation.

It is a requirement for any student enrolled in a nationally accredited initial teacher education course to sit the literacy and numeracy test. They must meet or exceed the national benchmark to graduate as specified by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER). These tests are set, monitored and assessed by ACER.

Primary School Teaching Direct Entry Requirements (Year 13)

Edith Cowan University	Direct entry ATAR	70	4 years duration
Curtin University	Direct Entry ATAR	70	4 years duration
Murdoch University	Direct Entry ATAR	70	4 Years duration
Notre Dame University	Direct Entry ATAR	80	4 Years Duration

All the above Western Australian Universities have alternative modes of entry for students who meet these criteria.

Travel Report

Sally Brindal – Portfolio Holder, March 2021

STUDENT TRAVEL SUBSIDY SCHEME

At the 2020 ICPA (WA) State Conference a number of travel motions were presented relating to various aspects of the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme.

Motions A10, A11 and A14 sought to have ICPA (WA) lobby the Department of Transport – On-demand Transport and the Minister for Transport to review the transport hub policy criteria for the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS) – Road Travel Subsidy. These motions were presented as a result of members having applications for the STSS – Road Travel Subsidy for the 2019 school year rejected.

Although there had been no change to the eligibility guidelines, ICPA (WA) highlighted the inequities that were occurring due to On-demand Transport applying the proximity to a transport hub on a strict basis, irrespective of whether the service goes to the nearest public school, how frequent the service operates, or whether the transport goes in the totally opposite direction. ICPA (WA) provided examples from members where claims had been rejected and requested a review into the transport hub policy criteria to more appropriately fit rural travel situations.

One of the objectives of the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme Policy is *'to alleviate the difficulties associated with access to secondary/tertiary education related transport in regional and remote Western Australia.'*

The following questions were asked of Minister Saffioti:

- How can it be equitable that to be eligible for the Road Travel Subsidy (RTS) there is absolutely no correlation between the closest appropriate government school with boarding facilities and transport to get to that school?
- What is the purpose of the Road Travel Subsidy (RTS) if the eligibility criteria are based on the proximity of government services, such as public transport, if the transport service does not go to the nearest school to where a family lives? The nearest appropriate government school to a family home is the benchmark by which many allowances are based and yet according to the Department of Transport it is not a consideration for the RTS.

- What is the purpose of the RTS if it is not assisting children who live more than 56km from their nearest appropriate government school, with no public transport, to access that school?
- How can it be considered equitable in using the proximity to a transport service as a means of rejecting an application if that transport service goes in the completely opposite direction?

Responses from Ms Veronica Jeffreys, Chief of Staff to Minister Saffioti clearly highlighted that proximity to a transport hub is the determining factor so, utilising mail chimp, a survey was sent to members requesting further information from families who had their 2019 RTS claim rejected. Such information included the details of school location, transport hub location and whether they attend the nearest government school.

The results of the survey highlighted that the greatest number of affected families are those within the Lakes and Eastern District Branches, especially those within the Narrogin High School catchment. The plight of these families, and the inequities of the current system, were also raised with Mr Peter Rundle MLA, The Nationals, and Donna Faragher, Shadow Minister for Education, who raised the issue in the last sitting of Parliament. This is a matter that State Council will continue to pursue.

Motion A13 was seeking additional discounted fares for students who are required to travel home by air, bus or train at times additional to those already provided for in the STSS Fares Allowance scheme.

The subsidised fare is designed to assist families with the cost of to and from the student's educational institution and travel dates should reflect term/semester dates.

Correspondence received from Ms Jeffrey felt the STSS is sufficiently flexible to enable eligible students to use their entitlements at any time during the school year including travelling home for mid-term breaks, long weekends or other circumstances.

Ms Jeffreys confirmed that the entitlements can be used at any time throughout the school year. The 'within two weeks' requirement only relates to the start and end of the academic year. Although this provided some clarity with regards to the application of the scheme, we have been unsuccessful, so far, in our request for additional discounted fares.

Motion S1 requested ICPA (WA) lobby the Department of Transport to accept and process requests for refunds for airfares up until 31st December.

The current STSS allows for subsidised fares to be accessed using a travel voucher or by requesting a refund. If a family chooses to book and pay for air, bus or train travel rather than applying for a travel voucher, they may apply for a reimbursement, however, completed refund applications for airfares must be submitted no later than one month after the last date of travel on the e-Ticket or tax invoice. The STSS Road Travel Subsidy allows families to remit refund applications for subsidised air, bus or train travel up until the end of the calendar year.

