

SA ICPA Annual State Conference 2022

South Australia Isolated Children's Parents' Association Inc.

Central Oval, Port Augusta

Friday, 1 April 2022

Hosted by the Port Augusta Branch

PRESIDENTS WELCOME.....	3
CONFERENCE PROGRAM.....	4
STATE CONFERENCE MOTIONS	6
DISTANCE EDUCATION	6
SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS	13
TERTIARY EDUCATION & CAREER PATHWAYS	13
BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS	13
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE	19
RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL.....	21
ADMINISTRATION.....	22
SA ICPA 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	23
SA ICPA 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....	25
SA ICPA PRESIDENTS REPORT.....	27
SA ICPA TREASURERS REPORT	30
BRANCH REPORTS.....	32
MARREE AIR BRANCH	32
FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH.....	32
NORTH WEST BRANCH.....	34
PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH.....	35
MARLA/OODNADATTA BRANCH.....	37
EYRE BRANCH.....	38
NORTH EAST BRANCH.....	38
LONE MEMBER’S REPORT.....	39
PORTFOLIO REPORTS.....	40
BOARDING SCHOOLS, SCHOOL TERM HOSTELS & SECOND HOME	40
COMMUNICATIONS	42
DISTANCE EDUCATION.....	44
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.....	45
RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL.....	46
SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS	47
TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS.....	48
PUBLICITY REPORT	51
MAILCHIMP	51
THE PIPELINE	51
REVISE	53
OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE GOVERNING COUNCIL	53
SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT	55
2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED.....	56
2022 INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENT UNAUDITED	70
ALLOWANCES	71

Presidents Welcome

Jill Greenfield

Good morning everyone, my name is Jill Greenfield. I am a Pastoralist, former teacher, mother of three girls and I am the current South Australian ICPA President. On behalf of SA ICPA State Council, I would like to welcome you to Port Augusta for the 2022 South Australian State Conference, kindly hosted by the Port Augusta Branch.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country. We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people from other areas of South Australia present today.

“Looking Forward, Looking Back” is the theme for the 2022 state conference. 2022 is a milestone with South Australia celebrating 50 years of SA ICPA. We have come back to where it all began, Port Augusta. We will be able to enjoy ‘looking back’ and listening to those that have paved the way for our children to reap the benefits that past ICPA members have achieved for our geographically isolated families. We will also delve into the issues facing our rural and remote children through the motions that you will hear today.

Each branch will present their Presidents Report in PowerPoint format, in addition there is a full report to read in your conference paperwork. Portfolio reports can also be found in the conference booklet.

We warmly welcome, Mrs Colleen Manning as our opening speaker. Colleen is one of the long time Port Augusta ICPA stalwarts and is well known to many of us.

We are extremely fortunate to welcome Sarah Prime as our guest speaker. Sarah is a social entrepreneur and 2015 rural woman of the year. Inspiring and encouraging young people to stay in our rural and remote areas and in our rural communities is Sarah’s passion.

We have been delighted to receive some wonderful memorabilia. Please take the time to have a look at the displays.

The AGM is at the end of conference proceedings, non-members are welcome to stay for the AGM. All positions will be vacant so please consider volunteering your time to SA ICPA.

Sharon Nutt has kindly offered to compile the Conference Minutes once again. Joanna Gibson has ably compiled the Conference Booklet, another job that we all run and hide from! Thank you.

We thank all of the sponsors and please take the time to look at the stall holders who have travelled to be here today. Many of our sponsors have been supporting SA ICPA for many years. With sponsors assistance we are able to attend meetings with Department personnel and key stakeholders, which enables us to keep fighting for our rural and remote children and families.

We look forward to passionate motions and inspiring speakers so please sit back and enjoy our 50 years of SA ICPA conference.

SA ICPA 2022

Conference Program



8:15	Registration Central Oval, Port Augusta	
9:00	Conference Commences National Anthem President's Welcome Conference Convenor- Housekeeping Introduction of Guests	Jill Greenfield Michelle Lord Hollie Williams
	Official Opening of Conference	Colleen Manning
	State ICPA President's Report	Jill Greenfield
	Agenda Motions	
10:30	Morning Tea	
10:50	Port Augusta President's Report/Presentation Agenda Motions	Katrina Morris
11:15	Guest Speaker and Q&A <i>Social Entrepreneur/ Champions Academy</i>	Sarah Prime
11:50	Agenda Motions North West President's Report/ Presentation ICPA Federal Council Report/ Presentation	Lynly Kerin Nikki Mahony

SA ICPA 2022

Conference Program



12:30	Lunch	
1:30	<p><i>“Take a step back in time”</i> 50 years of SA ICPA Q & A Panel Richard Warwick, Lorraine Greenfield, Lyn Nagel, Lorna Schmidt, Dot Sandland, Lorraine Balharry, Lyn Litchfield, Joan Young</p>	Jane Gloster
2:15	<p>Indulkaninna Foundation Presentation</p> <p>Flinders Ranges President’s Report/ Presentation</p> <p>Agenda Motions</p>	<p>Belinda Hatcher</p> <p>Belinda Hatcher</p>
2:45	<p>North East President’s Report/ Presentation</p> <p>Agenda Motions</p> <p>Marla/Oodnadatta President’s Report/ Presentation</p>	<p>Leisa Breeding</p> <p>Kirsty Williams</p>
3:00	Afternoon Tea	
3:20	<p>Eyre President’s Report/ Presentation</p> <p>Bee Project (Port Augusta Branch)</p> <p>Marree Air President’s Report/ Presentation</p>	<p>Di Thomas</p> <p>Ian Morris</p> <p>Lisa Edwards</p>
3:35	AGM	
4:15	Close of Conference	

State Conference Motions

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Motion 1. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

“That SA ICPA requests the Minister for Education, as a matter of urgency, take into consideration the complexities that the online NAPLAN testing presents for small rural schools and School of the Air families and that alternative delivery methods and supportive resources be made available to ensure data from these rural and remote students are captured.”

Explanation: The move to the online delivery of NAPLAN testing was clearly the next obvious step forward in the world of digital education platforms, but as with all things digital, a high speed and reliable internet connection is paramount for it to successfully work. For the majority of students, the online NAPLAN will bring advantages, however for students in rural schools, access to such reliable and high-speed internet along with the resources, including computers and staffing to deliver this online testing is not always guaranteed.

There is a suggestion that testing may take place over a two- or three-week period, so for School of the Air or Open Access College geographically isolated distance education families, the option to sit the tests at home is likely not going to be an option. This would mean a family would have to either relocate to a town, for example Port Augusta, for the two- or three-week period for the child/children to sit the online tests, or they will have to travel in and out of town up to three times over the period of two or three weeks. This is going to be a very costly and impractical exercise for remote families to undertake. If these families choose not to be involved due to the complicated logistics and cost, then this critical data set will be missing from the NAPLAN testing.

We are asking the Minister for Education to ensure that there are alternative processes and resources in place that will allow rural and remote students to have their data collected in the event that they cannot participate in the NAPLAN online.

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council: Federal Council is on board with this motion and have been making a concerted effort to highlight the need for rural and remote students and their circumstances be considered in any changes. We have been advocating that to the acting Federal Education Minister, Hon Stuart Robert MP. Although there will now be a two week window for NAPLAN to be held, it is up to the individual schools to implement the process. We encourage State Councils and school communities to voice any concerns. One DE school in Queensland has committed to holding the tests over one week rather than to spread it over two whole weeks.

Motion 2. North East Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Ros Breeding

Seconded: Dot Sandland

“That SA ICPA State Council support ICPA Federal Council in seeking the establishment of a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA), to recognise the ongoing out of pocket expenses families incur to educate their children via distance education.”

Explanation: The role of the distance education tutor is vital to the education of young, remote children studying via School of the Air, who have no other option than to attend school via distance education.

The role of tutor often falls to the mother, who is required to manage this along with an already busy schedule, with no recompense. The hours are generally the same as paid teaching staff, yet with little to no recognition.

Some families employ a Distance Education Tutor, which comes with an additional cost to the family. Families must decide whether to pay a wage to a tutor, or the mother must somehow find more time to take on the role. The Distance Education Tutor Allowance would go some way towards recognising the important role the tutor plays and compensate the family in a small way for the high cost of educating their children.

Comment: Nikki Mahony, Federal Council: ICPA Australia is making concerted effort with our DETA advocacy commencing a long term dedicated campaign. We have recently started to include extra data within the campaign regarding loss of income and superannuation of family members who tutor their children. Most recently we have sent an open letter to a number of MP's, Senators and other Education Stakeholders and have received a positive response from this. We can assure South Australia members; we are not resting on our laurels in this regard. We welcome support from SA Council in this endeavor and we are also seeking members assistance by providing us with photos, basically showing them in the school room and details of their commitment they make to tutoring.

Motion 3. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Rachel Smart

Seconded: Katrina Morris

“That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to provide a state Distance Education Teaching Allowance to recognise geographically isolated distance education home tutors (usually mothers) who take themselves out of the workforce, their businesses and their normal daily lives to administer daily compulsory education to their children in the home schoolroom.”

Explanation: Currently there are less than 50 families that would be eligible for this allowance, who meet the criteria of geographically isolated and teach their children via distance education.

The Gross Regional Product per capita for the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) region in which these students reside is \$417,000. This compared to the Gross State Product of \$62,100 per capita highlights the fact that inhabitants of the OCA area contribute well above the state average towards the finances of the state.

Unemployment for the OCA region is lower than both state or federal levels. This highlights the fact that there is not a lot of scope for taking on the extra workload involved in supervising. Often families seek an additional employee to supervise schooling. However, without financial support the reality is that many families cannot afford this option and the family must absorb the added work load and responsibility themselves. This continues to be a huge contributing factor to the reason many families leave the bush.

Motion 4. Marla/Oodnadatta

CARRIED

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

“That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to increase the amount provided to School of the Air specifically to assist with travel for families to attend face to face events.”

Explanation: Face to face events are imperative for children educated through distance education as they provide an opportunity for children to meet their teachers and interact with their peers as well as extend their experiences and knowledge past what is offered at home. The cost of attending these

events is increasing given the increasing cost of fuel with families have large distances to travel and many have to take time off paid work to attend. Currently families are reimbursed 28 cents/km which is far from the current rate of 93 cents provided to government employees. This rate has not been increased for many years and it is important that families are supported to attend these events as families might choose not to attend which would be detrimental to their child's learning.

Comment:

Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch: I speak for this motion, this rebate is less than half of Government employees. It also costs more to run a vehicle on dirt roads.

Jane Gloster, SA Life Member: the really critical thing to highlight is the need for these kids to access some face-to-face events. That is the really important thing, without that critical interaction, without that professional assistance to unpaid, voluntary teaching mums, kids don't develop as they should. I saw that in our own child. I saw what a huge difference it made to him. Huge distances sometimes make it hard to get there but a little bit of financial incentive would make a massive difference.

Sally Sullivan, Federal Council: speaking as a NT ICPA member, the current rate of travel assistance, conveyance allowance for travelling to SOTA functions is 45 cents/km, calculated as being half the public service rate of reimbursement in the NT.

Julie Taylor, Open Access College Principal: Personally, I do support the motion. Many of you would be aware we do receive a \$20,000/year grant from the Department we use to reimburse families. In reviewing that because the number of families have changed allowing us to increase the amount this year. We are trying to work within the budget we are provided. Perhaps change the wording of the motion and ask for an increase in that grant to support the travel reimbursement.

Jane Gloster, SA Life Member: That amount of \$20,000 was the same when Glennis and I were on State Council!

Motion 5. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

"That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to consider developing a new accommodation and classroom building at the Port Augusta School of the Air campus, within the Augusta Park Primary School grounds at a location that would see the School of the Air buildings in close proximity to each other."

Explanation: The Outback Centre, which is SOTA's current accommodation and classroom facility that is located on the opposite end of the APPS grounds from the SOTA teacher office and administration building and has provided the SOTA students and families a place to stay and be educated in during times of face-to-face activities for over 20 years. As it has always been located away from the main SOTA building, at times it has been logistically difficult for students, families and staff to undertake certain tasks easily. With the introduction of strict COVID rules regarding parents and supervisors not being allowed on site, the distance between the buildings has become glaringly obvious and increasingly difficult to manage.

The development of a new building located in close quarters to the current SOTA administration building would allow for the SOTA community to have their own space within the APPS site, be fenced off and accessed appropriately by SOTA staff, students and families and it could even see that the R.I.C.E. building be included in the facility. Things like an interactive garden, SOTA specific playground, parking facility and evening access to learning resources located in the admin building would really expand and enhance the experiences students and staff would have while they are attending face to face activities would all be possible with such a designated facility.

Comment:

Petie Rankin, North West Branch: I would like to speak for the motion. As you can see there are a lot of motions on this today. When I first started a lot of people used to stay in the Outback Centre but this has stopped because who wants to be sleeping there when you get a brick thrown through the window! You don't feel safe there with your children. The site has become increasingly dirty, have concerns sharing the playground. I think we deserve own site. Car parking is also an issue. This is a great motion; our branch certainly supports this motion.

Jodie Keough, SA Lone Members: I support this motion. My children have also commented on the terrible condition of the playground and bullying from other children. I agree with motion and Petie's comments, one dedicated area encompassing the SOTA teaching building and classrooms, makes so much sense for our kids. It would develop a sense of community and give SOTA a little bit of autonomy from Augusta Park. Thank you for these motions.

Tania Sweeney, representative of the Education Director. I'm the Curriculum Lead for the Port Augusta Portfolio. Rod Harkin retired at the end of last year, our new Education Director is Deb O'Neil, who couldn't be here today, I will take this and all of your concerns back to her this afternoon.

Julie Taylor, Principal Open Access College I don't have the authority to make this happen, however I did meet with a Department Advisor, Nigel Huxtable, on Wednesday, who is preparing a report to the Minister. T certainly explained the concerns that are being raised and supported the motion of a stand-alone facility for the outback community. Speaking with Lai Kuan Lim, we talked about a hub which could incorporate SOTA, RICE and even the RFDS. Three organisations that support the outback community and I think if all those resources could be pooled, we would end up with a fantastic facility in terms of health, education, childcare etc. Nigel is certainly interested, hopefully we can get some politicians on board with this, providing the funding. This will take time, as all new building projects do, but we have got to start somewhere. I wish you all the best with this and I know Ly Con and I will continue to support this if asked for our opinions.

Motion 6. North-East Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Dot Sandland

Seconded: Ros Breeding

"That SA ICPA request the Minister for Education consider a new, stand-alone facility that would accommodate Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) and RICE (Remote & Isolated Children's Exercise) on their own premises."

Explanation: Currently, the Port Augusta School of the Air and RICE have a campus on the Augusta Park Primary School grounds. They have the use of three separate buildings, located in different areas on the Augusta Park grounds. SOTA conducts face-to-face weeks each term in Port Augusta and the SOTA students have to share the school facilities with Augusta Park students. This includes the requirement of SOTA teachers seeking permission from Augusta Park to use the school gym, oval and playground. The two SOTA buildings are not located next to each other meaning teachers have to carry resources over to the Outback Centre, located on the other side of the school grounds.

It would be beneficial if both SOTA and RICE could share their own premises, not another school's campus. This would allow students, families, educators and the outback education community to have their own facilities and create their own school campus, ethos, values and unique space that directly relates to their distinctive learning and living style. This would have a direct and very beneficial effect on the mental health and well-being of our outback families. In addition, the current facilities are outdated and badly in need of repairs, so a new, stand-alone facility would very quickly make much better financial sense.

