



SA ICPA Annual State Conference

2024

South Australia Isolated Children's Parents' Association Inc.

Quorn Town Hall, Quorn SA

Friday 22nd March 2024

Hosted by the Marla Oodnadatta Branch

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 Hide & Horn – Flinders Gin – Cleanskins – Livestock SA – Bush
 Covers & Collars – RICE – Spring Creek Farm – Who’s Charlie-
 Coco Crazy Co – Rabobank – RFDS

PRESIDENTS WELCOME

Belinda Hatcher

Good morning everyone. It is my great pleasure as President of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association and on behalf of our whole State Council to welcome you all here to Quorn for the 2024 South Australian ICPA State Conference.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians 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 respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people from other areas of South Australia present today.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Making Tracks on Education' and with the vast distances many of our members have to travel for the education of their kids, it seems a fitting way to celebrate the efforts made by so many to do everything they can for their children. From wandering across the house yard to the schoolroom, to driving to SOTA events, dropping kids off at a face-to-face school or a school bus, driving to a sporting event on the weekend, visiting the boarding house and everything else in between it would be scary to add up all the miles that have gone into 'making tracks' in supporting our children to achieve their very best. I can certainly say that with 3 kids in 3 different locations, across 2 states, I have made many tracks across SA, with most of it lately backwards and forwards to Adelaide trying to make remote parenting a teenager at boarding school a bit more tolerable. Hats off to all our members who are making those tracks day in and day out.

Our conference opening speaker, Anne Scammell has had a rich and varied life that has seen her be a part of the education of not only her own children and grandchildren, but many other children throughout her career as a teacher. There is no doubt that the dedication to ICPA and the passion she has for the education of rural and remote children has rubbed off on her daughter Kirsty – the apple certainly hasn't fallen far from the tree.

We are very fortunate to welcome our guest speaker for this year, Sophie Matterson, an adventure seeker and author originally from Queensland. After finding her passion for camels, Sophie decided in 2020 that she would trek across the breadth of Australia with only camels in tow. Since her return she has written a book (amongst embarking on some other 'adventures'), recounting her trip and if you haven't had the chance to have a read, make sure you do. I found it to be an amazing and inspiring story.

We will be running a Q & A session today that we have titled 'Making tracks for your child's learning journey'. The panellists are Janine Galpin, senior psychologist at the Open Access College, Kristen Coggan, Community and Engagement Officer for the Regional Tech Hub, Richard Stokes, Director of the Australian Boarding Schools Association and Dr John Halsey, Emeritus Professor, Flinders University. So take the chance before the panel to think of some questions you may have for them in regard to the education of you children or rural and remote education in general.

Please enjoy the branch photo stories, which will be shown throughout the day. These allow members and guests to get a snapshot into the lives of the students and families of SA ICPA, who are the very reason why we are all here today.

Don't forget to have a look at the different displays on show today. We are also lucky to have several high schools represented here today – Immanuel College, Sacred Heart College, Westminster School, Price Alfred College, Urrbrae Agricultural School, St Marks College and Caritas College. Thank you to all of them for taking the time to attend and please seek them out if you are interested in any further information.

The AGM will be held at the end of conference proceedings. Visitors and guests are welcome to stay for this if they wish. All positions will be declared vacant so please consider volunteering your time for SA ICPA.

SA ICPA would like to thank all of the sponsors of this conference. We could not continue our advocacy without the support of those businesses, organisations, and individuals, some of whom have been supporting ICPA for

many years. Thankyou also to Sharon Nutt who is the conference minute taker. And of course, many thanks must go to Dani and the rest of the Marla Oodnadatta branch for the wonderful job they have done organising this year's conference. Please enjoy the 2024 SA ICPA State Conference.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

ICPA Members

STATE COUNCIL

Belinda Hatcher	President
Kirsty Williams	Vice President
Hollie Williams	Secretary
Jodie Keogh	Treasurer
Ellen Litchfield	Publicity Officer
Kristina Crawford	
Dani Chapman	
Michelle Hilder	