When managing the logistics of secondary students boarding away from home from remote areas, circumstances often change during the year altering the plans of transporting students to and from boarding school. The flexibility of allowing airfare refunds until 31st December ensures families are receiving the entitlements the scheme has been designed for.

Ms Jeffrey's response was that the option to request a travel voucher from the Department of Transport (DoT) and incur no out of pocket expenses is available to all families. Additionally, processing refund applications within a specified timeframe allows DoT to meet its financial governance obligations and allows for processing of refunds within a single financial year. It also ensures families receive their refunds as quickly as possible and are not out of pocket for extended periods

Motion S2 was seeking increased flexibility in relation to where a student flies to and from due to special circumstances such as weather events adverse family logistics when attending camp schools etc.

Currently, when applying for a refund or voucher through STSS, a student is only eligible to submit a request for flights via the most direct route by air/bus/train between the principal family home or usual place of residence and Perth.

ICPA (WA) explained that there are two circumstances that may affect the location a student flies to:

1. Weather events such as flooding and fires may cause road closures between a family home and their nearest airport; however, roads between the family home and an alternative airport may be open, allowing the opportunity for students to fly to the alternative airport.
2. Families in remote areas can travel large distances to access needs and services for a variety of reasons, such as student pick-ups from school camps for younger siblings who attend Distance Education schools, such as School of the Air, and/or medical services.

ICPA (WA) provided an example of how things might occur and requested they investigate this matter and support rural and remote families by offering an element of flexibility to receive a fairer distribution of the benefits of the scheme. A student should be eligible to request a voucher or claim the amount of a fare to their usual place of residence regardless of the location they are flying to.

Ms Jeffrey explained that the primary objective of the STSS is to reduce the amount of time that children are outside parental supervision when travelling between home and educational institutions. DoT is committed to assisting students, in particular, minors travelling alone, to be transported as safely as possible between their home and school. It is therefore a requirement that students travel directly to home or to school rather than to other locations. Any person aware of the practicalities of living in the Defined Remote Area (DRA) of WA would understand this is not always possible.

Motion F1 sought a review of the eligibility criteria for families in receipt of the AIC Second Home Allowance in relation to accepting the principal place of residence as the address of the claimant rather than the second home address. This would enable those families in the Defined Remote Area of Australia to utilise the STSS Fares Allowance.

A conflict exists between the place of residence eligibility for the AIC Second home Allowance and STSS fares allowance.

Paula Tomkins A/General Manager, On-demand Transport explained the following:

"Federally funded payments and allowances do not direct how this State-based STSS is administered, however there are a number of payments and allowances provided by the Federal Government that may affect eligibility for the STSS."

A primary objective of the STSS is to limit the amount of time a child spends away from parental supervision (e.g., boarding away from home for extended periods)..... Families who are able to benefit from the Federally funded AIC Second Home Allowance and can therefore spend the entire school year together, are spared the expense of boarding fees that other families living in remote areas on a fulltime basis incur."

CONVEYANCING ALLOWANCE

Motion A12 was raised at State Conference requesting an increase in payment per kilometre for the Public Transport Authority (PTA) Conveyance Allowance.

A conveyancing allowance is paid to a parent/carer to assist in costs of driving their child to and from school or a pickup location. It is a contribution towards the cost of fuel, tyres, repairs and maintenance of a private vehicle, and the amount payable is indexed annually.

ICPA (WA) wrote to John Bailly, School Bus Services outlining that in previous years, the payment per kilometre travelled contributed considerably towards the costs associated with transporting children to school when there is no access to school bus services. However, in the past two years, the cost of fuel and parts to remote areas has meant that this allowance now only contributes a token amount towards the cost families incur in transporting their children to school. An increase to the payment per kilometre would help support rural and remote families accessing an equitable education.

In response Mr John Bailly explained that the PTA were operating under tight budgetary restraints from Treasury. There had been increased costs caused by the pandemic such as additional school bus cleaning. The Transport CPI figure applied every June had decreased by 8.1% although there would be no reduction to the current conveyancing allowance rate of 21.51c. Mr Bailly did suggest we re-raise the issue when things are more normalised

COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly progressed, shortly after our State Conference, State Council was contacted by members concerned about their STSS Fares Allowance travel bookings. In accordance with the guidelines many families had already utilised the travel voucher system to secure travel arrangements (predominately air) for the end of Term 1 on 9th April 2020. If the Department of Education directed the closure of schools, prior to the end of term, these families would need to make alternative travel arrangements. At least one member had contacted the Department of Transport with regards to the possibility of transferring that voucher to cover the cost of return travel in the event of early school closure. The Department of Transport advised that the travel voucher can only be used on that specific day (9th April). The cost of an alternative day of travel to be borne by the individual. Fortunately, after correspondence from ICPA (WA), On-demand Transport notified ICPA (WA) that, families would be able change their existing flights if students need to return home due to their educational institution or boarding facilities closing and the Department of Transport would cover the cost of changing flights.