Comment:

Belinda Hatcher, Flinders Ranges Branch: fully support this motion. Our previous motion included building a site within Augusta Park but our branch would support a stand-alone site, as long as it happens.

Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: Speaking on behalf of RICE, the buildings themselves are falling apart. There are a lot of band aid measures which take staff time and energy to try to fix. They do a tremendous job working with what they have but it is time and energy that should be put into the children and their learning rather than patching up a building in dire need.

Motion 7. North West Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Pamela Cuffe
Seconded: Candice Brown

“That SA ICPA work with the Department for Education, Open Access College and School of the Air, (SOTA) Port Augusta to prepare and provide a review of the current school buildings and grounds with the ultimate aim to provide safe and inclusive facilities, essential infrastructure and an environment suitable for the teachers and geographically isolated students of SOTA.”

Explanation: The current buildings and grounds do not provide students with an educational facility of a suitable standard and are in dire need of improvement and relocation. Currently the campus for SOTA is located within the Augusta Park Primary School (APPS) grounds. These grounds do not provide a physically nor visually suitable premise, with the teachers, staff and students not comfortable in the setting. Facilities matter because they make a concrete contribution to student, staff and community wellbeing. The trending concept of ‘schools as socially connecting community hubs’ is a far cry from the reality of the unfriendly teaching and learning workspace the current facilities provide for SOTA staff and families.

Contrary to current standards provided to teachers and students nationwide, the SOTA teachers are expected to work in inadequate conditions. A common space is provided that lacks essential soundproofing for effective lesson instruction, creating much frustration for both teachers and students. The little access to light and ventilation in the windowless interior workspace creates a claustrophobic atmosphere, with teachers having loudly voiced their discomfort in this setting. It is greatly frustrating to SOTA families that it is reasonably foreseeable that the high turnover of staff is largely due to these unfriendly workspace conditions.

The current SOTA facilities are unable to create a sense of identity, ownership or belonging for its students. A brief glimpse of the APPS grounds sets the scene with the omnipresence of litter and rubbish. It is SOTA’s duty to provide suitable facilities and equipment for sporting and play areas and due to the school having to share the APPS grounds, they are unable to satisfy this. In addition, the SOTA buildings are awkwardly situated on either end of the APPS compound. This poor planning has created difficulty for adequate supervision and the confusing split locations makes it unclear for our students on their school boundaries.

A recent survey highlighted genuine safety concerns regarding the Outback Centre. The Outback Centre was constructed to provide SOTA families with accommodation and social connection but has for some time sat unused by families due to the high incidence of damage to vehicles and belongings and personal safety concerns. Interaction between geographically isolated children is essential for positive development and social wellbeing, but when personal financial circumstances limit access to paid accommodation it seems unreasonable that this interaction is limited by the unsafe conditions of the Outback Centre.

Minister John Gardner said the development of the new Whyalla Secondary College showcased the “world class”, modern learning environment that the Whyalla students deserved. “World class” is the

standard set by the Department of Education, that reflects students “hopes and aspirations”. Providing SOTA students with a “world class” educational facility will attract and retain families that live and work in the outback, ensuring an equitable access to education that is currently forgone.

A state-of-the-art complex for SOTA in a new setting is essential for the progression of the school. A new “world class” SOTA will provide confidence for both the parents and teachers of the students, that their children have a suitable school that can reflect the hopes and aspirations of all involved, leading to a sense of pride and belonging.

Comments:

Lai Kuan Lim, Head of Campus SOTA: Thank you to the parents for this motion. I absolutely support this motion. I think it is time, if not now, when? If indeed we care about the children of outback Australia, if indeed we care about agriculture, it is time. Nothing symbolises how we care about students than to give them quality buildings. At this point it is not. I invite anyone to walk in to the building. Part of our ceiling collapsed a couple of weeks ago. We had to evacuate. Our roof is leaking, our playground is cracked. Our children only come to school 25 days of the year and we are giving them a substandard facility. These children, as young as five, wake up every morning to go online to see teachers. They don't have recess with other kids. All the parents know that. All the parents work super hard to give their kids fantastic face to face opportunities. I do not want our children to come to school to substandard facilities because they get to see each other so little. It is time!

Georgie Ewing, REVISE: I, and REVISE, would totally like to support the motion. When I go into the SOTA facilities I'm totally amazed that the teachers manage to produce the quality of learning for your children with the facilities they have. I agree, it is time.

Motion 8. Marla/Oodnadatta

Deemed covered by Motion 7

Helen Williams: request conference permission for Motion 8 be deemed covered by Motion 7.

Conference permission granted.

“That SA ICPA request the Department for Education to investigate the possibility of The Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) and School of the Air (SOTA) to have their own combined stand-alone site in Port Augusta.”

Explanation: A major challenge for schools and centres in regional, rural and remote communities is meeting the diversity of learning needs, interests and aspirations of all students, while at the same time, developing and nurturing social cohesion and harmony. The key challenge is ensuring, regardless of location or circumstances, that every young person has access to high quality schooling and opportunities.

For the outback community, RICE and SOTA are critical institutions that ensure families can live and work in outback areas without sacrificing their children's education. With the shortage of skilled workers in the agricultural industry, what the government does to attract workers to the outback matters.

RICE and SOTA's current facilities are comparatively inferior to many kindergartens, childcare centres and schools in metropolitan and regional SA. As RICE and SOTA are situated in the Augusta Park Primary School (APPS) compound, the facilities which appear as a 'granny flat' at best, do not provide a safe or sound trajectory for lifelong wellbeing outcomes. Whilst RICE and SOTA staff put thoughtful consideration in to their planning and teaching, the current facilities often hinder their efforts.

As stated in the Governments Wellbeing Framework for Learning and Life, *'Learning and wellbeing are closely linked. Children and young people with good wellbeing are more engaged and successful learners. Likewise gaining a good education is a key contributor to positive lifelong wellbeing outcomes.'*

A new 'world-class' facility would allow for integrated practices and facilitate collaboration and coordination between the different agencies relevant to our geographically isolated children. It would build protective factors and provide resilience to help respond to the adversity that our students, staff and families face on a daily basis and underpin the key principles of the government's wellbeing framework; Child-centred, Strengths-based, Learning Success, Relationships and Inclusion.

RICE and SOTA need their own home to strengthen parents' confidence that their children have a world class school, and students can feel a sense of pride and belonging for their school. Our children live in priority circumstances and we believe whole-heartedly that the wellbeing and resilience of our children will be promoted through the facilitation of a site they can call 'theirs' which would further engage, inspire and empower them.

Facilities do matter as they make a tangible and concrete contribution to the overall student, staff and community wellbeing.

Motion 9. Port Augusta Branch

Deemed covered by Motion 7

Rachel Smart: request conference permission for Motion 9 to be deemed covered by Motion 7

Conference permission granted.

"That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to provide a standalone all-inclusive building for School of the Air (SOTA) and Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) services in Pt Augusta."

Explanation: Currently there are three separate buildings situated across the grounds of Augusta Park Primary School that house SOTA, RICE and the Outback Centre. We believe the benefits of having one site, for kindergarten, primary school, the community and play will far out way the costs and will be beneficial for the education and wellbeing of all involved.

Improved facilities would increase the sense of belonging for students, staff and the wider community. Improved access to these buildings for educational activities and support services is vital for the safety of our children.

Motion 10. Marla/Oodnadatta

CARRIED with acclamation

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

"That SA ICPA, on behalf of its School of the Air members, thank Port Augusta School of the Air Head of Campus for her dedication to her role in placing an emphasis and ensuring that both students' academic progress and wellbeing needs are being met at a high standard."

Explanation: We would like to thank Lai Kuan Lim and her dedicated team for getting School of the Air back on track after a number of tumultuous years with Head of Campus and staff changes. In particular, Lai Kuan has worked with the SOTA community and has a strong focus to improve outcomes for our children. We also thank Open Access College Principal Julie Taylor, for allowing the SOTA HOC greater autonomy to make decisions based on our campus rather than the whole of OAC. The hard work and dedication from all parties does not go unnoticed.

Comment:

Petie Rankin, North West Branch: we have been through some inconsistency in the past. Having Lai Kuan at the helm has been amazing. She is an amazing leader; she is positive and optimistic. You can hear the passion in her voice when she talks about the school and the things that she is trying to get in place. The things that are happening at our school haven't happened for a long time are amazing. I think Julie is also happy that she doesn't hear from us that often anymore! Lai Kuan has just got it covered; the school is doing amazing things. On behalf of our branch, thank you very much.

Lai Kuan Lim, HOC SOTA: I just want to thank all the SOTA parents. You have been very very supportive and encouraging. I don't think I could do this job without your support so whatever success we have achieved we have achieved together. Where ever we are going we are going together. There is no way I can do this on my own, there is no way the teachers and I can do this by ourselves. SOTA is clearly a school with and for the community.

SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Motion 11. State Council

CARRIED with acclamation

Moved: Lisa Slade

Seconded: Hollie Williams

“SA State Council would like to move a motion of thanks to both the Indulkaninna Foundation and Sandy's Memorial Trust for supporting rural and remote SA ICPA children through their generous donations.”

Explanation: These donations have allowed SAICPA to provide bursaries that have supported a range of educational opportunities for students of SAICPA members. A large portion of this funding was directed to SPELD SA so that eligible students could receive ongoing literacy support.

TERTIARY EDUCATION & CAREER PATHWAYS

Motion 12. Marla/Oodnadatta

CARRIED

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

“That SA ICPA advocate the relevant bodies to look into the feasibility of the provision of an Agricultural Program/College in South Australia that provides vocational learning opportunities in the pastoral industry for high school students.”

Explanation: It is vital that students in their secondary years have an opportunity to attend an agriculturally based learning program/college. The sustainability of the agricultural industry has never been more important than of recent times with the ever-expanding world-population and the need to feed the world. Hands on, practical learning pathways that provide opportunities for both country and urban students to gain valuable skills that put them in good stead to finding employment in the agricultural industry is vital for our state's future. With the cessation of both the Longreach and Emerald Colleges in Queensland, there are few opportunities for young school-based students to pursue an agricultural career should they choose where they can attend and live on site.

Comment:

Kaye Fels, Flinders Ranges Branch: I support this motion. In these times when there is so much talk of upskilling Australians this has never come at a better time. Many of us have had to send our children interstate to pursue their agricultural careers and I think it is vital to upskill our young people.

BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS

Motion 13 Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Mija Reynolds

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

“That SA ICPA requests the Minister for Education and the Chief Public Health Officer to ensure the adoption of the National Code for Boarding School Students which was endorsed by National Cabinet in September 2021.”

Explanation: Unfortunately, since the States and Territories of Australia endorsed the National Code for Boarding School Students in September 2021, South Australia, along with the other States and Territories have been reticent in their adoption of the code. While the opening of South Australian borders relieved some of the cross-border travel issues ensuring most children could travel between their place of residence and their chosen school without issue, moving forward we certainly do not want to see a repeat of the chaotic and draconian scenes faced by students and their families in 2021 where many were left without seeing their families, or their school depending on the individual situation, for many months at a time. It is important that we hold the South Australian Government to their pledge for unity across borders should the need arise again.

Comments:

Hollie Williams, State Council: Apology and comment from Richard Stokes CEO Australian Boarding Schools Assoc. who is attending a conference in Bourke. “I will never forget that Friday evening around 8pm when I received from Rachel Dryden from Senator McKenzie’s office to tell me that the National Cabinet had approved the National Code. It was a feeling of both relief and celebration which unfortunately soon transformed into feelings of frustration as the different health departments didn’t understand or follow the spirit of the code. ABSA has continued to lobby all State Governments, and the Federal Government, to understand the unique situation boarding families face with few wins and many losses. We whole heartedly support this motion and offer any support we can give to help you in this cause.”

Nikki Mahony, Federal Council: Federal Council has been working closely with ABSA and relevant bodies to get the code happening. Unfortunately States and Territories have been reticent in their adoption of that and we had a hotch potch situation across borders. While easing of border restrictions has eased most of those issues, moving forward we certainly do not want to see a repeat of those chaotic scenes of an ununified approach. We will continue to monitor the situation as the need arises and will also continue to work closely with State Councils to offer support and help where possible.

Louise Murphy, Catholic Education SA: We oversee a number of Boarding School both in Adelaide and regional areas and we would wholeheartedly support anything you would like to do toward making that possible because it was a really harrowing experience for families, for students and for the boarding staff who care for students. The distress that was caused by trying to get out boarders across borders last year has to be canvassed about.

Motion 14. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Mija Reynolds
Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

“That SA ICPA requests the Minister for Education and the Chief Public Health Officer consider the unique boarding school environment when updating the COVID 19 SA Health Advice for Boarding Schools, including revisiting the definition of a ‘close contact’ specific to the boarding school environment and to consider classing boarding school staff as ‘critical staff’ with relation to the provisions for return to work.”

Explanation: Currently the guidelines that have been produced by SA Health regarding Boarding Schools and how they manage COVID are being interpreted by each boarding school in very different and some in an overly cautious way. This is making it very difficult for students and staff to settle into some sort of routine that is seen as ‘normal’. There is no continuity across different boarding houses, and it seems that ‘one size does not fit all’ when it comes to the interpretation of these guidelines. While we

commend boarding leaders and staff for trying to keep our children safe it is becoming glaringly obvious that the guidelines SA Health have asked schools to follow are making the life of a boarder even more difficult than it already is. The 'close contact' definition does not consider the logistics of trying to isolate a student or in some situations a whole group of students or wing of a boarding house. There is also no consideration for the thousands of kilometres families would have to travel each time a student has to vacate their boarding house if they cannot isolate safely or become infected with COVID 19. Add in the 'classroom contact' guidelines and it leaves students with little freedom to try and make the boarding house a home away from home.

Currently staff of a boarding house are not considered 'critical staff', which means that if they become a close contact, they cannot attend their workplace until their isolation period is over, regardless of testing or symptoms. The boarding school has to apply to the Department for Education to request a 'provision for return to work for 'critical staff' to SA Health for that individual staff member. The impact on a boarding house with a small pool of staff is immense. Not only does it put pressure on other staff to fill in, but it can have a negative effect on students who become to see staff as a friendly face and a 'soft place to fall' when in times of need. We would like to see all boarding staff considered as 'critical staff, so that when they are a close contact, have a negative PCR test and no symptoms, they can continue to work within the boarding house following critical staff guidelines. The boarding school will then notify SA Health, via the Department for Education that that staff member is working under the critical staff provision.

Rural and remote boarding students are already a vulnerable cohort even before they get to boarding school, they need our support. The impact on students' mental health needs to be considered in all of this and a serious reason for SA Health to have more inclusive discussion with boarding heads, school wellbeing staff and even the families of students being impacted and come up with a set of guideless and definitions regarding contact that better reflect the needs of our boarding students.

Comment:

Petie Rankin, North West Branch: Offered support for this and upcoming motions. Described her personal situation as a new parent/boarder and how difficult it was with too many inconsistencies, miscommunications, constant changes, the stress of daily COVID testing and restrictions for boarders whilst day students had no restrictions at all. Thanked other parents for their fantastic support.

Belinda Hatcher, Flinders Ranges Branch: it seems we are nearing the end of these restriction across the whole state but I don't want our kids to have been forgotten. We need to be mindful that they have already been impacted regardless of what happens with the changes that come along. Currently boarding students are not allowed to socialise with their peers, day students can, students attending rural school can. This is having a social impact on the students as well as an emotional/mental health impact.