LIFE MEMBERS

Joanna Gibson	State Life Member
Jill Greenfield	State Life Member

BRANCH DELEGATES

North West	Edwina Bowie	Candice Brown
North East	Leisa Breeding	Leah Beard
Flinders Ranges	Lisa Slade	Mija Reynolds
Marree Air	Lucy Morphett	Ellen Litchfield
Port Augusta	Katrina Morris	Pamela Cuffe
Eyre	Di Thomas	

BRANCH OBSERVERS

North West	Joanna Gibson Shona Amos	Col Greenfield
Flinders Ranges	Bek Rasheed	
Marree Air	Bridie Ferguson	
Convening Committee	Dani Chapman Hollie Williams Jemma Fraser Gerry Nunn	Kirsty Williams Helen Williams Louise Kohler

Guests

Rowan Ramsey MP	Federal Member for Grey
Geoff Brock MP	State Member for Stuart
Julia Broad	ICPA Federal Vice President
Anna McCorkle	ICPA Federal Council
John Halsey	Flinders University
Lai Kuam Lim	School of the Air Principal
Richard Stokes	Australian Boarding Schools Association
Jared Daunt	Australian Boarding Schools Association
Kiara Stacey	Stock Journal
Ashley Smith	Manager, Transport Division, Dept Education
Ujith Perera	Immanuel College Deputy Director of Boarding
Josie Palmer	Immanuel College Boarding House Director
Phil Noble	Prince Alfred College
Deb O'Neill	Education Director, Port Augusta
Trish Ellin	REVISE
Georgie Ewing	REVISE
Sandra Hewson	St Marks College, Port Pirie
Chloe Hunter	RICE Director
Tania George	RICE Preschool Teacher
Mary Manning	Caritas College, Deputy Principal
Cassandra Norton	NBN
Rachel Leonow	NBN
Elise Petty	NBN
Jenice Zerna	S.A. Association of School Parent Communities
Sophie Matterson	Guest Speaker
Tori Love	SAAL Landscapes SA
Matthew Westover	SAAL Landscapes SA
Chris Fulton	SAAL Landscapes SA
Janine Galpin	Open Access College Senior Psychologist
Kirsten Coggin	Regional Tech Hub
Andrew Junge	Westminster School, Director of Boarding
Vince Fleming	Urrbrae School, Assistant Principal Agriculture
Sue Barry	Centre Manager, Unihub Spencer Gulf
Sharon Pillion	Centre Manager, Unihub Spencer Gulf
Anne Scammell	Opening Speaker
Kate Higgins	Media, ABC
Spence Denny	Media, ABC
Mandy Smallacombe	Royal Flying Doctor Service
Sam Hagger	Telstra Regional Network Advisor
Melinda Channon	Telstra Regional Engagement Manager
Robert Gill	Sacred Heart College Boarding Director
Anne Collins	PIRSA Family and Business Mentor
John White	PIRSA Family and Business Mentor
Chloe Smart	AgCareer Start Training Co-ordinator

CONFERENCE APOLOGIES

Louise Martin	ICPA Federal President
Kym Hughes	ICPA Federal Secretary
Jane Cunningham	ICPA WA State Council President
Libby McPhee	ICPA NSW State Council Secretary
Tanya Mitchell	ICPA NSW State Council President
Andrew Leigh, Hon Dr	Assistant Federal Minister for Employment
Blair Boyer, Hon Dr	SA Minister for Education
Jessica Hackett	Executive Officer, Connellan Airways Trust
Martin Westwell, Prof	Chief Executive Officer, Department for Education
Clare Scriven, Hon	SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Jane Godsmark	AIC Mines
Annette Boyle	ICPA QLD State Council Secretary
Sarah Ricciuto	Brown Family/Indulkaninna Foundation
Jane Gloster	ICPA Federal and State Life Member
Jennifer Polley	SAASPC Country Vice Chairperson
David Speirs, Hon	Leader of the Opposition
Chris Picton, Hon	Minister for Health and Wellbeing
Noami Reed	NBN
Glennis Crawford	SA ICPA Life Member