With the introduction of regional borders and additional bio-security restrictions in the Kimberley, students from the Kimberley, attending an educational facility in Perth, were initially required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to returning home for the holidays. As a direct result of communications from ICPA (WA) an exemption from the 14 days self-isolation was granted, with applications to be made via the G2G PASS.

Since March 2020, the Department of Transport had been working with Student Travel Subsidy Scheme (STSS) participants to support families' travel requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As educational institution and domestic travel schedules returned to normal, the additional supports that had been in place ceased from 1 January 2021. Standard conditions of travel and reimbursement resumed for all travel that is booked on or after 1 January 2021.

All other terms and conditions are also reinstated.

Please familiarise yourself with the requirements of the STSS, which can be found on the Department's [website](#). If you require any further information, please phone 1300 660 147.

Rural and Remote Education Advisory Council (RREAC) Report

Naomi Obst – Appointee, March 2021

There were no face-to-face meetings in 2020 due to COVID-19.

There were two zoom meetings, one in July, one in November.

There was no input from RREAC to the Minister for Education's office during 2020 in relation to the pandemic. This is extremely disappointing given the impact that school and boarding school shutdowns had on all families in Rural and Remote regions that this council represents.

Communication with RREAC could have prevented the angst that parents were facing when returning children to school with signed access documents, and the continuing confusion on non-uniformed restrictions in Boarding Schools.

10th December 2020 a letter from the Hon. Sue Ellery MLC advised that cabinet had approved my appointment to the RREAC board as a representative for ICPA (WA). The term of appointment is for two years from this date after which appointments may be renewed by cabinet, subject to a maximum tenure of 10 years.

BRANCH REPORTS

Central Wheatbelt North Report

Lisa Brennan - President

CWN Branch has had a quiet year. COVID-19 ensured the cancellation of regional field days and a loss of fundraising opportunities. Our branch very much appreciates State Council's advocacy in addressing our Branch's concern about the erosion of services to rural schools. Our local example was the loss of the mobile Dental Therapy Van to a few small rural schools. We have found this places extra pressure on school attendance, access to dental care and parent travel time and expense.

We have also received reports that rural students are disadvantaged in accessing music lessons, despite a music teacher able to travel within our Branch region. Our members hope that extra-curricular activities such as music are promoted within the system to all students, especially when expertise is offered locally.

Our boarding students moved home to continue their education online during the COVID-19 lockdown and members were happy to report that mobile and data networks were above expectations. Thank you to the service providers that continue to invest in our regions.

Thanks once again to State Council for being the voice for regional, rural and remote students and families and asking the questions to the policy makers. We agree with State Councils message "to make 2021 the year of PLUS 1" in regard to membership. Please keep renewing your family membership as ICPA is a well-respected, unique volunteer parent body association.

Eastern Districts Branch Report

Samantha Greay, President

The year started with State Conference at Scarborough Beach Rendezvous Hotel in March with Carla Hyde and I attending. Kym Burns was elected to State Council for a second year and we hope she has enjoyed her previous year on council. I was also elected to State Council this year and have learnt so much.

This year also saw a considerable change for the Eastern Districts Branch with our new name and the awarding of Hyden Life Membership to:

Mrs Gwen Walton (OAM)

Founding Member 1981

Branch Secretary 1981

Branch President 1991 to 1994

Branch Publicity Officer 1985

Federal Council 1987 to 1989

WA State Delegate 1985

Hyden Delegate 1988 to 1990

Conference Observer 1983 and 1984

State President 1988 to 1991

Immediate Past President 1992 to 1994

State Secretary 1983 to 1986

Pedals Editor 1985 to 1989

ICPA Honour Badge at State Conference 1995

Gwen remains a branch member.

Gwen's involvement began with ICPA in 1981 when Carolyn Burns, a close friend, suggested they form a branch in Hyden. In 1983 Gwen was persuaded to take over the role as State Secretary – big shoes to fill as she followed Valmai Kopke.

Gwen served for three (3) years on the Federal Executive and in addition to this she has volunteered her time to positions on both State Council and at this Branch. One of her main contributions was as Editor of the Pedals magazine from 1985 to 1989 when she handed the position on to the efficient Marlene Mayfield.

Gwen describes the role of editor as a wonderful experience as she got to know members from all over Australia, (even if only by phone and "snail mail" – no internet and emails back then!) It was a delight to receive contributions from members, though the panic of – "did I have enough material?" - would set in a couple of weeks before the deadline.