Michelle Hilder, State Council for Richard Stokes CEO, ABSA: As many of you know SA Health and Chief Health Officer have been very difficult to deal with. ABSA reached out to every state CHO with clear recommendations on how to live with COVID in boarding, including a reasonable definition of "close contact" and sensible rules regarding isolation and quarantine. Which had been proved to work well in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania and looked to be implemented in Western Australia soon. We did this with the support of the Minister for Regional Education, Senator McKenzie, and all our boarding schools. Above all our aim was to get all our health officials to understand that school principals and head of boarding are the experts in dealing with the safety and health of their boarders. They do it every day. Unfortunately, the CHO and health officials in SA have not listened and have not allowed us to be any part of planning and meetings. Whilst we understand these officials have rested on the publication of guidelines to schools which could be interpreted by the schools themselves it is more realistic to think about the consequences should something go wrong if they operated outside the guidelines, we are very keen to assist ICPA in any endeavours you have in this regard.

Motion 15. North West Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Pamela Cuffe
Seconded: Candice Brown

“That SA ICPA work with SA Health, the Department for Education and SA boarding schools to provide and implement a realistic and strategised ‘Return to Boarding School Plan’ with regards to state COVID restrictions.”

Explanation: In the event of ongoing long term COVID safety measures being required at the beginning of each term, a well-planned and staged entry for boarding school students must be put in place.

Currently there is an unrealistic expectation placed upon new and returning boarding students to unpack and settle themselves without any family support. The long-term mental, social, emotional and physical implications these restrictions will have on boarding students should not be dismissed. With the commencement of year 7 as the entry year for middle school, it will be common for the entry age of a boarding student to be as young as 11 years old. It is important to note that a percentage of interstate boarding students may be unable to return home to their residence throughout the school year due to state restrictions. It is unreasonable that the SA Health guidelines recommending ‘limiting extracurricular activities’ extends to and limits the settling in of a boarding student.

It is imperative that an allowance for one parent/support person being allowed on site to help unpack and settle students into the boarding facility, within a realistic time frame, be made for the emotional and mental wellbeing of the student and their family.

Comment:

Hollie Williams, State Council, for Richard Stokes ABSA: I’m a little concerned with the concept of a Return to Boarding School Plan, as our boarding schools are continuing and are not closed at this stage. We believe that all levels of government need to understand that boarding schools have to learn to live with COVID in their communities and the best qualified people to make this happen are the experts, the principals and the heads of boarding in the schools. We at ABSA could see that the first part of 2022 would most likely be the most difficult period of COVID for our schools and put together a webinar which is available on the ABSA You Tube channel. Three Heads of Schools in the UK discussed the challenges they faced in learning to live with COVID. This video has been viewed over a thousand time to date. Living with COVID will be critical to ensure our children receive a worthwhile continuing education with few disruptions. After all, isn’t the most important issue we must address is allowing our kids to learn.

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: Support this motion. Helping your child settle into their room at boarding school is the least a parent can do at the beginning of the year, even when your child is in Year 12. The most heart-breaking thing was to see new Year 7 children with parents standing outside the boarding house and not being allowed to go up and settle them in. One mother from NSW had not seen her three children for six months. She ended up moving to Adelaide so she could at least see her children and provide mental and physical support.

Louise Murphy, Catholic Education SA: I was present in all those meetings with SA Health regarding boarding. They were incredibly difficult and very one sided with SA Health putting directives over, although they called them guidelines. These guidelines were drawn up the day before school started with students already back in the boarding school. The directive, it really was a directive to begin with, was that parents were not allowed into the boarding houses. It wasn’t a guideline. It wasn’t until weeks later that we realised we could push the boundaries in our boarding schools and did so for the benefit and wellbeing of the boarding students. Going forward, we would like to think we are not going to be bound by those directives in quite the same way, especially with the end of year emergency directives coming, we hope to see some really different practises. We would support something more systematic for all the boarding schools.

Jane Gloster, State Life Member: I would like to speak to this from the perspective of a child who was left at the boarding school by themselves every term because that was the way my parents rolled. I hated it and as a consequence I hated boarding school. I have very few fond memories of that time, that is partly the regime and partly that I was dropped there or put on a plane or bus in Broken Hill. Don't do that, don't let that happen to your kids because it is a horrible thing to have to endure.

Lisa Slade, State Council: State Council did have meeting with SA Health, Catholic Education and Independent Schools. It was glaringly obvious that there was no communication between SA Health and the schools. The schools were left to interpret the guidelines which appeared to be very strict. When we had the meeting with SA Health they said, "We didn't tell you to do that." The schools say that is what they took from the guidelines. It is imperative that organisations like Catholic Education, Independent Schools and ICPA keep the communication lines open because we need to remember that the children are at the coal face and are the most important aspect of this story.

Ellen Litchfield, Marree Air Branch: this is a worldwide problem. SA Health is obviously trying to do the right thing and put out directives and guidelines that are applicable to the general population. You have identified how these guidelines need changing so the children are not forgotten.

Comment:

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: I would like to support this motion. Within the first two weeks of boarding, our son had to isolate for 7 days in his room on his own. His only communication with the rest of the boarding house was through email. As a close contact with another student, he was expected to isolate for another 7 days. They were not allowed outside even when the other students were at school. Unable to cope with another 7 days by himself he relocated and isolated elsewhere and did schooling remotely. This set the tone for the rest of Year 12, playing catchup, lacking motivation at school.

Jane Gloster, Life Member: Cc this letter to the Emergency Management Committee set up by Peter Malanauskis, because he is wanting this holistic health driven, well-being, mental health thing to happen. The Emergency Management Committee appears to want to make some changes and have some real authority.

Petie Rankin, North West Branch: I have a comment for the motion from Lynly Kerin, North West Branch. She has written – that the pandemic of COVID has led to an endemic of mental health issues in our boarders. What is worse? We recover from COVID but mental health issues can be long term. Lynly has also moved down to Adelaide so she can be with her daughter for the whole term, she has had to split her family so she can be there to support her child.

Michelle Hilder, State Council for Richard Stokes CEO ABSA: The challenge of the many mental health issues which have arisen because of the many restrictions placed upon us by the Health Department/s is one we face right across the country. To try to address this issue ABSA has applied for an Emerging Priorities Grant from the Federal Government, to have every boarding staff member and every Year 11 and Year 12 boarder across Australia trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid, with no charge to the schools. Given that one of the emerging priorities is youth mental health, there is a good chance this grant may be available. This will assist in developing real strategies to deal with the critical health issue raised in this motion.

Motion 16. North West Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Pamela Cuffe
Seconded: Candice Brown

"That SA ICPA work with SA Health, the Department for Education and SA boarding schools to ensure children's mental, emotional, social and physical health are carefully considered when implementing the SA Health Advice for Boarding school document within the boarding house setting."

Explanation: The current SA Health guidelines for boarding school situations are unrealistic. The precept of ‘limiting extracurricular activities’ in the boarding house environment and the definition of a ‘household’ situation extending to the wing of a boarding house, among other guidelines, are misplaced and must be amended.

To explain the situation further currently the definition of a ‘household’ situation extends to the wing of a boarding house (if the wing contains a kitchen unit), this places a huge burden on the boarding house and its students. It is unrealistic to place entire wings under isolation when one student receives a positive COVID test. This potentially opens the wings to constant isolation as a wing can house up to 20+ boarding students. To explain the scenario, we pose two circumstances:

1. One student in the boarding house receives a positive test to COVID, the entire wing the student resides in undergoes isolation. Upon completion of the week of isolation the student’s bedroom buddy then tests positive. Groundhog Day for the wing of students as they are consequently placed into another week of isolation.

2. One student in the boarding house receives a positive test to COVID, the entire wing the student resides in undergoes isolation. Students from that wing then return to school only for one of the students from that wing to then catch COVID from a classmate. The entire wing is back in isolation for another week, Groundhog Day.

It is not fair or reasonable to think these students will be able to administer their own schooling throughout these stints of isolation. Ultimately, the student’s mental and emotional wellbeing are being jeopardised regarding their education and freedom. It is understood that changes to rules for household contacts could lead to increased transmission, but the shift is pragmatic considering the high vaccination rate and increasing booster rate.

The current guidelines have been made without giving thought to the fact that these boarding students are already spending extended periods of time in their rooms with harsh restrictions placed on any personal leave. Indeed, the strictness of quarantine requirements and the ‘limiting of extracurricular activities’ involve a trade-off between the need to ensure positive cases are not out in the community and the intention to minimise the number of students stuck in the boarding house not participating in daily life. We can see that other State Governments are now accepting a different risk threshold for the potential of spread and hope that South Australia follows suit.

Valid suggestions to remedy the above situations are as follows:

- A review of the definition of a household in relation to a boarding house, as the present definition creates too large a scope.
- To include a boarding parent body in the panel writing these guidelines, thus enabling a realistic student perspective.

Comment:

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: I would like to support this motion. Within the first two weeks of boarding, our son had to isolate for 7 days in his room on his own. His only communication with the rest of the boarding house was through email. As a close contact with another student, he was expected to isolate for another 7 days. They were not allowed outside even when the other students were at school. Unable to cope with another 7 days by himself he relocated and isolated elsewhere and did schooling remotely. This set the tone for the rest of Year 12, playing catchup, lacking motivation at school.

Jane Gloster, Life Member: Cc this letter to the Emergency Management Committee set up by Peter Malanuskis, because he is wanting this holistic health driven, well-being, mental health thing to happen. The Emergency Management Committee appears to want to make some changes and have some real authority.

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Michelle Hilder, State Council for Richard Stokes CEO ABSA: The challenge of the many mental health issues which have arisen because of the many restrictions placed upon us by the Health Department/s is one we face right across the country. To try to address this issue ABSA has applied for an Emerging Priorities Grant from the Federal Government, to have every boarding staff member and every Year 11 and Year 12 boarder across Australia trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid, with no charge to the schools. Given that one of the emerging priorities is youth mental health, there is a good chance this grant may be available. This will assist in developing real strategies to deal with the critical health issue raised in this motion.

Motion 17. SA Lone Members

CARRIED with acclamation

Moved: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Lorraine Balharry

“That ICPSA SA State Council are thanked for their tireless advocacy on behalf of boarding students and their families during the COVID-19 border restrictions and with the SA Health advice for Boarding Schools”

Explanation: The situation of border restrictions and boarding house restrictions regarding boarding school students has been often confusing and inconsistent causing great anxiety to families during the COVID-19 pandemic. ICPSA SA State Council has put great amounts of time and advocacy into this issue

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Motion 18. North-East Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Ros Breeding

Seconded: Dot Sandland

“That SA ICPSA State Council continue to work with Federal Council towards having the AIC extended to children attending Kindergarten by distance education.”

Explanation: Currently, students studying Kindergarten via distance education are ineligible to receive the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance. If families received this allowance, it would alleviate the cost of providing an educational experience for their children. The majority of children who are enrolled in a distance education Kindergarten program are found to have better educational outcomes in later years, by forming these important foundations early in their educational journey.

Motion 19. Marla/Oodnadatta

CARRIED

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

“That SA ICPSA request Services Australia to provide Remote and Isolated Children’s Exercise (RICE) with an exemption to qualify for the In-home care (IHC) solely for the Outback Childcare Program in order for families to receive the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) when utilising this service.”

Explanation: Currently, the RICE Outback Childcare program enables families to receive short-term childcare in the family's' homes when they are in need of respite/emergency care. Outback childcare does not attract any government support or funding resulting in RICE funding this program through other sources of income such as donations and families incurring an hourly fee for the service. The childcare subsidy scheme (CCS) can only be received when a child is enrolled through a centre-based childcare centres or through the IHC scheme which is unavailable to families due to provider limitations within SA. Families are therefore required to pay a fee per hour of care in their home and receive no rebate. Some families living in rural and remote need support and have no other option of care. This service needs to be affordable for families but viable for RICE and if families could access the CCS through the IHC program, then the service would be more affordable and provide for families in times of need.

Comments:

Jessica Bell, Marree Air Branch: I speak in support of this motion. Having used RICE myself with young children was a great way to have that respite. Now getting more expensive with travel costs and staff, it would be great if RICE could get that exemption to qualify for In Home Care scheme without it having to be centre based or with a provider. It is a vital service for new mums especially or for help in those busy times like mustering or shearing.

Mija Reynolds, Flinders Ranges Branch: Both my children are older now and we don't require the services of RICE but I whole heartedly support this motion. The government has started throwing money at mental health, I just don't understand why they would not support this and provide money for it when being unable to access this support, the result on your mental health can be so severe. This is my personal experience. I don't know if this is something ICPA can look in to or to just question but I know there are a lot of government money out there for mental health and maybe some of that could be argued to support the exemption for IHC.

Sally Henery, Flinders Ranges Branch: this is clearly an equity issue, them and us! Was IHC funded for RICE and has that now been lost?

Chloe Hunter, RICE: the program has never been funded through RICE. Unfortunately, we are not eligible for CCS but that would be welcome through this motion.

Lyn Nagel, SA Life Member: I used to manage RICE and was there when we set up the childcare and we did get funding at the beginning under special childcare. The important part of it was the relief it gave outback mums when they had their babies. I remember one mother who had severe post-natal depression with her first child, when the second baby was born, we arranged childcare for her and it made a huge difference.

Sally Sullivan, Federal Council: This is a federal issue and something we can help with when dealing with Service Australia. When we go on delegation with both parliamentarians, those who work at IHC Services Australia Department. I don't want to be negative but dealing with Services Australia and the childcare subsidy, it is all embroiled in legislation and high-level social security policy and difficult to change but we will continue on our mission to make these constraints beautiful.

Motion 20. Marla/Oodnadatta

CARRIED

Moved: Kirsty Williams

Seconded: Helen Williams

"That SA ICPA work with the Department for Education to provide families enrolled in a kindergarten program, via Distance Education, funding to purchase essential items for these children to complete the program successfully."

Explanation: Currently children enrolled in kindergarten through the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise have 5 online lessons per week with the kindergarten teacher who is based in Port Augusta. The family is expected to provide a computer, printer and set up the kindy learning environment as well as attend up to 4 essential face-to-face weeks throughout the year. The purchase of resources along with the travel and accommodation involved in attending face-to-face events adds up and places additional pressure on families. A positive kindergarten experience is imperative to setting the foundation for future learning.

Currently 8 children are enrolled with RICE in 2022 - \$2000/child (\$500 for technology/resources and \$1500 for face-to-face) = \$16000.

This is not a huge outlay of government resources and given kindy children do not qualify for the AIC allowance, a small contribution would stand up to the Government of SA's position statement in their *Wellbeing for Learning and Life Framework* and show that they are committed to giving every child every chance to have the best start in life.

Comments:

Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Members: Resources are essential, our kindy children do need a computer to access their kindy lessons. Face to face events are vital and travel is necessary. Thank you for this motion.

Jessica Bell, Marree Air Branch: often with the first child you have the expense of starting from scratch, setting up a school room or adapting a room in your home, buying a computer and all the other supplies. It is extremely expensive for a first-time parent setting for a kindy kid.

Chloe Hunter, RICE: RICE is funded for a kindy teacher but it is only the basics that we are able to provide to the families, their resources, crafting and administration. There is the expectation for families to provide the laptop and internet connection. We fully support this motion to hopefully get something for our families.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

Motion 21. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Rachel Smart

Seconded: Katrina Morris

"That SA ICPA liaise with Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Road Maintenance – Regional North & Outback highlighting how vital having a functional road system is to our members to ensure access to educational opportunities."

Explanation: Roads provide an essential link to education for families that are remote and isolated. It is essential that unsealed roads are maintained sufficiently to allow safe access to education. In some cases, students need to travel to and from school each day or weekly. Educational supplies need to be able to be delivered through the mail in timely fashion. For example, after the recent deluge of rain, school supplies to a SOTA student, which included computer equipment were unable to be delivered by mail due to impassable roads and the lack of road gangs to fix the roads, causing a 3-week delay.

