

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## A 24. FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld lobby the Department of Education to extend eligibility criteria for the Living Away From Home Allowance Scheme (LAFHAS) to include students, whose home address is in Qld, and are enrolled in Years 1 to 12 at approved schools in all States and Territories in Australia.”**

### Explanation:

The Living Away From Home Allowances Scheme (LAFHAS) supports eligible Queensland families whose children need to live away from home to attend a state school or an accredited non-state school. The scheme provides financial support through 4 allowances:

Remote Area Tuition Allowance (RATuA)—helps pay tuition fees charged by non-state boarding schools

Remote Area Travel Allowance (RATrA)—helps pay a student’s travel costs between home and boarding school during holidays

Remote Area Allowance (RAA)—contributes to the cost of boarding at a state high school campus, to complete approved agricultural courses equivalent to and in lieu of Years 11 and 12

Remote Area Disability Supplement (RADS)—helps with additional boarding costs for students with disability. However, under the Scheme only those students enrolled in Years 1 to 12 at *approved schools in Queensland or New South Wales* are eligible for the allowances. This means that geographically isolated families living in Queensland, who for various reasons including financial and mental health, have children attending schools in other states and territories, are not eligible for these allowances.

The eligibility should be extended to all States and Territories of Australia.

To give a real life example, a member’s child attended distance education in Queensland as a geographically isolated student from Years 1 to 9, and completed Years 10 to 12 in Victoria. The student wanted to complete their secondary school education away from home, but the family could not afford boarding school, nor was it seen as a suitable arrangement for the student’s mental health to attend boarding school. A relative living in Victoria offered for the student to board with them while they attended a state school in the catchment area. This was a positive arrangement as it supported the student’s mental health being able to live with family while they completed senior school. The student successfully achieved the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), afterwards returning to the family home in Queensland. Unfortunately, the student’s family were not eligible for the Remote Area Travel Allowance under the LAFHAS, which would have been an enormous support for the family financially.

For more information: <https://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/financial/ruralremote/lafhas>

## CARRIED

## A 26. JULIA CREEK BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld lobby State and Federal government departments for the introduction of a Home educator financial allowance package, “Distance Education Teaching Allowance”, paid to families enrolled in a state-based school program and educating their children at home via the distance education model, where distance education is the only option due to geographical isolation.”**

### Explanation:

Currently children enrolled in distance education receive between 6 and 11 hours per week of online based contact with a centre teacher. A Home Tutor (used in this context to refer to a parent/guardian who supervises and instructs the student/s in their home based isolated classroom) or a governess (used in this context to refer to an adult employed by the family to supervise and instruct the student/s in their home

based isolated classroom) is necessary not only for the supervision of students whilst on air with their centre teacher, but also to deliver the curriculum of all other KLA's that are not taught on air (in some cases the SDE teacher is only teaching 1 subject e.g. English). Families have had to employ a 'governess' at their own expense, or one parent/guardian must relinquish a contributory financial position to supervise and teach their children for the school week. The role of home tutor/governess is vital for children in the isolated classroom to ensure children attend all scheduled online lessons and complete all other KLA work required. Children in the early years cannot be expected to manage their own time, nor can children in the older grades be expected to learn independently and unsupported.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Annual Salary                                | \$ 90,000.00          |
| Superannuation Guarantee Rate                | 9.50%                 |
| Annual Superannuation Guarantee              | \$ 8,550.00           |
|  |                       |
| Avg Annual 10 year return - Q Super Balanced | 8.19%                 |
|  | Value at End of Year: |
| 1  | \$ 8,550.00           |
| 2  | \$ 18,500.49          |
| 3  | \$ 29,265.93          |
| 4  | \$ 40,913.05          |
| 5  | \$ 53,514.07          |
| 6  | \$ 67,147.12          |
| 7  | \$ 81,896.71          |
| 8  | \$ 97,854.30          |
| 9  | \$ 115,118.81         |
| 10   | \$ 133,797.29         |
| 11   | \$ 154,005.53         |
| 12   | \$ 175,868.83         |
|  |                       |
| Superannuation Guarantee Component           | \$ 102,600.00         |
| Interest Component                           | \$ 73,268.83          |

\* Just a simple calculation assuming both SG and investment returns are only paid once annually at the end of the year

**CARRIED**

#### **S 9. BOULIA BEDOURIE BIRDSVILLE (BBB) BRANCH**

**“That ICPA Qld lobby the State Government to significantly raise the Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme (LAFHAS) rates for rural and remote students attending boarding school.”**

Explanation:

The LAFHAS provides much needed assistance for rural and remote families where boarding school provides the only realistic option for a secondary education. There are eight shires in Qld without a high school, with ours (the Diamantina and Boulia Shires) being two of them. Ever increasing tuition boarding fees have far exceeded LAFHAS rates and geographically isolated families are finding it increasingly difficult to fund the gap. A swift significant increase to the LAFHAS is therefore necessary.

**CARRIED**

## **S 10. WESTERN DOWNS BRANCH**

**"That ICPA Qld continue to lobby relevant authorities to expand the scope of application for the Remote Area Allowance (RAA) of the LAFHAS and re-evaluate the ineligibility of students receiving RAA to receive the Remote Area Travel Allowance (RATrA)."**

### **Explanation:**

Currently the eligibility criteria for RAA is for a child to be attending a state boarding school and undertaking an approved Ag course in lieu of Year 11 + 12. These students are then ineligible to receive the RATrA despite how far they travel to their school.

Since the closure of the Longreach and Emerald campuses there is only 2 State boarding facilities offering the Access to Ag program as an option for students in QLD. The RAA is therefore being paid to a very limited number of students which provides opportunity for the LAFHAS provisions of RAA and RATrA to be broadened to envelop all rural and remote students from years 7 to 12 travelling to and living in State Boarding Schools. Western Downs members appreciate the time put into this issue by Council so far and despite it only affecting a handful of kids, their families are grateful for the work being done on their behalf.

**CARRIED**