In a Pedals magazine dated June 1995 when Gwen was presented her Honour Badge, she was once quoted as saying:

"One learned early in a person's term that if one had a good idea and brought it forward, then as likely as not, our President would say " That's a good idea, you have obviously thought it out, so you may as well follow it through."

And true to her character Gwen pursued these ideas and saw them through to fruition.

Mrs Carolyn Burns

Founding Member 1981

President 1981 to 1986

Vice President 1992 to 1994

Publicity Officer 1987 and 1988

Secretary 1998 and 1999

Carolyn remains a member of the branch to date.

Carolyn's involvement in ICPA began in 1981 when she suggested to her close friends Gwen Walton and Kath James to form the Hyden Branch. Carolyn was the first Branch President with Gwen as Secretary and Kath as Treasurer.

Without Carolyn's passion and initiative this branch would not be where it is today and shows us all what an amazing achievement her dedication to ICPA has achieved that we continue to remain as one of the largest branches in WA. Carolyn continues today as an active member of the branch attending branch meeting and fundraisers. Thank you, Carolyn.

Mrs Marlene Mayfield

Founding Member 1981

Secretary 1985 to 1988

Publicity Officer 1989 and 1990

State Representative 1993 to 1995

Pedals Editor 1989 to 1993

Marlene remains a branch member to date.

It was Gwen Walton who talked Marlene into taking on the editing of 'Pedals', a job which she really enjoyed and was sorry to give up, but felt it was important to move on and let others have a go. Oh, how she wishes technology had been further advanced in those days - no internet, no computers, just an electric typewriter!

Whilst enjoying Federal Conferences, putting faces to names, Marlene spent a good portion of time at four of them trying to put together a Pedals report. Her very first presentation was at Dubbo Conference. She felt totally calm, cool and collected whilst addressing the large gathering – then walked to the back of the room and had to sit quickly - her legs suddenly feeling like jelly!!!!!!!!!!

Reading through some literature that Marlene has given me for next year I found a really funny piece.

1987 Conference when the guest speaker was none other than Princess Anne who impressed us all with her understanding of ICPA, and her warmth and friendly personality. Everyone was required to be seated early for her arrival, but Marlene had left some item of importance in the car, so decided it would be appropriate to go down the back stairwell to retrieve the item, and return the same way from the car park, so as to not get caught up with the dignitaries as Her Royal Highness arrived.

Marlene was unaware that as a security measure, as she descended the stairwell, the door locked behind her at each floor, so found herself locked out of the building from the back entrance when trying to return the same way, thus, in the end, she had to try and re-join the conference in the most unobtrusive way possible. It was a "red faced" moment.

Mrs Kath James was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her valuable contributions to the Hyden Branch. These awards were presented at our Melbourne Cup Luncheon. Unfortunately, Mrs Gwen Walton was unable to attend but we hope she will make it to our 40th Birthday.

These ladies attended to all of their jobs as they came up rather than putting it off till later and along with their husbands attended many State and Federal Conferences.

At Federal Conference, Hyden Branch would always submit many in-depth motions, which were always ardently debated. They fought for much of what we continue to fight for today. "Equity in education for all rural and remote students". Back when the agricultural areas did not have such a focus as the station kids, they were the ones who needed a strong voice.

Their hard work was done by writing letters followed by the frustrating snail mail and making phone calls, as there was no internet back then.

Today we are extremely fortunate that if we need any information from the past, I know we can just ask, and they will have the answers for us either that day or the next without hesitation.

I would like to congratulate these ladies and to thank each of them for all they have done and what they still bring to our branch.

Melbourne Cup 2020 looked unlikely to happen in March with the rollout of COVID-19. Gladly WA was able to stay safe enough that this could go ahead and we all would agree the recreation centre looked fabulous. An enormous thank you to all that attended, helped on the day and supplied food. Thank you to the local businesses who supplied gifts for our wonderful raffles, desserts, the face painter, and Jumpy castle for the children so the parents could "semi relax".

Our Bursary winners for 2020 are:

Years PP-6:	Emily Mudge
Years 7-9:	Kelsey Greig
Years 10-12:	Maxwell Mead

2021 marks 40 years of ICPA Eastern Districts Branch (formally Hyden Branch) and we look forward to a special celebration.

A big thank you must go to the branch executive committee for all your help over the year.

In closing I would like to wish all our members a wonderful year and look forward to you all being a part of the ICPA Eastern Districts Branch.

Esperance Branch Report

Tracey Schlink, Secretary

Unfortunately, our President has left town and we have just not found the time to meet so far this year. Unfortunately, no one is available to attend the State Conference this year.