We would like to see the roads maintained sufficiently to support us accessing education.

Motion 22. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Rachel Smart
Seconded: Katrina Morris

“That SA ICPA lobbies airlines servicing the northern areas of SA to provide a student fare.”

Explanation: Boarding students returning home during term are faced with the dilemma of long bus journeys that greatly erode available down time or huge airfare costs. Families are faced with the situation that they need to cut a long weekend short to allow for the two days travel via the bus because the cost of air fares precludes families from being able to utilise them which was.

Comment:

Di Thomas, Eyre Branch: I support this motion. There are families in the Eyre Branch that fly their kids in and out. We don't have the option of a bus. There is a bus service that runs once a week, which is limiting.

Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch: Can children still catch a bus? I had heard that they had to be 18 years old to travel unaccompanied. *(Bus travel – up to 9 years old, accompanied by someone 15 years or older, 9-14 years with letter of authority form completed)*

Glennis Crawford, SA Life Member: I support this motion and think it needs to go further. I believe that any student who needs to catch a plane should be getting a student fare.

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: current prices for flights. Adelaide to Whyalla return \$390; Adelaide to Ceduna \$478; Adelaide to Coober Pedy \$714; Adelaide to Port Lincoln \$334; Adelaide to Broken Hill \$448.

Keith Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch: I support this motion however I don't think lobbying the airlines is going to be the solution. Their bottom line is not going to allow them to provide a cheaper service. I think you will be better off lobbying the government to subsidise the airlines to allow the cheaper service.

Lorrayne Balharry, Lone Member: I would like to move an amendment to the motion to say regional areas rather than northern areas.

Lisa Slade, State Council: I think that State Council can work with that as it is. I don't know that we need to move an amendment to lobby for all ICPA members.

Lorrayne Balharry, Lone Member: if that is your decision, I'll withdraw my amendment.

Sally Sullivan, Federal Council: a couple of comments. In Queensland there is a subsidy for the chaperone to accompany an underage student on buses. In the NT, and Federally, we have been advocating for a cap rather than a subsidy for a particular student fare. To cap the fare, they may pay a normal commercial fare of \$300 rather than the holiday time exorbitant fares when students need to travel home or to school. Alice Springs to Darwin, usually \$300 but up to \$1000 during the Super Cars event in Darwin.

ADMINISTRATION

Motion 23. North West Branch

CARRIED with acclamation

Moved: Pamela Cuffe
Seconded: Candice Brown

“That the North West Branch host the 2023 SA ICPA state conference.”

SA ICPA 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM Motion 1

“That the minutes of the 2021 conference be accepted”

MOVED: Edwina Bowie

SECONDED: Kate Greenfield

CARRIED

AGM Motion 2

“That the SA ICPA State Affiliation fee remains at \$22”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

CARRIED

AGM Motion 3

“That SA ICPA Lone Member Subs be \$45”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

CARRIED

AGM Motion 4

““That the SA ICPA financial records be audited by Mid North Accounting Services.”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

CARRIED

AGM Motion 5

“That the Financial Report be accepted”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

CARRIED

ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2021-2022

President: **Jill Greenfield**

Nominated: Joanna Gibson

Seconded: Glennis Crawford

Vice-President: **Lisa Slade**

Nominated: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Sonya Fels

Secretary:

No Nomination

Assistant Secretary: **Hollie Williams**

Nominated: Joanna Gibson

Seconded: Edwina Bowie

Treasurer: **Michelle Hilder**

Nominated: Sonya Fels

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

Publicity Officer: **Katrina Morris**

Nominated: Petie Rankin

Seconded: Col Greenfield

Immediate Past President: **Kerry Williams**

APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch: Di Thomas

Flinders Ranges Branch: Belinda Hatcher, Emilee Warnest

Marla Oodnadatta Branch: Hollie Williams, Paulaine Vermeulen

Marree Air Branch: No appointment

North East Branch: Penny Rasheed, Melanie Lewis

North West Branch: Candice Brown, Jess Barry

Port Augusta Branch: Katrina Morris,

SA ICPA 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM Motion 1

CARRIED

“That the minutes of the 2020 conference be accepted”

MOVED: Lisa Slade

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

AGM Motion 2

CARRIED

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SECONDED: Hollie Williams

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SECONDED: Hollie Williams

AGM Motion 4

CARRIED

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MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

AGM Motion 5

CARRIED

“That the Financial Report be accepted”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2022-2023

President: Belinda Hatcher

Nominated: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Hollie Williams

Vice-President: Lisa Slade

Nominated: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Sonya Fels

Secretary: Hollie Williams

Nominated: Helen Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Treasurer: Michelle Hilder

Nominated: Sonya Fels

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

Publicity Officer: Helen Williams

Nominated: Candice Brown

Seconded: Kerri Williams

Immediate Past President: Jill Greenfield

APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch: Di Thomas

Flinders Ranges Branch: Belinda Hatcher

Marla Oodnadatta Branch: Helen Williams, Louise Kohler

Marree Air Branch: Ellen Litchfield

North East Branch: Penny Rasheed

North West Branch: Candice Brown, Pamela Cuffe

Port Augusta Branch: Amanda Michael, Katrina Morris

Lone Members: Jodie Keogh

SA ICPA Presidents Report

Jill Greenfield

Members and guests of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association, it is with pleasure that I present my third and final Presidents' Report at this the 2022 SA State Conference.

Looking around the room, many of you will have an ICPA story. It might be attending a state or federal conference, a road trip to Parachilna state conference while leaving six kids behind with two govies, visiting Parliament House, sharing a room with Joanna and waking to the smell of fresh coffee or catching up with ICPA friends. These are just a few of mine. I have been thinking of my earliest memory of ICPA. It was in 1994 when I was young and wide eyed, on an adventure North. I was fortunate to be welcomed into the Giles family home, at Wintinna Station, as their governess. Bernadette and Digby were stalwarts of the Marla/Oodnadatta branch and I followed them to ICPA fundraisers throughout the year. Jump forward a few years, I am attending my first State conference in Woomera. What an eye opener it was. It was 2001 and I had a 2-year-old and a baby so my ICPA journey was only in its infancy. As I chair my third ICPA conference today, I reflect on the many wonderful ICPA memories, adventures and experiences over the years and look forward to many more to come.

Another year has flown past and much has happened. Many of the issues have arisen from Covid 19, the pandemic that just keeps giving! From boarding school Covid rules, what is a close contact and border restrictions.

State Council continues to work through motions and be proactive attending numerous meetings and having a voice with our key stakeholders. Thank you to State Councillors for your dedication and all that you contribute.

Some of the projects and meetings that we have been fortunate to partake in are:

- Parent Engagement in Learning Strategy
- ACCAN member
- Boarder/border Round table meeting with Minister McKenzie, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education
- ICPA Joint Council Meetings
- Portfolio Meetings
- CaFHS / RFDS / RICE/ ICPA roundtable meetings
- Country and Digital Strategies consultation meeting
- Telstra (Aust) and Federal Council roundtable meeting
- Boarding Stakeholders Meeting: SA Health, Department for Education, Catholic Education SA and Independent Schools of SA
- OCA Outback Futures Consultation
- NBN meetings
- SA Arid Lands field day

Hollie and myself have attended two joint council meetings, one in April 2021 and the other more recently, in March. While these meetings have been via Zoom they are always a great way of connecting and sharing ideas between the States and Territories. Topics discussed included, membership across the states, promoting ICPA, current issues specific for each state and those that are across the board. Fingers crossed that the next joint council meeting can be face to face, enabling for improved networking between us all.

We held a successful Delegation at the end of June 2021 with Hollie, Belinda, Lisa, Kerry and myself able to meet in Adelaide. Despite the wintery weather we managed to navigate our way around

Adelaide and had a very positive few days of meetings. Former Minister for Education, John Gardner MP was very empathetic to our issues and we felt he gave us the time to listen and work through solutions. We discussed Year 7 being part of High school especially for the School of the Air (SOTA) students. Furthermore, we have discussed this issue with Julie Taylor, Open Access College (OAC) Principal and Lau Kuan Lim, School of the Air (SOTA) Head of Campus. Those students completing their year 7 studies through OAC will have the opportunity to attend SOTA activities, camps and Face to Face events. We feel that this is a positive outcome for those students and their families.

Evidence-based literacy programs and Early Intervention for children were discussed with the Minister. The importance of supporting teachers, students and supervisors was a key point raised. Kerry spoke of the importance of our Specific Needs motions and Minister Gardner is a strong believer in the work that Specific Learning Difficulties SA (SPELD) are continuing to do in schools.

We also met with Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS), the Department for Education external relations and Livestock SA. We look forward to continuing our association with these key stakeholders.

I would like to thank the former member for Stuart, Dan Van Holst Pellekaan for his assistance with some of these meetings.

State council were invited to participate in the Country Education Strategy. We were fortunate to be included in this consultation by the Department for Education. The Country Education Strategy paper was released in September 2021 and the common issues found were:

- Attraction and retention of quality teachers, leaders and support staff
- Transition and induction support for new staff to facilitate connection to the community
- Timely access to quality student support services for children who need them
- Visibility of career pathways and opportunities for students
- Access to a broad range of curriculum, including specialist subjects for students
- Access to ICT infrastructure, capability and support

I feel that these key topics are what ICPA advocates for on a daily basis. We look forward to working with the Department for Education and key stakeholders in bringing many of these goals to fruition.

Federal Council and other relevant parties met with Minister McKenzie (Minister for Regional Education) regarding a National Approach to the boarding school border issues. Following on from this meeting a letter was sent to South Australian Education Minister, Health Minister and the Deputy Chief Public Health Officer regarding a National Framework for students travelling across borders to their place of residence from boarding school. A positive outcome was achieved with the National code for boarding school students being endorsed by National Cabinet. ICPA do not have many member families that this affects but I am very aware of the many ICPA families that it acutely impacts throughout the states and territory. Well done to all that fought so hard for this win.

SA ICPA have continued to lobby for many issues that have arisen throughout the year. The Chinta bus route was ceased, affecting those families that used the service. After consultation with the families, we wrote a letter of support. The bus service has been extended for a further six months, to be reviewed. Thank you to Mel and Di for their work with this issue.

The beginning of the 2022 school year did not start smoothly for many boarding children, especially for those starting their boarding journey. It became apparent early in the term that boarding houses were applying rules based on the guidelines from SA Health. We collated case studies from families

and along with the assistance of the Member for Flinders, Peter Treloar and the Dan Van Holst Pellekaan, we were able to secure a meeting with SA Health, Department for Education, Catholic Education SA and Independent Schools of SA. The meeting was extremely useful for us all to come together for the common goal of boarding children.

A joint council media release was circulated. From the time of writing this report, rules have eased in the boarding houses with more freedom and extra-curricular activities allowed by the children but the close contact rule has not changed. We are very concerned for the health and well-being, of our boarding cohort who are currently exposed to the stress and anxiety of the unknown in boarding. We welcome ongoing discussions with all parties.

The SA Department for Education's [Parent Engagement in Learning Strategy](#) was launched on 29 December 2021. SA ICPA were part of the consultation process. The strategy outlines how the department will support parent engagement in learning now and into the future.

Federal conference was certainly a roller coaster of, can we go, can't we go! Thank you to the five South Australians that were able to attend Conference at Longreach on the 3rd and 4th of November. Hollie, Katrina and myself flew direct from William Creek to Longreach. After some nerves, we managed to get everyone in the plane, sometimes being tall does not have its advantages, especially in a four-seater plane.

Longreach and the 2021 Federal convening committee certainly did not disappoint as we were thoroughly spoilt by way of virtual guest speakers, dinner by the Thompson River and the Qantas 50th display. Congratulations to Lisa Slade who was renominated for Federal Council. Thank you to Lisa for flying the flag for SA.

The SA Arid Lands field day was held on the 3rd and 4th of December in Port Augusta. After a few false starts it was wonderful to see so many come together. ICPA had a stall at the field day, with lots of information and a great spot to stop and have a chat. Thank you to SA Arid Lands for organising a wonderful event.

SA ICPA have ventured into the realm of selling fishing shirts. Along with SOTA, we have secured sponsorship and these colourful additions to your wardrobe are loved by our younger members. Well done to those that worked tirelessly to get them designed and ready to go for a great Christmas present.

I would like to once again thank the Indulkaninna Foundation for your generous donation to SA ICPA. We utilised the money for SPELD bursaries and general bursaries for rural and remote ICPA member families. We look forward to this being an ongoing partnership.

We have continued to communicate to members through many ways. Our E-Newsletter is circulated approximately every 6 weeks. We post on Social Media and members are updated through their branches and of course the Pipeline and Pedals magazines.

The Pipeline magazine is now delivered to your doorstep twice a year. The Pipeline had its 100th edition milestone in January this year. With the inception of this magazine in November 1989, it has come a long way. In November 2000, Audrey Sheehan from Moolawatana Station won the naming of the magazine with her winning name, The Pipeline. Throughout the years the magazine has advanced from typing everything on an electronic typewriter to now using a program called InDesign to help with the layout. Things have certainly changed and I'm sure many, who used the typewriter, would say, for the best! Thank you to past and present editors who have made this magazine a must read on mail day.

I would like to sincerely thank State Council for all of your untiring work. The Executive team has consisted of: Hollie Williams as Assistant Secretary (aka Secretary), Michelle Hilder as Treasurer, Katrina

Morris as Publicity Officer, Lisa Slade as Vice President and Kerry Williams as Immediate Past President. A special shout out to Hollie. It is like being 'married' to another person with the constant stream of ICPA related emails, messages and phone calls. Lucky, we have such understanding husbands!

Thank you to the conference convenors from the Port Augusta branch; Kat, Michelle, Jane, Steph, Rachel and Kate. It's no surprise that this team of women have pulled off such a fantastic "50 years of SA ICPA" conference.

Thank you to those state councillors that are stepping off of state council. They are Kerry Williams, Jess Barry, Melanie Lewis and Emilie Warnest. Your time and passion are appreciated by all. A special thank you to Kerry. Kerry has been Pipeline editor, President and Immediate Past President. More importantly those that know Kerry, know of the immense passion she has for the Specific Needs portfolio. She is and always will be our 'go to' person.

Last but definitely not least, as we mark 50 years of SA ICPA, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers that have fought the fight before me. It is wonderful to welcome many here today and thank you for advocating for your children, our children and our future children.

Have a wonderful conference.

SA ICPA Treasurers Report

Michelle Hilder

Madam President, fellow ICPA members, guests and visitors.

I am pleased to present my third Treasurers Report for SA ICPA. The COVID-19 pandemic is still with us and the impact this has had for us, trying to organise events etc. throughout the 2021 year, has made it difficult.

I would like to thank anyone who has helped me, or who I have worked with throughout the year.

My report includes the audited Financial Statement for the year 2021 and the unaudited Interim Report from the 01/01/2022 to the 28/02/2022.

SA ICPA made a loss of \$8,686.80 for the 2021 year. Please note the significant Net (Loss) amount showing on the Profit and Loss (Cash) Report for 2021 is mainly due to SA ICPA not applying for or receiving the \$10,000 support grant from The Department for Education for the 2021 year. This grant has previously been used to offset every day running expenses including Insurance, printing "The Pipeline" newsletter, supporting Councillor's attendance at Face-to-Face meetings, Federal Conference and Delegations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has made it difficult for State Council to organise any Face-to-Face meetings.

At the end of 2021 we had a healthy bank account balance of \$51,751.48.