SA ICPA 2024

Conference Program

8:00	Registration	Quorn Town Hall
9:00	Conference Commences	
	National Anthem	Lucy Williams
	President's Welcome	Belinda Hatcher
	Conference Convenor- Housekeeping	Dani Chapman
	Introduction of Guests	Hollie Williams
	Official Opening of Conference	Anne Scammell
	State ICPA President's Report	Belinda Hatcher
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
10:25	Marla Oodnadatta Branch Presentation	Kirsty Williams
10:30	Morning Tea	
11:00	Lone Member Branch Report	Helen Williams
11:05	Guest Speaker and Q&A	Sophie Matterson
	<i>Adventurer and Author of 'The Crossing'</i>	
11:45	AGENDA MOTIONS	
	ICPA Federal Council Report	Anna McCorkle
	Australian Boarding Schools Association	Richard Stokes



SA ICPA 2024

Conference Program

12:30	Lunch	
1:30	NBN Co Update AGENDA MOTIONS	Elise Petty
2:00	Flinders Ranges Branch Presentation Regional Tech Hub Update Marree Air Branch Presentation AGENDA MOTIONS	Michelle Hilder Kristen Coggan Lucy Morphett
3:00	North East Branch Presentation Panel Q & A <i>'Making Tracks for your child's learning journey'</i> North West Branch Presentation	Leisa Breeding Janine Galpin Richard Stokes Kristen Coggan Prof. John Halsey Candice Brown
3:30	Afternoon Tea	
3:50	Port Augusta Branch Presentation AGENDA MOTIONS	Katrina Morris
4:00	AGM	

STATE CONFERENCE MOTIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Motion 1. State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Di Thomas

Seconded: Pamela Cuffe

“That SA ICPA, on behalf of all its members, work with the Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to achieve better outcomes for families with infant and early childhood healthcare needs.”

Explanation

In recent years there have been several motions and issues brought to State Council from members, with concerns about a gap in the services being provided by Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS). As a council we have continued to bring these motions to CaFHS during delegations and jointly workshop many promising suggestions and practical solutions that would see better outcomes for our members. Unfortunately, these discussed suggestions and solutions never seem to be put into practice and our members continue to be the ones who miss out on vital services.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) is an organisation that continues to innovate and fill gaps where there is a lack of healthcare services in remote parts of the country. SA ICPA State Council support the RFDS in working together with CaFHS to fill the infant and early childhood healthcare gaps for our families where needed.

Comment

Amanda Smallacombe, RFDS: We have been working with CaFHS for a couple of years now, offering them a seat on a plane to remote areas. Unfortunately, they haven't been able to recruit for a while and have been working with our board, presenting business cases for RFDS to employ our own accredited Child Family Health Nurse. This has been successful and approved and from May 20th we will be employing our own Child Family Health Nurse full time and will be flying with us to remote areas. There are sheets on the conference tables showing our model of care based on the national framework. The RFDS nurse will be able to facilitate all of the universal services like working with vulnerable families and we will still partner with CaFHS and tertiary partners as well if we need to.

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: We have a new family at Thurlga, with a new baby. The baby was born in Strathalbyn and she received three visit to her home in the first two weeks to check if they were ok. On returning to Thurlga she has had to drive three hours to Port Augusta to receive the same care.

Motion 2. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Louise Kohler

Seconded: Helen Williams

“That SA ICPA work alongside Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) to reduce the gap in services currently provided to rural and remote families within our state and to our members.”

Explanation

Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) provide free support to all children from birth to 5 years, living in South Australia. Over the past several years, this has not been the case for South Australian rural and remote families. There has been a huge gap in the services being offered with few or no visits to families or any contact being made. Living in an isolated environment has its challenges which are often exacerbated when a new family member arrives or when navigating with a toddler. CaFHS once provided families and their children with a reliable service giving resources, guidance and advice. Currently, without the ongoing support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to those families that are eligible to receive a CaFHS service, living rural and

remotely would have been too much for some. It is important that a reliable service is available to all families with a child from birth to 5 years, regardless of their location.

Comment:

Lucy Morphett, Marree Air Branch: I had babies in 2021 and 2023, with the first I received two phone calls from CaFHS, I did need help and a face to face visit would have been far more supportive.

Jill Greenfield, North West Branch: Whilst this is fantastic news from the RFDS, we do need to remember that not all families are serviced by the RFDS. Not everyone has a clinic next door or on their place, so we still need to advocate for those families that do not get a RFDS visit.