Our Branch only met once last year and our branch AGM is scheduled for 17th March where we will endeavour to put a committee together.

Currently we sponsor all the Primary Schools and High Schools in the District for Book Awards each year which amounts to approximately \$500. However, we are considering stopping this and creating a one-off scholarship for a Year 7 Boarding student going into 2022.

To be honest, we have found a lot of apathy with the current batch of parents. We think no one really understands or wants to know about ICPA. There are so many other groups / committees out there it is a bit of a glut with the small number of people willing to put their hand up to contribute.

I will report back to State Council after our AGM with the new committee and our plan moving forward.

We wish to pass on our best wishes to the Gascoyne Branch for convening Conference and State Council also.

Gascoyne Branch Report

Alys McKeough, President

Well, 2020 is a year we will not forget but it was also encouraging that city-based people had to experience what schooling your children remotely is like and the challenges that comes with that.

2020 began normally and we held our AGM in February in Carnarvon at the Carnarvon School of the Air Home Tutors Seminar. We had a few new families at the School of the Air who joined our branch which was great. We held our annual school photo fundraiser as well.

During the year we sent delegates to State Conference but unfortunately no one was able to attend the online Federal Conference from the branch. We are hoping to make sure we send two this year to celebrate 50 years of Federal ICPA.

In September 2020 we ran a bar at one of the Gascoyne Food Festival events at Wooramel Station. It was themed Fire and Froth - it was a great night for all who attended and we raised over \$1400 for the branch to use for the conference this year.

Most schools in the Gascoyne received SPIRIT of the Gascoyne book awards and our SPIRIT of the Gascoyne Bursary (\$1000) went to Kyla Bremer a Carnarvon School of the Air student. Her article will be in Pedals at some stage during the year. Our SPIRIT awards have been great at developing relationships with schools within our region and they all know who we are. This year I managed to present a number of the awards and that was extremely rewarding - the kids are just so happy when they "win" something for being a student who shows Sparkle, Passion, Imagination, Resilience, Integrity and Tenacity (SPIRIT).

2021 is off with a bang (with a little 5-day lockdown thrown in) and as the hosts of this year's conference we have been busy planning and preparing and hope that you all have a fantastic day.

We have had one branch meeting and are following it up with a Zoom AGM at the end of March to vote in new committee members.

The issues raised at the branch level include (and have been submitted as supplementary motions):

- The funding model being used to fund Schools of the Air and the budget decreases that are affecting delivery of programs that are unique to SOTA - this needs review because our School of the Air cannot deliver programs with the current predicted funding - not only have they lost funding as part of the rollout of the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM) they have also decreased in student numbers.
- The new education department policies relating to camps and excursions and the restrictions imposed across the department. The effect of these changes on Schools of the Air makes it more difficult to deliver programs.
- The erosion of BAHA funding for parents sending children away.

I would like to thank the Gascoyne Branch members for being incredibly supportive and helping out when needed. We also as a branch thank State Council who work tirelessly on our behalf.

Goldfields Eyre Branch Report

James Wood, President

This year's AGM has been postponed until after the ICPA (WA) State conference due to low numbers and a terribly busy School of the Air Home Tutors Seminar.

Our current office bearers are:

President:	James Wood,
Secretary:	Elyce Donaghy
Treasurer:	Brie Campbell
Executive Officer:	Shannon Prosser

Whilst we in the bush were saved by many of the negative effects of COVID-19 last year we did see some restrictions handicap many of our School of the Air families in terms of access to their teachers, home visits and camps. Members with children boarding away at Secondary Schools over East suffered due to the uncertainty created by travel restrictions and one family made the hard decision to bring their daughter home and enrolled her in the local boarding facility at Esperance instead.

COVID-19 also impacted our ability to fundraise as we made the decision not to approach local businesses for donations in these uncertain times.

Despite these challenges our members remain grateful for the isolated nature of their home and work lives and the safety it offered our children and families during the Pandemic. For all of us in the Goldfields Eyre Branch, parents and students, home schooling and social distancing comes naturally! It has been a good reminder for us all that we should focus more on the advantages of living in an isolated place rather than always lamenting the difficulties that inevitably arise for us all.

Lively discussions at the branch this year focused on broadening our base and reaching out to families in our district who have either never heard of the ICPA or who feel too time poor to be involved in another committee. Overwhelmingly members state the lack of social interaction with other young people to be their biggest worry for their children and as such the branch has decided to run at least one annual camp per year for all young people in the Goldfields Eyre region. We hope this camp can help bring families with small babies right up to teenagers away at school together as a community. Camps like these forge strong communities and much needed support for isolated families. We have also recognised the need to provide information about the ICPA and what we do to new families in the region and not rely solely on the Kalgoorlie School of the Air in order to recruit members or disseminate information for us.