Five SA ICPA Councillors were able to meet in Adelaide on the 23rd and 24th June to attend Delegation. The Minister for Education, The Education Department, Livestock SA and The Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) were some of the stakeholders Councillors met with.

SA ICPA held the 50th Annual State Conference (hosted by the ICPA Marree Air Branch) at the Central Oval, Port Augusta on Friday, 12th March 2021. This was well organised and attended by a good number of members and guests.

The Federal Conference was held in Longreach, Queensland, on 5th and 6th August 2021. SA ICPA was well represented by our President, Assistant Secretary and Publicity Officer, who were all able to make the trip. Those who attended commended Federal Council on the how well organised and interesting the Conference was.

SA ICPA was very grateful to receive another generous donation this year from The Indulkaninna Foundation of \$10,000.00. A joint decision was made with the Indulkaninna Foundation representatives and SA ICPA to offer Open Bursaries (which allowed a little more flexibility for what members might like to put the bursary towards), to SA ICPA member families. We have received many, many positive comments from those recipients who have received these bursaries and all are thankful for the generosity of The Indulkaninna Foundation. This extremely positive feedback will be relayed back to The Indulkaninna Foundation representatives.

SPELD provided many students with a Sound-Write Literacy Clinic Bursary.

This year SA ICPA ran a joint Fishing Shirt fundraiser with School of the Air (SOTA) Port Augusta. Sponsorship for this fundraiser was received from the following very generous companies; Coda Minerals, Elders - Northern Pastoral, MGA Insurance Group, Nutrien Ag Solutions - Port Augusta, OZ Minerals, Petretherm and Senturion Steel Supplies. This has been a very, very popular fundraiser.

State Council continue to use Zoom (web-based video conferencing tool) to meet for their regular monthly meetings. This has proven to be a great way to hold our Council meetings.

“Cashflow Manager” (accounting software) has been the bookkeeping tool I have used for SA ICPA finances for 2021.

Mid North Accounting were engaged to carry out the audit of the SA ICPA financials for the 2021 year. This change has been a very smooth process for me and the need not to have to follow up the Audited Report was a delight.

Federal ICPA set up a new Website and Database in 2021. This has been a huge job for all concerned. Once the early teething problems of the Database, as they arrive, are sorted, this will be as very useful tool.

This year has seen many more SA ICPA members using the online method (PayPal) to pay their memberships.

For the 2021 membership year SA had 94 member families renew their membership. This was down a little from the previous year. The Far West Branch has not had any members renew for the 2021 year.

We have four Corporate Members and ten School Corporate Members for the 2021 year. This enables these members to receive all State and Territory Publications.

BRANCH REPORTS

MARREE AIR BRANCH

President: Jessica Bell

2021 kicked off a busy start with the Marree Air Branch hosting the state conference in Port Augusta. Members of the branch both old and new came together during the busy few days in March to see it all come together perfectly. So, thank you, from me for all the help team!

The rest of the year sped away from us all! In the 12 months since last conference, we've welcomed 4 babies to the district, Grace Crombie and Isabella Oldfield, both at Cowarie Station, Wyatt Morphett at Callanna station and most recently, Winston Ward at Wilpoorinna Station. We've seen some wonderful widespread rain which has brought big smiles to all our faces.

We've also welcomed 2 new members to our branch! Bridie Ferguson, Kaeli May and their families! We are very excited about this but will let them sit back and learn the ropes for a couple years. Looking forward to a busy and fulfilling 2022 for our branch

FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH

President: Belinda Hatcher

As always, the last 12 months have flown by and it's hard to believe that we are already a quarter of the way through 2022. The past year has been one that I am sure we will not forget, and the events of 2021 have seen us change the way we live our lives forever. With quiet confidence the Flinders Ranges started to slowly recover from the drought, and it has allowed the graziers in our district to start to rebuild their flocks and herds. As it was in 2020, the tourism industry has continued to show steady growth and our branch tourism operators have welcomed thousands of travellers to the region. The global pandemic entered its second year of dominating our lives and its impact has been far reaching but in true Aussie style we all just kept pressing on and getting things done. Our membership again remained static in 2021 and as a branch we had a quiet year regarding meetings and catch ups. I can only hope that things will be a little kinder to us all in 2022 and that we will be able to find the time to meet face to face for a couple of meetings and share friendship and fun as a branch.

Our committee for 2021 saw me, Michelle Hilder and Rachael Hilder remain as President, Vice President and Treasurer respectively and we welcomed Sonya Fels as our new Secretary and Joanne Ridsdale into the role Publicity Officer. Our State Council reps were me and Emilee Warnest. Many thanks were offered to Mija Reynolds as she stepped away from her role as Secretary and out of an executive role and to Sonya Fels for her job as Publicity Officer. Unfortunately, we were only able to hold 1 general meeting this year in part due to COVID and the busy schedules of the executives. With the return of the Hawker Races, our branch was again able to hold the ever-popular cheese platter stall and it saw us raise almost \$500 for the branch. Many thanks to Emilee Warnest and her group of helpers for facilitating and manning the stall. As it has been our only fundraiser for a few years we are most grateful for her dedication in continuing to run it.

The 2021 State Conference was held on the 12th of March at the Central Oval Complex and was hosted by the Marree Air Branch. Our branch presented 2 motions and there was a total of 15 motions debated during the day, with all of them being heartily discussed and subsequently carried. It was an excellent day and there was so much positivity that came out of the day. The dedication shown by those who are passionate about ICPA, and our children's education is inspiring to me and the reason I enjoy participating in conference so much. The chats over a meal or a drink or two is an added bonus and it's always wonderful to catch up with old friends and those you only see once a year at conference.

This year's Federal Conference had to be postponed due to border restrictions, but it was eventually held in November at Longreach and from all reports, the 50th anniversary conference was a great success. We were very lucky to have our state represented by Jill, Hollie, Katrina, Lisa and Jane. We would like to congratulate branch member Lisa Slade on completing her 4-year term as Federal Treasurer - she has done a stellar job. It is clear she loves Federal Council so much that she stepped from Treasurer to Vice President the very same day! FRICPA and its members owe her a great deal of gratitude for her unwavering and continued dedication in fighting for all things education for our children.

Some news from our branch includes John, Keziah, and Elsie Henery from Alpana Station welcoming their son and baby brother John Patrick in June. From all reports he has settled into the Henery family well. Norton, Emilee, Holly, Katie and Tilly Warnest bought a big bus and set off on a big adventure around Australia. We wish them a safe and fabulous time. Two of our member families being successful at the 2021 SA Tourism Awards. The Reynolds Family from Skytrek Willow Springs Station won silver and The McInnis Family from Flinders Ranges Bush Retreats won Bronze both in the Self-Contained Accommodation category. A hearty congratulations to them. The Slade family completing their move to Gowan Hills at Murray Town and closing the Moolooloo chapter of their lives. They will be missed but we but know they will remain an important part of our branch in the future.

I would like to offer a big congratulations to our three Year 12 graduates Jess Fels, James McInnis and Josh Hilder. Jessica Fels was the winner of 3 awards at the Urrbrae graduation ceremony. She was awarded the Animal Production Prize, Outdoor Education Prize, and the Thomas Foods Scholarship. She is now planning to study a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Adelaide Uni. James McInnis officially completing his school-based apprenticeship and has begun his full-time metal fabrication apprenticeship with BAE Systems building Australian Navy ships. Josh Hilder successfully completed a Certificate 2 in Engineering Pathways, all while juggling his Year 12 study and part time work at Orroroo Meat Co. Myself and our whole branch wish all three of them the very best for their bright futures.

On a sad and reflective note, we said goodbye to two long standing and valuable members of our branch in 2021. In June the Warwick family lost their wife, mother/in law and Grandmother Janne. Janne was a dedicated life member of our branch, and she was an active and supportive member until her passing. She will be missed by us all. In August the Slade family lost their wife, mother/in law and Grandmother Lesley. Her contribution and dedication to her family, community and ICPA was unwavering, and she will be missed by all who knew her. Vale Janne and Leslie – we will always remain in awe of the roads you paved for our branch and its members.

I would like to take this opportunity acknowledge all the students from our branch. The RICE kids, the SOTA kids, the boarding kids, the small rural school kids, the apprentice kids and the uni kids. Being educated as a student from the remote and rural parts of South Australia is a hard gig at the best of times, but the added pressure of dealing with all the disruptions brought about by COVID 19 has made

it even harder than normal. I offer my hearty congratulations to them (and of course their families) for continuing to strive for their best every day, even during the toughest of times. We are so proud of you all and your determination is the reason why we keep doing what we do for ICPA.

Finally, I want to offer the biggest of thanks to Jill and Hollie and the rest of State Council for all the hard work and countless hours of dedication they have put in over the past year. The global pandemic has thrown too many curve balls to count at our members and the extra work this has added to the duties of state council and in particular Jill and Hollie has been immense. Our branch would like you to know that we appreciate everything you have done and acknowledge all the extra hours you have somehow found in your busy lives to support our members. Here's hoping that 2022 blesses us with rain (perhaps a bit more spread out than it was in January), smiles, less stress, the end of the pandemic and anything we need to succeed in whatever we hope to achieve in the coming year.

NORTH WEST BRANCH

President: Lynly Kerin

ICPA Members, friends and guests

What a beginning to 2022 we have seen. In case you missed it, IT RAINED! There was not a dry piece of dirt (almost) to be found in the northern regions of SA and this did more than just make us smile. We reconnected, we laughed, we swam, we cried, and we watched happy livestock soak it in.

We have begun to live with COVID in more of a new normal way, minus the masks still fogging up our glasses. COVID of course doesn't mean only social distancing and less parties, it also means saying goodbye to our boarders in the carparks of their schools, them ringing us up to say they are bored because they are stuck in their room due to being a 'classroom contact', telling us they hate it because they can't play their sports, so on and so forth. I'm sure there are plenty of ICPA members who have their own stories regarding boarding and COVID so please, for the sake of our kids, share your story.

Our branch had its annual AGM, General meeting and Christmas function at Glendambo last year, where members and friends joined us in celebrating the end of 2021 and the ending of yet another upside-down year. We would like to thank Oz Minerals and Peak Iron for supporting our community and members with this function, allowing us to relax in a hassle-free evening amongst friends. Our branch executives are:

President – Lynly Kerin

Secretary – Petie Rankin

Treasurer – Megan Henderson

Publicity Officer – Pamela Cuffe

Branch Delegates – Candice Brown & Pamela Cuffe

Life Members – Joanna Gibson & Jill Greenfield

Jill Greenfield, a wonderful advocate and long-time North West ICPA member, has completed her 3rd year as SA ICPA president. Well done on this amazing effort Jill.

This year saw Hayden Rankin off to Pembroke to begin year 9 and Elke Kerin to Westminster to start year 8. We said a sad goodbye to the Barry family from Commonwealth Hill who ventured off in

January to a new job, new location and new life on the rather splendid Kangaroo Island. Laura Greenfield announced her very exciting engagement to Ben Hewitt, sure to be the wedding of the decade! Both Amelia and Molly Gibson have successfully finished their Bachelors degrees, not surprisingly both in areas of agriculture. Young Eli Cuffe of Siam Station has begun his kindy journey with RICE this year, realising how lucky he is to have a name with only 3 letters.

Our branch saw an opportunity to raise funds this year with the Shitbox Rally coming through North Well, unfortunately at the same time as the SA ICPA State Conference, so we are spread a bit thin this week. These events are a great chance to increase funds in our branches and are also a lot of fun for those involved. It's these things that allow us to do the more artsy things like clutch workshops! We engaged in a local Clare artist to travel north to Mt Vivian last year (we managed to escape COVID restrictions luckily!) to conduct a lesson on how to paint your own bag, with kids lucky enough to be taught how to paint colourful and creative pictures.

Federal Conference saw a few lucky members travel to Longreach for the face-to-face event while the rest attended online from the comfort of their lounges. Or beds. In pyjama bottoms. Many of our members were able to jump online and were also fortunate enough to receive a goody bag in the mail for their efforts! Online conferences have their ups and downs and their pros and cons, but I can safely say I look forward to the return of us all being allowed in one room together without the constant juggle of restrictions!

Congratulations to the fabulous Port Augusta branch for hosting this year's ICPA Conference. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to run these events, but the amazingly capable members of the SA ICPA branches take it all in their stride and always manage to pull together a fantastic few days, regardless of restrictions!

The North West branch is excited to host the 2023 SA ICPA State Conference, with details on dates and times to be confirmed. Keep your ears to the ground for possible guest speakers, raffle items, locations and send ideas so we can add it to the list!

PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH

President: Katrina Morris

It seems that our roles in outback committees and within our communities always go around in circles and it gives us all a chance to learn new skills and highlights the diversity and resilience of outback families. So, it's my turn to put on the president's hat for our branch and here goes my first report as such.

I have really enjoyed being a part of state council the last few years and feel that it has really opened my eyes as to what goes on in ICPA. Thank you to our branch for allowing me to go to the Federal Conference in Longreach last year. It is always great to be amongst likeminded people and to reconfirm that we are not the only ones going through putting kids through school in difficult circumstances and communications. Since Longreach we have started a Facebook messenger group for our branch to try and keep everyone up to date and keep communication lines open for everyone.

I'd just like to take this opportunity to congratulate Michelle and our branch on all the work that they have been putting into state conference. It's never easy, especially when you haven't done it before, but everyone has tried to help and be involved, so thanks for taking it on. It really takes many hands to make light work, and all comes together as a team effort. Thankyou also to Jane Anderson and Kate Greenfield who are old hands at this, and who we look to for advice and guidance.

We recently hosted some of the older ladies from our track for a high tea at Michelle and Phil Lord's house in Adelaide to reminisce about schooling in days gone by, and to get some insights on their involvement in ICPA, and what their main concerns had been. It was such a great afternoon and so interesting to hear the stories that they had to share, we all wondered why we hadn't done it sooner.

Ian and I hosted a 'Bush Kids Honey' day at Thurlga which was a great success with many participants attending and having a great time learning more about their bees. Although Ian has stepped down as president of our branch, he intends to continue to be our 'bee man' and keep this project progressing. Thanks Ian for all the hard work you have done in coordinating this project as Bonnie and I for one are loving being involved in it. Jeff Bowey, apiarist from Pt Augusta, has been a wonderful source of information and enthusiasm. It was truly great having him here, going through our hive and explaining what was going on in it. The kids really found it interesting as well. We also had Greg Williams here on the day who is helping to coordinate the marketing, website, labels, jars etc. We found that he was a great wealth of knowledge and look forward to hearing how he will be helping us to move forward with this in the next few weeks. Thanks to Chris Fulton, South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board, for his ongoing support. Chris has been an integral part of getting the project off the ground. We hope that you enjoy the sample of honey from some of our hives in your bags.

We managed to have our AGM coincide with our annual Gawler Ranges Progress Association Christmas show and AGM, this has worked well for our branch to get the whole community involved with ICPA and the support from the community has been wonderful.

We finalised the executive positions after the meeting and it's great that they have been shared around and filled.

President – Katrina Morris
Vice President – Stefanie Roeske
Secretary – Michelle Lord
Treasurer – Jane Anderson
Publicity Officer – Stefanie Roeske
Branch Delegates – Amanda Michael and Katrina Morris
Life Members – Lyn Nagel and Colleen Manning

The members of our branch have all had welcome and much needed rain and the country side looks amazing. Our kids are blossoming as well, even with COVID restrictions. Our branch children have had a wonderful year in schooling, exploring new horizons and learning about bees. The older kids have had a couple of difficult years in boarding and just when we think it's ending it pops its head up again. I felt so sad dropping Cody off to school this year for the last time and seeing parents dropping off their sons for the first time. They had to leave them at the door with no access allowed into the boarding house. It was heart breaking.

