

Established in 1971, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) is a national organisation representing rural students and their families at all stages of education and has a large network of branches throughout Australia.

ICPA WA works within the community to provide support and assistance to rural and regional families across Western Australia. We advocate and lobby to assist families to access appropriate education for their children.

## Media Release 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## ICPA WA 50<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference now to be held online.

It is with great disappointment the Isolated Children's Parents Association of Western Australia (ICPA WA) announce that their 50<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference will no longer be held in person at the Pagoda Resort and Spa but will instead be held in an online format on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

State President, Sally Brindal said; "This has been a very difficult decision, but due to the rapid changing risks around the spread of COVID-19 the safety of our members and their regional communities is our priority."

"As conference convenors the Midwest Branch have worked extremely hard to fundraise and seek support for this milestone event. The celebration of 50 years for a voluntary organisation is something that is worthy of grandeur celebrations. A survey of members highlighted concerns and a reluctance to travel from the regions to Perth for the Conference, and without strong support from our members the celebrations would be somewhat subdued," Ms Brindal said.

ICPA WA State Council intend to postpone the planned celebrations, including the banquet dinner until their State Conference in 2023, to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The Midwest Branch will continue to be the convenors for this Conference. ICPA WA would like to thank all the sponsors who have kindly supported the Midwest Branch and hope their support will continue to 2023.

The ICPA WA State Conference will now be an online event via a dedicated ICPA WA Conference website. Conference will be a reduced programme; however, the AGM will still proceed at 4.00pm as originally advertised. Invitations to members and guests have been delayed as State Council navigate their way through this new format. State Council are working with our website developers to have this information available as quickly as possible to ensure their conference event and associated information is in one easily accessible site.

"Members patience while will we work through these amendments is most appreciated," Ms Brindal commented.

## 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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