Motion 3. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Lisa Slade

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

“That SA ICPA on behalf of all their members advocate that the Hawker/Leigh Creek/Blinman area receive consistent support from Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) at suitable, central locations with uniform regularity.”

Explanation

During and since Covid the CaFHS support has been little or non-existent to families with children in the Hawker/Leigh Creek/Blinman area. We acknowledge that at times lack of staffing may be an issue.

However, we feel that communication from CaFHS could be improved as on several occasions a number of families have enquired for appointments to be made, with only a zoom call being offered and no face-to-face appointments. We feel that it is essential to have face to face contact with medical professionals.

Supporting Comments

Amey Solly, Flinders Ranges Branch: My eldest daughter was born in 2018, during her new born stage right up until she was over one our family was well supported by CaFHS. Having these appointments being a first-time mum gave me such reassurance. When my son was born in 2021, I had one in home visit after that no follow up contact or appointments. By the time he was one I realised he had only ever had the one in home visit at 6 weeks, so I made contact to see if CaFHS could come but was told to book an appointment in Port Augusta. Grace was born in 2023 and she has had no face-to-face appointments, only a zoom call was offered for her 6-week check-up, she is one next weekend and has had no follow up appointments.

Keziah Henery, Flinders Ranges Branch: After a rocky start with CaFHS with my first child back in 2019, I found the service valuable and so I was willing to reach out to them once my second child was born. Unfortunately, the few times I reached out to CaFHS in Port Augusta I was told they were not able to meet with me and my child and I should talk to my GP.

Kaila Mason, Yednalue Station: During 2016 when I had my first child, my experience with CaFHS was wonderful. I found the service helpful, reliable and compassionate. I received home visits and regular contact and follow ups which I found vital as a first-time mum with a one month “premmie” baby that had a few complications. The reassurance, advice and helpful information provided me with the tools to cope with being a new mother living on a remote station in the Flinders Ranges. Unfortunately, I did not have this experience with my second and third children. Visits were difficult to organise or were cancelled last minute. Traveling the long distance to Pt. Augusta with 3 children aged 3 and under - by myself - was extremely challenging and often not possible. I would have truly welcomed the service I received in 2016 during this time.

Comments:

Anna McCorkle, Federal Council: We all know that regular contact with health services at all stages of a child’s life is important but it is vital at that young age. I’m making a request of you beyond this motion, the comments you have put forward would make a great case study for Federal Council, for both ECE and our Special Needs areas. It is these stories that people can relate to. As hard as they are to articulate here, and they have been done so well because you have clearly identified a decline in that service in such a clear way. It would be very

difficult, for people beyond us, not to understand and feel what that means. If you could bring that forward that would be wonderful.

Motion 4. State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Edwina Bowie

“That SA ICPA State Council support Federal Council with their lobby to extend the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance to children who are participating in eligible pre-compulsory early childhood programs.”

Explanation

A conjoined motion was presented at the 2023 Federal Conference in Darwin, asking for Federal Council to continue their lobbying efforts for the extension of the Distance Education Allowance portion of the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) to include those children participating in pre compulsory early childhood education programs suitable for 4-year-old pre-school students.

The need for families to be supported financially when setting up a space suitable for their preschooler to learn in has not changed and SA ICPA will continue to offer any support Federal Council should seek in regard to this advocacy.

Comment:

Julie Broad, Federal Council: Thank you to State Council, if this is passed, for your support and ask again for case studies detailing the cost of the classroom set up for the preschool program, if anyone has those details. Or stories from those who, because of the cost, chose not to do that program. These stories will help with our advocacy.

Motion 5. Marree Air Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Lucy Morphett

Seconded: Ellen Litchfield

“That SA ICPA advocates for geographically isolated children enrolled in a registered pre-school education program to receive the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC).”

Explanation

The AIC is designed to help with the costs incurred for children completing their schooling requirements and this should extend to children involved in pre-school programs. Currently, children enrolled in the pre-school program through Remote and Isolated Children’s Exercise (RICE) have to set up a classroom and travel for preschool experiences once a term to enhance the learning experience and social experience in preparation for primary school.

There are significant costs associated with preparing a child for school and travelling the long distances to attend school experiences four times per year.

The educational benefits of pre-compulsory school programs have been demonstrated by numerous studies and equitable access is vital to ensure educational equality for isolated students.