We wish those who have started new schools and universities all the best and those that are furthering their education in the outdoor classroom a wonderful future. Good luck to Georgia, Hudson and Cody with completing their year 12 studies before venturing out into the wider world beyond.

Thank you to Jill and her wonderful committee for all of the hard work and hours that you put into making our children's futures a little better with your dedication.

MARLA/OODNADATTA BRANCH

President: Kirsty Williams

The Marla Oodnadatta Branch has only a handful of active members but those we do have ensure the passion and advocacy that is ICPA remains strong. Congratulations must go to Hollie Williams who has taken on State secretary, no small task but something she is taking it all in her stride alongside of all the other community roles she is involved with.

Fundraising opportunities are few and far between but we try to make the most of the opportunities when they do arise. We were asked to cater for a Variety Club 4WD bash in late March which was the second time it had been rescheduled due to COVID and who would have thought, but large rains halted their arrival. Generously, the Variety Club provided us with the funds for the catering as a donation along with show bags for the kids. Every little bit counts.

In late March, we were able to secure a FRRR grant to host a 2-day horse clinic and a community concert/show hosted by the one and only Tom Curtain. The skills the kids learnt from the clinic were invaluable and the *Katherine Outback Experience Show* was a real morale booster for the community on the back of most local events in 2020 being cancelled. We hope that we will be able to offer further learning opportunities and experiences through our ICPA fundraising channels in coming years for the kids in our community.

The William Creek and Oodnadatta Gymkhanas and Bronco Brandings, cricket and football matches were all able to go ahead in 2021 despite the challenges COVID threw with uncertainty right up until the events took place. The ability to have these events is so important for our small communities and thanks must go to all the volunteers and community members for the hours behind the scenes they put in.

The baby boom in the area seemed to plateau in 2021 compared to previous years. Congratulations to Trent Colman & Louise Kohler at Mt Sarah Station who welcomed their third child, Drew Matilda in September.

Early this year we farewelled Logan Williams of Nilpinna Station who headed off to attend Orroroo Area School for Year 8. Who would have thought rain and road closures would result in missing the first couple of days of secondary school. Logan will be missed by all the kids in the area for his unwavering patience and kindness to anyone and everyone, always willing to help out. There will be a few kids anticipating his arrival when he returns in the holidays. We wish Logan all the best for his secondary years of schooling and the journey ahead.

2022 has seen Honey-May Fennell of Wintinna Station and Jack Williams of The Peake Station begin their official SOTA journey starting in Reception. They are the only 2 reception students this year at SOTA. Also starting their learning journey is Emmett Colman from Mt Sarah Station, Beau Fennell of Wintinna Station and Olivia Williams of Anna Creek Station who have all started kindy.

Last year our branch did not have any delegates attend conference due to Tom Curtain's clinic clashing with the date. Hollie managed to attend the Federal Conference in Longreach which looked like a great event. Both Federal and State conferences always provide great discussion and a fantastic catch up with others from around the country.

Recently we held our branch AGM via Zoom and the following were elected.

President: Kirsty Williams

Secretary: Hollie Williams

Treasurer: Helen Williams

Publicity Officer: Hollie Williams

State Council Delegates: Helen Williams & Louise Kohler

On behalf of the Marla-Oodnadatta branch we would like to congratulate the Port Augusta branch on hosting the 2022 conference - Thank You.

EYRE BRANCH

Di Thomas

Another year has gone and we are still faced with the “COVID saga”! We are all getting used to wearing masks, QR check ins, vaccinations, border closures and isolation. These factors have certainly complicated life on the educational level. Home schooling and online learning is something that every student from urban to outback country, has now experienced. I think more parents would have now found respect for this way of learning.

Eyre Branch has been its usual quiet self during 2021. However, we are pleased to report that three new families have joined our branch. This has encouraged my commitment in continuing on the committee and supporting young families of Eyre Peninsular.

2021 AGM will be done by ‘messenger’. It is already in progress and seems to be working well.

We are proposing to go over to internet banking which will help the Treasurer and save on travel.

Towards the end of 2021 the Department for Education, Transport Section was going to close the Chinta School bus service to Ceduna Area School. Eyre Branch has shown support by talking to affected parents and helping with a letter of support from ICPA hoping to keep it operating.

We have encouraged the families from the Chinta district to join our branch and boost our membership.

In closing, Eyre Branch members, wish for a successful conference in April and hope that the impending State election proves fruitful to ICPA SA.

NORTH EAST BRANCH

President: Leisa Breeding

Dear ICPA members and friends,

With another interesting year behind us we look forward to what 2022 brings. A slight delay to the start of the school year but our resilient kids stepped back into their schoolrooms either online or face to face in their schools. For our Port Augusta SOTA students, it meant induction week usually held in week 1 being re-scheduled for week 5 and we also have students returning to Broken Hill SOTA. Students attending Yunta Rural School have now been able to go back to attending campus and resume their schooling with 4 students and 2 transitioning this year.

Events were few and far between for our area last year but we were able to have a fantastic catering fundraiser looking after a great crowd at the NRM Mannahill Field Day in May. We look forward to getting some more events to get involved in this year.

Some quiet incredible weather events have been causing all sorts of big patchy falls of rain which has brought the country some relief.

We held our AGM in Burra this year with a good turn out of members and a great number of kids attending which was fantastic.

At this year's branch AGM the following were elected;

President: Leisa Breeding
Secretary: Penny Rasheed
Treasurer: Leisa Breeding
Publicity Officer: Katie Robinson

We are a small branch and it's just fantastic to see how many kids we have in our area; it really gives such a boost with families back in the bush.

Thank you to Port Augusta Branch for hosting the 2022 SA ICPA State Conference.

LONE MEMBER'S REPORT

Jodie Keogh

We had 15 SA ICPA Lone Members for the membership year of 2021. To date we have 10 SA ICPA Lone Members for the 2022 membership year.

Early this year reminders were sent out to existing SA ICPA Lone Members reminding them to renew and thanking those that had already renewed for the 2022 membership year.

Regular communication has been emailed regarding any relevant ICPA news and I have connected with a few members which has been fantastic.

I look forward to continuing to develop communications and connections with our Lone Members and also increase our membership to anyone that has an interest in ICPA and does not have a branch affiliation.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

BOARDING SCHOOLS, SCHOOL TERM HOSTELS & SECOND HOME

Hollie Williams

The start of the 2022 school year was certainly a bit different from other years affecting not only our secondary rural and remote boarder families but everyone with school aged children. The issues surrounding return to boarding, hostels and second homes for schooling has certainly kept ICPA federal and state councils on their toes trying to do our best for members.

Thoughts go in particular to those families who had children that were meant to be starting their boarding journey but instead had to start by remote learning for the first 2 weeks if they did not fall into the “particular” year level that the government allowed to return to face-to-face learning. For the first time in 5 years my year did not start with SOTA induction week. Instead, my daughter Magenta was in the school room with the new governess and my 2 boys were doing school from the kitchen table. The rain and road closures meant Logan could not get out for his first day of Year 8 at Orroroo and Harvey in year 10 was home learning. To the school’s credit, the online learning was set up well and the teachers were on top of it this time round. Regardless, Logans trip south was 2 car rides and 2 plane rides long and 600km plus a nights’ accommodation for my mum to pick him up and drop him off. Two weeks later it was 1400km round trip to drop Harvey off.

In 2021/22, the boarding, hostels, second home portfolio was troubled once again by COVID 19 and all the unrest that came with it for many ICPA families. COVID 19 related issues caused problems for boarding families such as cross border travel, close contact classification, mask wearing along with many other rules and regulations. Sadly, most of these complications have continued into 2022.

In early March 2021, a joint media statement was released stating “ICPA calls for a balanced approach to risk management within boarding”. This statement outlined concerns of living with COVID 19 and its restrictions in a boarding situation, the associated mental health issues and the need for more to be done to ensure solutions are in place. ICPA are working closely with the Education Department, ABSA, Independent schools of SA, Catholic Education SA and SA Health.

The focus has continued to be on key topics which concern our families from COVID-19 related issues to the more longstanding issues like the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Allowance. Ten Boarding Schools/Hostels/Second Home motions were carried at our 50th Federal Conference in November and these motions were actioned within a couple of weeks of Conference.

The National Cabinet endorsed a National Code for Boarding Students in September 2021. The Code should allow for a nationally consistent approach and COVID-safe travel arrangements to help families navigate border restrictions across all states for boarding students. There are far too many stories from ICPA members of not being able to visit their kids or have their kids return home for weeks and sometimes months on end when cross border travel was needed even with clear and safe measures in place.

After 7 years on the Boarding/Hostels/Second Home Portfolio, Nikki Macqueen has stepped off federal council. The new federal lead of this portfolio is Federal Council Vice President and South Australian, Lisa Slade. Lisa hit the ground running with current COVID issues facing our boarding kids around Australia.

The following action took place regarding the boarding motion carried at the 2021 SA State Conference;

- A letter of support was sent from SA ICPA State Council to ICPA Federal Council and other states and territories to advocate for a nationally consistent and long-term approach to border restrictions and guidelines for those students who board interstate.

Ongoing interest points in the Boarding/Hostels/Second Home Allowance Portfolio:

- Assistance for Isolated Children Boarding Allowance (AIC) Boarding Allowance – Basic Boarding is \$8557. An additional \$2,454 is means tested and factors in other extenuating circumstances.
- Assistance for Isolated Children Boarding Allowance (AIC) Second Home Allowance – \$6726 per year paid in fortnightly instalments. Increase of \$227 from 2021.
- State Education Allowance (SEA) – Payment of \$4299.96. Available to geographically isolated parents who receive AIC boarding allowance with children at a secondary school level who board away from home to attend school. It is likely that the SEA rate will increase by 3.3% (in line with inflation) to approx. \$4,486.27 (subject to finance approval). Application is required each year with a copy of Centrelink AIC approval letter education.transportservices@sa.gov.au
- National Boarding Week – 21st to 27th June 2022
- Template Letter - A letter has been generated to aid families is seeking support *re: drought and natural disasters assistance* from schools. This is available to ICPA members on the ICPA website

Most Boarding School Scholarships for 2023 have now closed. If boarding school is on your radar, I strongly encourage you to look into scholarships early and even place your child's name on a school's waiting list if you have a preference. I faced many issues when trying to find a school in Adelaide for my child. Issues varied from schools that no longer take boarders in year 8 and 9, scholarships not being offered, long waiting lists and a very competitive scholarship process. Where do our kids go to secondary school and what do families do if they are not offered a place at a boarding school?

Sending your children away to boarding school is no easy feat for anyone. It comes with enormous challenges from the get-go. Some people say that we choose to live where we do so it's the price we pay. Unless you are put in this situation, other people will never truly understand. Secondary schooling is a necessity that comes at a huge cost to rural and remote families both financially and emotionally. Our ultimate aim is that our children receive a good education and the same opportunities and experiences as those in less isolated locations.

I continue to value ICPA and appreciate those before me that paved the way to make it easier to educate our geographically isolated children. I wish all SA ICPA families who have sent their kids away for secondary school or are living in a second home all the best for 2022 and hope this year's experiences are awesome with many great memories made.

COMMUNICATIONS

Candice Brown

Online Zooms, Teams & Virtual Meetings seem to be the new normal now, for touching base and being updated with all Communication news. All works well if internet has good connectivity.

ACCAN

SA ICPA were invited to join ACCAN (Australian Communication Consumer Action Network). As members we now receive weekly web news which keeps us up to date with issues affecting communications consumers as well as ACCAN news. ACCAN regularly holds events, runs campaigns and produces research and general publications, and they will keep us updated regarding opportunities to engage, empower and participate. They are focused on delivering the best service they can to their members. I received a welcome pack containing general information about their history, Board, Advisory Committees and Strategic Plan. You can also visit the website accan.org.au

On Wednesday 1st December, ACCAN held an online roundtable meeting which discussed the following topics

- Access & affordability
- Digital literacy and education
- NBN product suitability
- Retailer Ethics

Participants were given the opportunity to raise any emerging or reoccurring issues that were being experienced in our communities.

NBN

We attended a Zoom meeting on 11th Nov 2021 with NBN SA/NT lead by Naomi Read- Head of Local SA/NT Team and Lyndsey Jackson - Community Engagement Manager, Northern SA. We put forward our ICPA priorities and issues from our members that could require support from NBN. Some of the issues we raised were; poor connectivity, internet issues, Skymuster Plus (is everyone eligible and is it offered by all service providers?), WIFI calling (it has been noted that is has deteriorated significantly, is this a NBN issue as calls come through the internet?). They took on board a number of actions that we discussed and will follow up. Lyndsey will contact us with further information. We were provided with direct contact information for the local NBN team supporting Northern SA. The information has been forwarded onto all members. Naomi and Lyndsey have also been invited to attend the State ICPA Conference in 2022.

A few ICPA members had another online meeting with Lyndsey Jackson on Tuesday Dec 21st, the idea and the words of "Start the year, ready and connected" had interest from our members, the meeting was to discuss common issues and help provide us with material to assist others, some of the issues members raised were

- Connectivity Issues
- Tech Savvy Tips
- Who to contact when needing help?
- Education is priority

After the successful NBN meeting in December, NBN has kindly offered to run NBN 45minute support sessions for SA ICPA members, they would like to extend this opportunity further by setting up a regular virtual session that you can opt-in to, to learn more about all things **nbn**, building your digital capability and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Below is a link for an online tool that helps users assess their digital capability on four essential competencies. To follow up on the Online Skills Check and Resources tool, below is a custom url <https://surveyv8.humanlistening.com/survey/08578e09-5cc0-44ff-915d-72fad9e2b848/0/cf3e42c4-e0d7-490d-8fc8-20bd7c335a7e?ambassador=LOCAL-SA-ICPA-SA>

TELSTRA

Telstra has launched the Regional Advisory Network (RAN) which is designed to help regional customers with connectivity issues at home, in the business or on the road. Telstra is keen to fix these problems by hopefully putting the right people on the job who understand the issue and who can find a resolution.

<https://say.telstra.com.au/customer/general/forms/regional-advisory-network-contact-us>

SA ICPA had the below few points for discussion with Telstra but unfortunately, we were unable to secure a date for a meeting

- Small cell towers on properties
- Radio phone lines
- Telstra handsets (that do not need power)
- Mobile hotspots (is there another round)?

Regional Tech Hub is now up and running. ICPA has been lobbying for this for several years. The Regional Tech Hub offers independent advice and support and helps regional Australians navigate often confusing phone and internet options and technical issues. You can receive free advice about telecommunication services for regional & remote Australians via

<https://regionalttechhub.org.au/> or the hotline number is 1300 081 029

Myself and other SA State Councilors attended an online meeting on the 25th May 2021 with the Department of Education (Nigel Huxtable, Luke Fraser, Peter Meere, Sarah Rooke) to consult members on the **Country Strategy** (to provide the best learning outcomes for every child and student regardless of where they live) and **Digital Strategy** (to provide digital technologies and approaches as an enabler to world class teaching, learning and site operations).

We made mention of how SOTA (School of the Air) needs to be a starting point for how digital technologies can be used for learning. SOTA was not on the list of schools, but after voicing concerns let's hope it may be looked upon.

RTIRC

Federal Council participated in a Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC) Consultation to discuss our key topics. Although there was only a short period of time with them and obviously quite a few points to cover, they were interested in any key topics that members would like to raise. The consultation committee requested that we give a broad overview of our key advocacies/topics and not necessarily individual issues. Some members have already participated in some of the public consultations and I believe this has been the platform for individuals to raise their specific issues. A few of our communication challenges in SA are....