I would like to thank all Goldfields Eyre members for their tireless work and ongoing support and contribution to the branch, without you we would not be as strong as we are.

Kimberley Air Branch Report

Connie Wood, President

2020, as it was for many others, proved to be a challenging year for the Kimberly Air Branch. We have welcomed a couple of new members without our Kimberley School of the Air community and it has been nice to see some new faces at our AGM held in November 2020.

As a branch we are continuing to promote ICPA to the broader community beyond our core group of School of the Air parents. This is proving difficult due to the large geographical area and population demographic that our branch spans. We have found some success with moving our branch meetings online, via Zoom which has been a great help covering the distance, despite the difficulty of internet and phone connection amidst the wet season storms!

Last year the main social events for our regions, the race rounds, camp drafts and rodeos were mostly all cancelled, so plans to promote our branch were halted until 2021. Amongst these, our usual fundraiser the Kimberley Picnic Races Presentation Ball was cancelled so the branch missed out on much needed and appreciated funds.

Main areas of concern for our branch members in 2020 /2021:

- Travel to and from their home regions without restriction for our boarding school students
- Quarantine and access issues for families with students boarding interstate from WA.
- Sky Muster having no educational add on options for unlimited access to materials for Tertiary students studying remotely within the regions.
- Lack of support for early childhood within the Kimberley region and difficulties with the In-Home Care system.
- Access to team sports activities for our School of the Air students.

Let us hope that 2021 proves to be a more prosperous year for the Kimberley Air Branch!

Lakes District Branch Report

Claire Walter, President

Well, what a year! So crazy! I am glad that all my children have finished school and I did not have to navigate my way through all the challenges COVID-19 presented. Luckily, I was only isolated by regional boundaries from one child and my family, but it is weird how when someone tells you that you cannot do something you really want to do it even if you only did it the week before.

As far as a President's report, I do not have a lot to report on.

Two representatives (Kym Ross and myself) went to State Conference where both of our motions were passed which made our drinks on the balcony at Scarborough Beach go down remarkably well. One was about increasing the BAHA and the other regarding transport issues.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Federal Conference was online and our annual fundraiser was cancelled. No ICPA donuts in Newdegate this year.

But... this did open a new window for us to 'wander out yonder'. My husband and I have wanted to go to the Gascoyne Junction Races for years but, it has always conflicted with the Newdegate Field Day (our annual fundraiser). Well not this year, and it did not let us down. It would have to be one of the friendliest, most fun race events we have been to.

The races were just a destination, it is just as much about the trip and it was amazing! We really do live in the lucky state in the lucky country.

We called in to see Alys and Harry McKeough at the Carey Downs caravan park, on their beautiful station with old seabeds, incredible water holes, rocky outcrops and at night enjoyed socialising under the never-ending stars and were spoilt by Alys's hospitality. If you get time, I highly recommend it.

We could not go past Lakes District mentors (Jane and Cliff Hughes) station at Mooloo Downs which was not far from Mount Augustus. Even though they were in the middle of packing up their home, and only had a day's warning, we were welcomed by the whole family and ate like the Flintstones with the biggest, tastiest spareribs I have ever had! Cliff took Tim on a mill run while Jane and I had a good catch up and the kids did what kids do; save a hen and her eggs from a massive bob tail goanna and hoon around on their motorbike!

The rest of our trip was down the coast and we cannot wait to go back and see what the "Mighty Gascoyne" is like when it is green and hopefully flowing.

As with most clubs and associations, passing on the batten remains hard as everyone is so busy these days. But when you have an executive position or are an active member of an association, this is when the passion is ignited! Good luck and well done to the future and present committee.

Meekatharra Air Branch Report

Claire Mahony, President

The past year has been fairly low key for the Meekatharra Air Branch, holding a meeting in December via Zoom, then any other correspondence sent via email.

We only had one change in committee members which was our secretary Anna Tierney who stepped down. Thank you for all your work and we welcome Tracie Blair on board.

I would like to express a big thank you to Raelene Hall as leader and our Meekatharra Air Branch members for all your time and effort that went into convening the 2020 State Conference. Well done team!!

COVID-19 was not a real issue for our families, with kids living in the bush we just went on with home-schooling as per usual, no lockdowns could drag us home tutors from the classrooms (unfortunately). I would like to acknowledge the past and present mums/home tutors; teaching kids is extremely hard work some days, but we do it.

Thank you to our State and Federal Councils for all the work you do, it is much appreciated.