Motion 6. Marree Air Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Lucy Morphett

Seconded: Ellen Litchfield

“That SA ICPA advocates for geographically isolated children enrolled in a registered South Australian pre-school education program to receive financial assistance from the state government.”

Explanation

Currently, there is no government funding to help with the costs incurred by parents with setting up for, delivering and attending pre-school programs to remote and isolated children. Children enrolled in the kindergarten program through Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) have to set up a classroom and travel for preschool experiences once a term to enhance the learning and social experience in preparation for primary school. There are significant costs associated with preparing a child for school and travelling the long distances to attend pre-school experiences four times per year. The State Education Allowance (SEA) that is available for geographically isolated secondary school students who board away from home could be extended to include pre-school students that have to travel away from home for pre-school experience visits.

Comment:

Lisa Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch: I speak for the motion. We have spent a lot of years arguing between federal and state funding on how to help this cohort of families. Now is the time, these families are struggling still and they need help. We need you to take this back to Parliament. ICPA has done costings for years and years just to show this is an achievable allowance that the government could fund to help these families, and it would make a monumental difference. We are not asking for an excessive amount of money; it is achievable, and the State Government needs to stand up and help these families out.

Anna Nunn, Lone Member: This week SOTA had an In School and RICE also a Kindy Experience week. There where families all staying together, parents who had driven distances to attend the same event, paid the same amount for their accommodation, their fuel, their food yet the parents of the school aged children received the allowance. The parents of the preschoolers are just as passionate about the social, learning, everything their children get out of this experience but receive nothing, they do it purely out of the love and benefit for their children, so I support this.

Motion 7. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Mija Reynolds

Seconded: Lisa Slade

"That SA ICPA ask the Minister for Education, Training and Skills what an 'alternative implementation approach' looks like in regard to the Government Response for recommendation 10 from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care."

Explanation

Recommendation 10 from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (RCECEC): 'State Government actions to support childcare accessibility'.

Recently the State Government released 'A New Perspective on Early Childhood Development: A Government Response to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care'. Of the 52 recommendations within the Royal Commission, 50 were accepted or accepted in principle by the Government. The two that were not accepted, but flagged for alternative implementation approaches, had the most potential to provide childcare relief for rural South Australia. Many rural towns in the Grey Electorate, infamously known as the 'childcare desert' of Australia, have pleaded with the State Government to improve access to childcare. One of the childcare models that is currently used successfully in small rural towns in South Australia, is the Rural Care model (a State funded service model).

There are currently only 17 Rural Care providers in South Australia, and we have been advised that they are not planning on expanding the service to include any further licences, there is nearly double that demand. We know that this model works successfully in a rural setting, so it is frustrating to see that they are calling on 'the Australian Government to prioritise a better funding model to address childcare deserts' (pg. 16) so rural South Australia are again caught in the game of ping pong over who is responsible for childcare in South Australia, while rural families are again left with no support.

More About the Rural Care Model

The Rural Care service is integrated with government preschools in rural communities, the service has a strong focus on providing care for children in communities where there are limited child care options. It is used in communities such as Booleroo, Peterborough, Cleve, Cowell, Andamooka, Yorketown, and Laura.

It provides families with access to long day care, before and after preschool and school hours care and vacation care for children from birth to 12 years. It enables parents to participate in work, study and non-work-related activities, it promotes young children's development and learning by increasing access to a high-quality early childhood education and care program.

A Rural Care program can only operate where there is physical capacity in the preschool to accommodate the program. The priority for use of the preschool service is the delivery of the preschool program. A single-worker program may care for up to 7 children, of which no more than four are under school age. The maximum size of a rural care program is a 3-worker program (number of children depends on Department educator-to-child ratio). Department Rural Care programs must provide 10 hours of care per day and operate for 50 weeks of the year.