- Slow internet speeds (WiFi calling is becoming unviable to use on NBN plans).

- Black spots for mobile coverage within Rural and Remote SA (Often one mobile phone provider will put up a tower but then tourists/ locals need to be with that provider, which causes safety issues)
- Lack of mobile phone towers in Remote SA, especially along major industry and tourist routes.
- What are Telstra doing about the antiquated Radio Landline system?? (many with this system have disconnected as so unreliable but often there is no other form of telephone as too remote for any mobile coverage)

Federal Council also lodged a submission to the Review Committee.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Jess Barry & Jill Greenfield

South Australian schools had to adjust to updated COVID restrictions early in the year, with selected year levels accessing remote learning from home for Weeks 1 and 2, to try and restrict the effect of infections during the peak of the pandemic. This caused minor alterations in timetabling with Port Augusta School of The Air (SOTA). Lai Kuan Lim, SOTA Head of Campus and staff commenced Term 1 with Induction Week information sessions delivered via an online platform, instead of the usual face-to-face event. Induction week was postponed until Week 5, after the SA government eased restrictions.

Disruptions continued with Itinerant Teacher's (IT) unable to commence home visits until Week 6. The visits were dependant on SA Health guidelines including social distancing and the requirement that face masks are worn by staff, students and family members. SOTA students and families must not have travelled interstate or been in a high risk or hotspot location and all family members need to be at least double vaccinated to receive an IT home visit. School camp, scheduled for Week 10 of Term One, has also fallen victim to COVID restrictions and has been cancelled.

SOTA welcomed a new Year 2/3 teacher, Sara Ling. They also farewelled Dione, with thanks for all her hard work as a School Services Officer (SSO). An interim Marden Campus SSO will see out the remainder of the 2022 year. SOTA will readvertise for an SSO position for 2023, with a high preference for someone based in Port Augusta, to be more accessible onsite for SOTA students and staff.

SA ICPA met with Julie Taylor, Principal, Open Access Collage (OAC) and Lai Kuan Lim on the 26 August 2021. This was a productive meeting discussing the motions that were carried from the 2021 conference. These included:

- How Year 7 students, who wish to study via OAC can be integrated into SOTA face to face events. These students can also attend face to face events alongside their peers at OAC.
- We spoke about the fantastic work that Specific Learning Difficulties SA (SPELD) are doing both with students and teachers in many schools and the benefits returned to those students and families. SOTA have put in place measures for early intervention and are exploring and recognising the value of clear literacy and evidence-based programs. Some SOTA staff have completed Sounds-Write training. SOTA has also purchased Dandelion Readers.

SA ICPA joined a Federal Education Council Meeting on the 8 December 2021. Education ministers discussed proposed changes to the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). SA ICPA requested due to the circumstances of geographically distance isolated students, to specifically regard the timing and accessibility of NAPLAN testing.

If testing was extended to be held over a two to three-week period, as proposed, this would be unworkable for many remote families who would need to relocate to their school centre for these long periods. Leaving a likelihood that these children would miss testing, leading to underrepresented testing results.

The 1st of December 2021 represented the second annual Geographically Isolated Distance Education Day (GIDE). ICPA asked GIDE Mums from all over Australia to take a photo of themselves showing a statistic that is relevant to their situation. Some amazing facts that were showcased included

- 85% of Distance Education students have their parent as their tutor.
- These parent tutors, whilst supporting one child through 7 years of education, will spend an average 12,000 unpaid hours in the classroom, the equivalent of 9 years.
- Unpaid hours based on a minimum wage of \$20.33 per hour, equals a loss of an income of a minimum of \$195,168. Plus, Superannuation at 9.5% foregone of minimum \$18,540.

Not only does this campaign put a personal touch behind each statistic but strengthens the call for the Federal Government to formally recognise the role that parents play in distance education.

We would like to thank Federal Council for the work that they are doing on the many issues that encompass Distance Education. They continue to advocate for a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA), for appropriate learning resources for distance education students and an increase in the Assistance for Isolated Children – Distance Education (AIC-DE) Allowance.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Penny Rasheed

SA ICPA continues to support Federal Council's motion requesting three and four-year-olds being eligible for the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) payment. This payment would help alleviate some of the costs associated with providing pre-school education for remote and isolated families.

RICE (Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise) continues to work hard providing childcare services for rural and remote families. Chloe Hunter (Director), is doing a great job, effectively leading the team forward. As with most rural areas, attracting staff is a continuous challenge, with some great employment opportunities currently available for the right people.

SA ICPA continues to keep in regular contact with RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service – Central Operations) and CaFHS (Child and Family Health Services) to continue to share information about the needs of remote and isolated families. CaFHS are following up on feedback from families and are focussing on improving their communication about rural and remote clinics. Anyone wishing to contact CaFHS or to make an appointment are advised to call them on 1300 733 606. The Central Operations branch of RFDS are looking to run another Bush Babies mother’s group this year for first time mothers with babies aged 0-6months after successfully running the program last year.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

Melanie Lewis & Di Thomas

This has been my first year as a member of ICPA as well as being new to State Council and this Portfolio. I have very much enjoyed my time working with fellow members on this portfolio. Despite the past year of schooling being interrupted by the pandemic, we have many positive outcomes relating to this portfolio.

Federal Portfolio Leader

At the Federal Conference in November 2021 we welcomed Naomi Obst as our new portfolio leader and thanked outgoing leader Nikki Mahony for her service and dedication to the role. The key issues relating to this portfolio continue to be a push for isolated students to have a Fare Allowance added to the AIC scheme, similar or equal to, those offered under Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY programs. There were also a number of motions which called for rebates or discounts towards public transport costs and airfares for school travel.

Another motion requesting additional funding and maintenance be provided by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport for unsealed outback roads that form part of a bus route or school route for isolated families. This is an ongoing concern for most members who regularly travel on poor quality unsealed roads.

School Membership

Last year we focussed on inviting 51 small, rural or remote schools to join our association. We are pleased to welcome Orroroo Area School and Frances Primary School as new lone members. We will continue to communicate with all of these schools and offer our support should they require.

Chinta Bus

SA ICPA provided parents of Ceduna Area School with a letter of support to Minister of Education John Gardner MP to reconsider cancelling the Chinta Bus Route for the 2022 school year. The parents also obtained letters of support from their local members of parliament and families directly impacted by the bus cancellation.

The Minister has since provided Ceduna Area School with a six-month respite to the proposed cancellation to test the ongoing viability of the bus run. While the families are grateful for the six month extension, they are concerned that their alternative solution has not been considered, nor will it be tested to compare its viability against the current route which the Department has determined is unviable. The community will continue to lobby the government for a more long-term viable solution to this bus route beyond the end of Term 2 this year. We have offered our support to the families should they require any further assistance from ICPA.

Return to School 2022

There was a staggered start to the 2022 school year with Reception, Years 1, 7, 8 and 12 being eligible to return on Wednesday 2nd of February, with the remainder of students to be home schooled until Monday 14th of February 2022. The department made exemptions for children of essential workers or children deemed vulnerable or at risk; allowing them to attend schools for supervised online learning. We were able to clarify with the Department of Education that children in remote and isolated situations would also be able to return to school in Week 1 due to low class numbers and no alternative childcare options being available. This was of particular benefit to me as I have a child starting preschool, Year 1 and Year 2. I would personally like to thank my Local Member of Parliament and Deputy Premier Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP for his assistance with this matter.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Nearly half of South Australia's primary school students aged 5 to 11 have received their first Covid-19 vaccination prior to the start of the 2022 school year. There has been some difficulty in families accessing the vaccine prior to the return of school. The children in our North East district are waiting for the vaccines to become available to our Broken Hill based RFDS clinic. All going well we expect to receive our Pfizer boosters and child vaccinations on 28th February 2022. At this point in time there is no mandatory requirement for children to be immunised against Covid-19 to attend school.

2021 Phonics Screening & NAPLAN Results

SA students performed extremely well in last year's Year 1 Phonics Screening and NAPLAN testing. There was a notable improvement in results in some of our top public schools, which is a credit to the new techniques and strategies that our SA schools have implemented. There are some proposed changes to the NAPLAN testing which may negatively impact our geographically isolated students, particularly if additional travel is required to participate in the testing. Hollie Williams has sent a letter to the Minister for Education identifying our concerns relating to the proposed changes and asked that further consideration be made prior to implementing any change to the current testing program.

Lastly, I would like to thank Di Thomas and all the members of State Council for their support and guidance throughout the year. I would also like to invite anyone that has news or concerns relating to rural schools and school travel to contact us for support.

SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Lisa Slade

At the 2021 State Conference a motion was carried requesting the Minister for Education, the Hon John Gardner, support teachers in rural, regional, and remote areas to implement high quality evidence-based literacy programs. State Council wrote to the Minister on behalf of members and followed up with him on delegation, along with the Department for Education representatives. The Minister supported the request as he and the Department had already done a lot of work in this space and expected schools would begin/continue the uptake of evidence-based literacy programs, including the use of decodable readers. He suggested that schools would be changing from running records to evidence-based literacy assessments and was confident we would see progress over the coming years.

State Council, in conjunction with Kerry Williams from SPELD SA (Specific Learning Difficulties SA), has remained in contact with School of the Air (SOTA) leaders regarding their uptake of evidence-based literacy programs. We can report that some decodable readers have been purchased by SOTA for use within classrooms. We would like to see all students at SOTA have access to these readers, not just

through their involvement with Literacy Clinics with SPELD. It is pleasing to note that SOTA staff met with the SPELD Literacy Clinic staff to discuss the ICPA bursary students to ensure collaborative approach to supporting these students. As an example, Literacy Clinic staff emailed SOTA staff with the supporting word lists to be integrated into the English program for these students.

SAICPA were again fortunate to receive a grant from the Indulkaninna Foundation in 2021 which enabled us to continue to offer bursaries for students of ICPA families, to access the SPELD SA Literacy Clinic online.

In 2021 Brooke Yates from Sandy's Memorial Trust contacted SPELD to discuss a perpetual grant of \$10,000 for the Literacy Clinic to continue supporting geographically isolated students. This meant that funds were to be directed to SPELD rather than ICPA, but that only children of SAICPA members would be eligible. The MacLachlan family (Sandy's Memorial Trust) has a long association with SPELD and with the pastoral industry so were very keen to continue their support.

We are pleased to report that SPELD SA are currently supporting ICPA students through the Indulkannina Foundation and Sandy's Memorial Trust Bursaries, granted by SAICPA. A total of 304 subsidised literacy clinic sessions were delivered to 11 ICPA students (10 last year), with a current enrolment (at the time of writing) of 8 (3 finished at the end of 2021 and 1 started this year). The feedback from families has been incredibly positive and we are very proud to be associated with both the Indulkaninna Foundation and Sandy's Memorial Trust, contributing to better educational outcomes for our rural and remote children.

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Belinda Hatcher

To quote Kate Thompson's Federal ICPA Tertiary portfolio leader's report from the 2021 Federal Conference 'A tertiary education must be accessible for all Australians, but the reality is that rural and remote students continue to be underrepresented at the tertiary level' is a fitting way to begin my report. The tyranny of distance and subsequent difficulty in engagement and retention of rural and remote South Australian students to higher learning has a far-reaching impact on the communities that those students come from. The more ICPA can support rural and remote students to fulfil their desires for higher learning the better off our local communities will be and in turn every 'country kid' that we can encourage back to their regions in whatever career they have chosen is certainly one of the most desirable outcomes of all.

Since the release of the National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy Final Report (Naphthine Review) (<http://www.dese.gov.au/access-and-participation/resources/national-regional-rural-and-remote-tertiary-education-strategy-final-report>) in 2019, Federal Council have been working with relevant ministers, departments and interested stakeholders to action some of the recommendations that came from the report. The last 12 months have seen significant developments in the realm of tertiary and higher education. Some of the payments and support that is available to students entering the tertiary phase of their education are as follows:

Youth Allowance

The 2020/21 Budget announcement saw two new provisions introduced in regard to students currently on a gap year and the impact COVID 19 had in relation to their ability to fulfil the criteria to demonstrate independence for receiving Youth Allowance (student) and Abstudy.

They were:

1. Young people from regional and remote areas who were qualifying for Youth Allowance as an independent under the Concessional Workforce Independence Criteria (CWIC) will be automatically considered, for the six-month period between 25 March and 24 September 2020 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.
2. A temporary pathway for young people planning on taking a working gap year in 2021, who earn at least \$15,000 through agricultural work during the period 30 November 2020 and 31 December 2021 will be considered independent for Youth Allowance (student) and ABSTUDY.

Head to the Services Australia website for more information on the criteria to be met or to apply for Youth Allowance or Abstudy.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/youth-allowance>

Tertiary Access Payment (TAP)

Accessible by outer regional or remote students if that student is relocating at least 90 mins from family home by public transport to commence a full time higher-level tertiary education (Certificate IV or above) and commencing study immediately following completion of year 12 or equivalent in the year immediately following graduation. Below are the links to follow for more information.

<http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/tertiary-access-payment>

<http://www.dese.gov.au/tertiary-access-payment>

<http://www.dese.gov.au/higher-education/resources/tap-program-guidelines-university-students>

<http://www.dese.gov.au/higher-education/resources/tap-program-guidelines-vet-and-nuhep-students>

Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships (RRES) Program

The RRES program (including the Creative Arts Scholarships) supports undergraduate, postgraduate and higher-level vocational education and training students in rural, regional and remote areas with the costs of studying at university or a vocational education and training institution. These scholarships continue to be: Round 6 of the programs opened on the 1st of March 2022.

- valued at up to \$18,000, and
- available to regional and remote students studying in any discipline from Certificate IV to PhD level at an eligible higher education provider or vocational education and training institution, with a duration of 6 months full-time and up to 8 years part-time, delivered on campus, or through online and distance education.
- There is an additional \$500 to support an internship.

Below are the links to follow for more information.

www.dese.gov.au/rres

www.qtac.edu.au/rres-program

AgriFutures™ Horizon Scholarships

The AgriFutures™ Horizon Scholarships are available to students enrolled full-time in their last 2 years of an agricultural-related undergraduate university degree or a Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths/Finance (STEM) degree with relevant majors which align to agriculture. Below is the link to follow for more information.

<https://www.agrifutures.com.au/people-leadership/horizon-scholarship>

Connellan Airways Trust Award

The Connelan Airways Trust offers the EJ Connelan Award to provide an opportunity for individuals living in outback Australia to undertake further study or research that otherwise may not be available to them and satisfy the Trust that they will return to Outback Australia or intend to assist residents of such areas. Below is the link to follow for more information.

<https://www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au>

Country Education Foundation

The Country Education Foundation (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation helping rural and regional youth access education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, support services and resources to students who reside or attend/ed school in certain parts of Australia. Below is the link to follow for more information.

<https://cef.org.au/our-grants>

Allowances 2021 for Rural and Remote Students

The Federal Allowances 2021 for Rural and Remote Students is an all-in-one document for students wishing to access financial assistance from boarding right through to tertiary. It can also be found on the ICPA website

https://icpa.com.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/Federal%20Allowances%202021_0.pdf

2021 School Leavers Guide

Are you a 2021 school leaver or a parent of a school leaver? There is an abundance of information titled 'Attention Schools Leavers' on the ICPA (Aust) website

<https://icpa.com.au/au/icpa-aust-training-and-tertiary-portfolios-updates>

The Good Universities Guide

<https://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au>

Services Australia

Online resources that offer help for tertiary education in relation to Students and Trainees, application for Youth Allowance, Relocation Scholarships, Rent Assistance, Fares Allowance, Abstudy, Part Time work or earnings for rural and remote students and information on the Job Ready Graduate's package.