Midwest Branch Report

Jen Critch, President

It has been a fairly quiet year for the Midwest Branch of ICPA. We held our Annual General Meeting at the Meekatharra School of Air in Bluff Point's lovely meeting room again in February 2020. The branch had 58 members in 2020 and hope to maintain these numbers.

Our executive team has stayed the same with Naomi Obst continuing to be our amazing Secretary and Sam Messina as Treasurer. Three of our members are also on the State Council Sally Brindal (President), Michelle Abbott (Treasurer) and Naomi Obst (State Councillor).

Julie More and Tanya Kitto attended the State Conference in 2020. Thank you to those girls for representing us.

Our meeting has been postponed for the year till April due to the COVID-19 lockdown in Perth and the date that was set being when a lot of members were running their children back to boarding school in Perth. This year I look forward to seeing our members more often and discussions on fundraising and social opportunities.

Lastly, a big thanks to all of the ICPA State and Federal Councils for the time and effort they put into ensuring a better education access for all of our children.

Pilbara Branch Report

Sandie McCombie, President

Pilbara Branch has had a quiet year as I would imagine most branches have due to the restrictions with COVID-19.

We held a few Zoom meetings and appreciated the support of State Council in getting this organised for us all.

We have two (2) members attending State Conference - Tash Johns as Immediate Past President representing State and Carolyn Day who will be flying the Pilbara flag for us.

We have presented three (3) motions covering Travel subsidies, BAHA and Home Tutor allowance.

Our membership numbers have stayed reasonably static and we welcomed two (2) new families to the Pilbara ICPA family.

Pilbara Branch offers an annual bursary to one of our member's children who is leaving primary school to move to secondary education. This year's recipient was Regina Lethbridge who lives with her family at Warrawagine Station in the East Pilbara. We wish Regina and her family all the best for the exciting times ahead.

Our 2021 AGM will be held in Port Hedland (during Seminar) on Tuesday 9th March at 8.15am, with the Zoom platform available for those who are unable to attend in person.

Most Executive Positions for the Pilbara Branch will become vacant. Robin Pensini our Treasurer is happy to stay on but we need three (3) more members stepping into committee roles; hopefully, some of our members will come forward to fill these positions.

We have managed to do some fundraising albeit much reduced from our usual scope. We have registered the ICPA Pilbara with the new "Containers for Change" which means that anyone can take appropriate containers into the collection site and the money is deposited direct into our bank account.

We have been lucky enough to have FMG supporting us with money from Port operations lunches every month or so which is also great to keep the coffers ticking over.

We have had an opportunity for community engagement from Qube who want to link with rural schools who may be impacted by their operations. As Qube is a logistics company who drive through some of our member's properties, they will support a visit for the school through the Port to show where the Live Export cattle go and then provide a bag of goodies for all the SOTA children.

WA Lones Branch Report

Kym Burns, Lones Officer

The Lones Branch continues to remain steady with memberships at thirteen (13) to date, two being new members.

With members being from all over the State, the Lones Branch is a unique and diverse group. Many members are grateful to be able to support ICPA (WA) through this particular branch.

Focus this year will be on Boarding Schools and Residential Colleges and encouraging them "to get on board" and support this amazing organisation which does so much for many WA children and their families.

It has been pleasing to see our members using the online payment option to pay memberships. This helps the payment process and keeps things streamlined for our State Treasurer.

Yalgoo Branch Report

Ruth Rowe, President

The Yalgoo Branch AGM held in 2020 saw a continuation of Mary-Kate Walsh in the role of Vice-President, myself in the role of President, and Roxanne Morrissey extending her role into Treasurer / Secretary. Thanks to you both for your ongoing commitment and to our members for continuing to support the branch to keep it operating giving a 'local' voice for Yalgoo.

A note of thanks once again to Roxanne for representing the branch at the 2020 State Conference (timing noted as incredibly fortunate before news of the pandemic took hold) and also during Federal Conference held online later in the year.

A strange and turbulent year for all and as such we wish everyone much better tidings for the remainder of 2021. The significant efforts of ICPA in supporting education once again at the forefront, supporting regional Australians during these times.