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au>

Finally, I would like to offer my deepest gratitude to Federal Tertiary Portfolio leader Kate Thompson and all Federal Councillors for their tireless work on behalf of our members. Their dedication and knowledge make our similar roles on state council a much less daunting and more enjoyable one. I would also like to thank Katrina Morris who I have shared this role with for the past 12 months. It has been a new area of focus for the both of us as we supported our oldest children during their leap into tertiary education. Whilst I am no expert, the 'gentle push' into the Tertiary Education portfolio has certainly expanded my knowledge in the field and for that I am thankful.

PUBLICITY REPORT

Katrina Morris

What a learning curve this publicity roll has been for me. Although I have not had to be in front of any media thus far, thankfully, our capable president has done so admirably. There has been an increase of media attention with the boarding COVID plans and how they can be more manageable and on an equal playing field as their fellow day students.

Online socials have been my area of expertise and I hope that I have shared enough of what is happening around the country with ICPA and what has been going on within our own state.

Thank you for trusting me in this position and I look forward to helping the future publicity officer.

MAILCHIMP

E-Newsletter Report – Penny Rasheed

SA ICPA sends newsletters out to members approximately every 2-3 months – so if you think you might not be receiving them please check your junk folder, or email Penelope.rasheed@gmail.com. We aim to keep our information short, sweet and relevant, so check it out the next time it arrives in your inbox.

THE PIPELINE

Lynly Kerin - Editor

The Pipeline was circulated among 181 families, individuals and interest groups including Government Ministers, departments and agencies both public and private, rural schools, rural newspapers and ICPA State and Federal councillors in 2022. The total number of paid families is however only 68 at the time of this report.

We continue to produce two editions per year, each being compiled after State and Federal conferences, which continues to work well for myself and Mija. The job of sourcing content for Pipeline and our ability to produce a newsletter of great substance, keeping our members informed and sharing news from across the branches is becoming easier and people are responding well to the call for content. The increased content has caused us to continue mailing out in flat format instead. We have had a great deal of positive feedback still with this format.

The Pipeline now has a featured link on our SA ICPA website, with current issues featured online for our members to view. Uploading of current issues will of course only be done once they have gone out in printed form, but as digital media continues to advance and support ICPA to better correspond with parties I think it is a valuable tool for our members to be able to share news with our supporters.

Thank you to all who submitted articles, branch updates photos and general interest pieces during the last twelve months, please continue to do so. Editing is just one part of producing The Pipeline. Layout, design and print format is what makes it go from an emailed folder of word documents and jpeg images to the hard copy received in your mailbag and letterboxes. For this I would like to thank Mija Reynolds for her skills and patience with me and my ideas!

Pedals magazine is our federal platform for news also, and as editor Raelene Hall is retiring, please think if this could be a job for you?! Please assist the both of us in keeping our members and rural families in the spotlight by continuing to submit content.

Mija Reynolds- Design and Publication

2022 marks the 9th year of my involvement in the typesetting, design, and print of The Pipeline. In early 2013 a call was put out for a new editor of the newsletter as Ros Breeding was retiring from the position. I was lucky enough to jump on board with Kerry Williams as editor whilst I performed the graphic pre-press production of the newsletter. I have a background in graphic design and layout and The Pipeline has enabled me to continue this trade whilst living on the station in outback SA. I love reading about the achievements of our members. The individual content contributions are very important for the association's newsletter. I have seen The Pipeline grow and evolve over my time involved. We are at the point now where we can't send the newsletter out folded because it's too thick! That is why you now receive it in an envelope. Keep those stories and news articles coming though because the whole community loves to read them and the information provides a fabric for our Association to stay in touch. Our 100th edition was our first publication off the press for 2022 and Lynly and I are so pleased with the outcome. We have appreciated the compliments we have received. You may have noticed that the January edition did not actually arrive until February. This slight hiccup was due to various printing staff contracting Covid at the same time, which pushed the publication date back. There was little that could be done to change this outcome. I maintain a good working relationship with the printers and they worked tirelessly to get our newsletter to us in timely manner once staff were recovered and back at work. Our next edition will focus on SA ICPA's 50 years anniversary. Your contributions are valuable and important to us. Please keep them coming in. Next Deadline is 1st June 2022.

REVISE

Candice Brown

After many years Trish Ellin finished up her journey with REVISE, Trish will still assist in the early stages and stay on the active list for the occasional placement. Trish's commitment and support she offered to the SOTA families over the years has been amazing.

Georgy Ewing will be taking on the role of the Coordinator/Manager of REVISE from 2022. We all wish Georgy the best of luck for her new position. Georgy and Trish will be attending the ICPA State Conference at Port Augusta.

About REVISE:

REVISE is a free service placing volunteer retired teachers with SOTA families, to help in the schoolroom. Parent supervisors can use this time as a break from the schoolroom or if they need support in addressing any concerns. Families with governesses can apply for a REVISE placement for some extra support. REVISE asks for a contribution to travel costs (payable to the organisation, not the teacher directly). This fee can be waived for families experiencing financial hardship.

REVISE Manager *Georgy Ewing* can be contacted on her mobile 0408 897 818 or via email: ladygewing@gmail.com or manager@revise.org.au

More Information about REVISE can be found at <https://revise.org.au>

OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Petie Rankin

It is with pleasure I present my report as the ICPA representative on the OAC Governing Council. OAC and SOTA continue their supportive relationship of all our students and their learning pathways. With Lai Kuan Lim well into her 3rd year at Port Augusta School of the Air, the changes under her leadership in those short years have been positive and productive, ensuring that our campus is being run smoothly and efficiently.

SOTA CAMPUS

2022 has seen the implementation of trial structure for SOTA with the reduction of an Itinerant Teacher role from 3 to 2 and an extra teacher role put in place to help with the workload. This year we have also moved to collaborative learning with certain year levels combining, with the aim to offer extra support to the teachers and students.

The Year 7 – High School transition has begun at SOTA with students currently in years 5 and 6 needing an exemption to be included in our primary cohort until year 7. 2024 will be our final year of being a R – 7 school, before we officially become a primary school that offers only R – 6. Our larger campus, Open Access College, will work alongside the school and families for those wanting to continue their year 7 learning remotely and will make every effort to ensure this transition is seamless.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Thirty six students in years 6 to 9 from both SOTA and Marden have enrolled in the DfE Learning + Online mathematics tutoring program. The program runs for 10 weeks and students participate in online tutoring for 30 minutes, twice a week after normal school hours. The tutoring is targeted to the student and teachers are provided with progress updates during the program. Students also receive a resource pack with a mini whiteboard and markers. The largest group is at year 6 with 16 students, 10 at year 9, 4 and 6 at years 7 and 8 respectively.

There is another program in term 2 for students in years 7 and 8. Information about how to participate in the term 2 program will be out by mid term 1.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Goal - Increase student achievement in writing/mathematics

Primary Years (Marden)

PLC groups have been formed and facilitators nominated. One PLC meeting has gone ahead and each group finalised the baseline data collection they will use over the next 3 years. Our upcoming PD day will further support work toward our reading goal.

SOTA

Reading is the focus for SOTA over the next three years. Teachers attended a full day of professional learning on comprehension strategies in week 3.

Student Wellbeing

The enrolment of our continuing students is ahead of targets reached in 2021 with the majority of students enrolled and in classes and allocated a Student Wellbeing Leader/Teacher. The SW team are continuing conversations with other DfE schools to support students or negotiate their enrolment at the college. We have identified students who need extra support and have allocated an Advisory teacher to them as part of a wellbeing strategy.

Professional learning for staff is being carried out by the SW team to build on knowledge of the Stamina domain (BSEM) to support the SIP challenge of practice and provide strategies to develop students to have a growth mindset, resilience and increased emotional intelligence.

COVID restrictions continue to play a part with the Government ruling that everyone on our school sites need to be double vaccinated in order to attend events and be part of the school community. Masks must still be worn, and individual procedures need to be followed at each site, unless directed otherwise.

SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT

Jodie Keogh

I am pleased to report that the new ICPA website rollout went really well and went live without any major hiccups on 5th May 2021.

I am sure you will agree the website has a much fresher and easier to use format. The 'Website Wonderwomen' from all States still regularly correspond on our messenger group chat and bounce ideas off one another.

The membership renewals online are very much encouraged as they capture much more information than a manual renewal form. I would like to ask that new renewals or new members fill out the information form that accompanies the online membership/renewal process as this gives us valuable information in regards to your families educational journeys to help us better advocate in those areas. There were some teething issues with the online renewals however this has been ironed out. I am available for any questions or help with the renewal/membership process online.

Some online training and refreshers on how to manage the website was to be held in late 2021 however it was a busy time and is being rescheduled for this year.

Again, I encourage any member to please forward me through photos (high resolution only) and articles that may be relevant or valuable to our members. I would love to see some more content come through. These can be emailed to saicpawebmaster@gmail.com

2021 Financial Statements AUDITED

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2021

Liability limited by a scheme approved under
Professional Standards Legislation

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

Committee Members

The name of each member of the committee during the year and if different, at the date of the report;

Jill Greenfield
Lisa Slade
Hollie Williams
Michelle Hilder
Katrina Morris
Kerry Williams
Jodie Keogh
Emilee Warnest
Belinda Hatcher
Paulaine Vermeulen 13 March 2021 to 31st October 2021
Helen Williams from 31 October 2021
Penny Rasheed
Melanie Lewis
Jessica Barry
Candice Brown
Di Thomas

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

To help families in rural & remote South Australia to receive a better education for their children.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The loss of the association after providing for income tax amounted to \$(8,686.80).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566**

CONTENTS

Committee's Report	1
Income Statement	3
Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Statement by Members of the Committee	9
Auditor's Report	10
Certificate by Members of the Committee	12

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Committee Member: J. Greenfield
Jill Greenfield

Committee Member: M. G. Hilder
Michelle Hilder

Dated this 9th day of March 2022

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 \$
INCOME		
Donations		12,400.00
Fundraiser Income		13,010.00
Grants		1,894.00
Interest Received		3.78
		27,307.78
OTHER INCOME		
Affiliation Fees		6,861.07
Lone Membership		135.00
State Conference		803.93
		7,800.00
		35,107.78
EXPENDITURE		
Affiliation Fees		2,366.00
Audit Fees		495.00
Conferences & Meetings		10,576.48
Donations		19,870.00
Fundraiser Expenses		5,879.25
Insurance		1,020.42
Newsletter Costs		2,750.24
Printing & Stationery		342.30
Subscriptions		494.89
		43,794.58
Loss before income tax		(8,686.80)
Loss for the year		(8,686.80)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		60,438.28
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		51,751.48

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3	51,751.48
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>51,751.48</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>51,751.48</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>-</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>51,751.48</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Retained earnings	4	51,751.48
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>51,751.48</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 4

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

At the end of each reporting period the association determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where this indicator exists and regardless for goodwill, indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the assets is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss , except for goodwill.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The financial statements cover Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia as an individual entity. Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia is a not for profit Association incorporated in SA under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

The functional and presentation currency of Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia is Australian dollars.

1 Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Revenue from training services is generally recognised once the training has been delivered.

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 \$
3 Cash and Cash Equivalents	
Bank SA Express Saver	31,317.27
Bank SA Society Cheque Account	<u>20,434.21</u>
	<u>51,751.48</u>
4 Retained Earnings	
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	60,438.28
Net loss attributable to the association	<u>(8,686.80)</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>51,751.48</u>

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 8:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia as at 31 December 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President: *J. Greenfield*
Jill Greenfield

Treasurer: *M. G. Hilder*
Michelle Hilder

Dated this 9th day of March 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
THE MEMBERS OF ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Qualified Opinion

Receipts from donations and other fundraising activities are a major source of revenue for the Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia. The management committee has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations and other fundraising activity revenue prior to entry in its financial records. Accordingly, my audit procedures for that revenue has been restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. Therefore, I am unable to express an opinion on whether donations & fundraising activity revenue obtained by the Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia are complete

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting

I draw attention to note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the association in fulfilling the management committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the constitution and the Associations Incorporations Act (SA). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My report is intended solely for the association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the association. My opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
THE MEMBERS OF ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Name of Firm: Mid North Accounting
Certified Practising Accountant

Name of Principal: 
Vonnie Lea CPA

Address: 40 Irvine Street Jamestown SA

Dated this *16th* **day of** *March* *2022*

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
80 494 798 566

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021
	\$
<hr/>	
INCOME	
Donations	12,400.00
Fundraiser Income	13,010.00
Grants	1,894.00
Interest Received	3.78
	<hr/>
	27,307.78
OTHER INCOME	
Affiliation Fees	6,861.07
Lone Membership	135.00
State Conference	803.93
	<hr/>
	7,800.00
	<hr/>
	35,107.78
EXPENSES	
Affiliation Fees	2,366.00
Audit Fees	495.00
Conferences & Meetings	10,576.48
Donations	19,870.00
Fundraiser Expenses	5,879.25
Insurance	1,020.42
Newsletter Costs	2,750.24
Printing & Stationery	342.30
Subscriptions	494.89
	<hr/>
	43,794.58
	<hr/>
Loss before income tax	(8,686.80)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 13

2022 Interim Financial Statement UNAUDITED

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2022 - 28/02/2022

Account(s) in this report: Express Saver, Society Cheque Account

Income	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	66.00	
Fundraiser Sales	1350.00	
PayPal Transfers	2086.86	
Total Income		3502.86
Expenses	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	2385.00	
Donation	500.00	
Fundraiser Expenses	1924.50	
Newsletter costs	1586.99	
Total Expenses		6396.49
Net Profit (Loss)		(2893.63)

Please Note: This report may require adjustment for depreciation or 'accrual' items depending on your tax or accounting requirements.

ALLOWANCES

Allowances for remote and isolated families 2022

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much?
Federal Allowances: Centrelink Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boarding Allowance 	Parents of geographically isolated school aged students who need to board away from home to attend school. Applies to boarding schools, hostels and private board	\$11,011 per year, made up of 2 components: \$8,557 - basic \$2,454 - additional subject to parental income and actual boarding costs \$8,307 minimum boarding charge threshold for Additional Boarding Allowance
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Education Allowance 	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$4,278 per year.
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Home Allowance 	Geographically isolated and run a second home to access education.	\$6,726 per year paid in fortnightly instalments, for up to three students. \$19,497 maximum second home allowance for each family (three children). www.icpa.com.au TAB: Boarding/Hostels/Second Home
Youth Allowance	Young people from 16-24 years, studying, training or looking for work. Dependant children up to 22 years are subject to Parental Means Test. Rural and regional students can claim the independent rate by earning 75% of Wage Level A in a 14 month period.	Varies by situation. Please call the dedicated hotline: 13 24 90 or see the Centrelink website.
State Allowances: DECD Transport Services Department (08) 8226 2406		
Travel Allowance	School students living five kilometres or more from the nearest public school or school bus run.	Paid per km. Apply through school principal.
State Education Allowance (SEA)	Families in receipt of AIC Basic Boarding Allowance and recipients of AIC Second Home Allowance.	\$4486.27 per year.

**Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)
Apply through Centrelink**

• **Dedicated Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Call Centre: 13 23 18**

To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from an appropriate government school, or at least 16km from an appropriate state school and at least 4.5km from the nearest bus route.

The Parental Income Free Area for 2020 above which the Additional Boarding Allowance is reduced to \$54,677.