State Conference Guest List

Bennet Andrews	St Stephen's School
John Baily	Manager, School Bus Services Public Transport Authority
Julia Bairstow	Enrolments & Community Relations Manager, Great Southern Grammar
Luke Beeson	Friend of ICPA
Christine Bevans	Principal, Meekatharra School of the Air
Nardine Bilston	Manager, Rotary Residential College
Katina Bowie	Community Engagement Manager, nbn Co
Boyd Brown	Regional General Manager, Telstra
Eva Colic	Regional Engagement Manager (WA) (Acting), Telstra
Naomi Evans	Head of Regional Community Affairs (WA), nbn Local
Max Gronwald	Principal, Carnarvon School of the Air
Todd Harnwell	Christ Church Grammar School
Teneeka Hill	Parent Connect

Richard Hudson	Producer, ABC Country Hour
Eloise Jansen van Vuuren	Principal, Kalgoorlie School of the Air
John Keogh	Mazenod College
Esta Kerr	Principal, Kimberley School of the Air
Shane Love MLA	Deputy Leader, The Nationals WA, Member for Moore
Paul Mathews	Principal, School of Isolated and Distance Education
Jennifer McGillvray	Director of Boarding, Methodist Ladies College
Sandra McKechnie	Apprenticeship Support Australia (WA)
Rolene Nel	Regional & International Student Coordinator/Executive Support Coordinator, St Stephen's School
Sally Panizza	Director, Agricultural Education
Colin Pettit	Commissioner for Children and Young People WA
Alan Potter	Coordinator, REVISE
Sue Potter	Coordinator, REVISE
Fiona Preston	Department of Training and Workforce Development
Matthew Pursar	WA College of Agriculture - Morawa
Lisa Rodgers	Director General, Department of Education
Peter Rundle MLA	Member for Roe, The Nationals WA
Tony Seabrook	President, Pastoralist and Graziers Association
Briony Sinclair	Federal Committee, ICAP Australia
Lisa Slade	Federal Treasurer, ICPA Australia
Rachel Stenslunde	Dean of Boarding, St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls
Richard Stokes	CEO, Australian Boarding Schools Association
Daniel Sudlow	Manager Residential Colleges, Department of Education
Bree Swift	Farm Weekly
Michael Valentine	Director of Distance Learning, Hale School
Matthew Weston	Head of Boarding, Guildford Grammar School
Prof. Stephen Winn	Executive Dean of the School of Education, ECU

State Council Delegates

President	Sally Brindal
Vice President	
Secretary/Webmaster	Kym Ross
Treasurer	Michelle Abbott
Publicity Officer	Jane Hughes
Lones Officer	Kym Burns
Immediate Past President	Tash Johns
Councillor	Naomi Obst
Councillor	Chandra Ridley
Councillor	Samantha Greay

Branch Delegates

BRANCH	DELEGATE	DELEGATE	OBSERVERS
Central Wheatbelt North	Amanda Nixon	Isabel Nixon	
Eastern Districts	Carla Hyde	Coby Smith	
Esperance			
Gascoyne 2021 STATE CONFERENCE CONVENING BRANCH	Alys McKeough	Mary Wake	Rachael Steadman Patricia Steadman Margot Steadman Chris D'Arcy Chris Higham
Goldfields Eyre	Elyce Donaghy	Sam White	Lee-Anne White Claire Donaghy
Kimberley Air	Jo Camilleri	Kirsty Forshaw	
Lakes Branch	Claire Walter	Jane Cunningham	
Meekatharra Air	Claire Mahony	Louise Ford	Madison Hall Olivia Ford
Midwest			
Pilbara	Pippa Johns		
WA Lones			
Yalgoo	Roxanne Morrissey		

State Conference Conveners

Gascoyne Branch

Alys McKeough
Rachael Steadman
Patricia Steadman
Margot Steadman
Chris Higham
Chris D'Arcy
Mary Wake

State Conference Apologies

Alana Moller	ICPA Federal President
David Kelly	Minister for Youth
Edwina Bowie	ICPA SA Secretary
Gwen Walton	ICPA Eastern Districts Life Member
Hon Michael McCormack MP	Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Regional Development

Hon Peter Tinley MLA	Minister for Housing; Veterans Issues; Fisheries; Youth; Asian Engagement
Hon. Mick Murray MLA	Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation; Member for Collie-Preston
Kate Thompson	ICPA Federal Assistant Secretary
Laurie Graham MLC	Member for Agriculture Region
Margaret Hoare	ICPA WA State Life Member
Michelle Ostberg	Director, Teaching and Learning Services, Department of Education
Philippa Rumble	ICPA Midwest Branch Member
Raelene Hall	ICPA WA State Life Member
Richard Wilson MP	Federal Member for O'Connor
Sally Sullivan	ICPA Federal Vice President
Sarah Cook	ICPA NT President
Sue Shotton	ICPA Federal Website Manager
Suzanne Wilson	ICPA Federal Secretary
Tracey Webster	Head of Boarding, Santa Maria College
Alannah MacTiernan	Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food
Don Punch MLA	Member for Bunbury
Susie Edwards	PLC
Margaret Sullivan	ICPA Lakes District Member