Comment:

Deb O'Neil, Education Director, Port Augusta: The One Portfolio looks after all the preschools in Port Augusta and the Far North of the state. I would like to respond on behalf of the Office of the Early Years for Education and would like to cite the Government's response to the Royal Commission. The State Government responds to the Royal Commission into the Childhood Education and Care made 43 recommendations and calls for the Australian Government to prioritise a better funding model to address childcare deserts. Outcomes of the Royal Commission include the establishment of The Office of Early Childhood Development who is a state appointed steward who will also be instrumental in leading a response to education and care of SA children. This includes the public statement of facilitation, supports it will offer regional communities without access to childcare, including eligibility for business case support in partnering with DFE, which is recommendation 10. There were two recommendations that had alternative considerations to put in place. We know that the current productivity commission inquiry into early childhood education and care released its draft report recommending greater support for universal access in markets and supply site funding. The productivity commission suggests this could include grant funding to establish service, block grants to cover capital and operating costs and specific arrangements for aboriginal community controlled organisations which are co designed. The final report into that inquiry is due to be handed to the Australian Government by the 30th June. In the South Australian submission to the draft PC report the state government has reiterated our position to work collaboratively but also further consideration of what those funding models might look like to address specific deficiencies to allow all types of service providers to deliver in thin markets. We look forward to the final recommendation for the Productivity Commission Inquiry. In relation to care, the State Government Family Daycare Services has also been successful in receiving a total of \$1,966,000 in grant funding with the Commonwealths Community Childcare Fund over two years and the grants will fund a new family daycare promotions and support across priority rural and regional communities where the criteria is establishing childcare in areas where there are supply gaps.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

Motion 8. State Council

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA liaise with the Minister for Regional Roads and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Road Maintenance – Regional North & Outback division to discuss the need for a safe and functional road system that ensures quality educational opportunities and assessments are reachable for rural and remote students."

Moved: Hollie Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Explanation

Obviously, rain and other events make for unfavourable road conditions at times. However, many roads remain in a poor condition for months on end, often exacerbated by the heavy use from tourists. Roads need to be adequately maintained as they provide an essential link to enable remote and isolated families to receive school resources via the mail and attend face-to-face school activities and events including NAPLAN testing.

Comment:

Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Members: I'd like to support this motion. Induction week this year I had to travel 1700km to get home. The Strezlecki Track got 160mm rain and was closed for four weeks. The government was going to seal that road with bitumen and has completed some of it with some degree of success, these roads need to be maintained for all.

Lai Kaum Lim, Head of Campus SOTA: I also support this motion because I know of one family this year with two children, in Year 3 and Year 5, missed NAPLAN because the roads were cut because of the rain.

Minister Geoff Brock, Minister for Regional Roads: Wholeheartedly agree with the condition of the roads up there. We have just put \$10,500,000 into the Oodnadatta Track, to raise it up in some areas. The issue is lots and lots of rain, I'm not making excuses but there has been a lot of rain that has caused a lot of problems. I am taking note of all the discussions today and will get back to the executive at a later date.

Edwina Bowie, North West Branch: Regardless of the rain the Tarcoola Road is very difficult to drive on. I'd personally like to see that it is consistently maintained. A bad road adds to your travel costs.

Helen Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: I'd like to speak for the motion. I realise we can't stop the rain but it hasn't rained in our area and the road is still guttered from 3-4 months ago. My husband has a hotline to them and they keep promising someone will be there in two weeks! It would be interesting to know just how many grader gangs there are now as they seem to be available.

Motion 9. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Louise Kohler

Seconded: Helen Williams

"That SA ICPA lobbies the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to provide a subsidy for students accessing flights in areas of South Australia where no student fare is available."

Explanation

Boarding school itself presents many challenges for families. Getting children home throughout the term for exeats and school holidays has become increasingly more difficult and expensive.

Many boarding students are faced with the situation where they required to travel large distances on long bus journeys or travel in private vehicles, greatly eroding available time at home. There are locations throughout the state that have available flights that would reduce the distances for road travel, yet the cost of air fares more often than not precludes families from being able to utilise them.

Time at home is vital for boarding school children given there are limited days available in their home environment. Reduced travel time would reduce the stress placed on families and be beneficial to the well-being of the children.

Comment:

Di Thomas, Eyre Branch: I support this motion. I have several families that send their children to boarding school and flights or driving your car are the only option. Parents are paying up to \$600 one way from Ceduna to Adelaide and they do this more than once! REX offers cheaper flight from Adelaide to Brisbane!

Jodie Keogh SA Lone Members: State Council has also approached REX and QANTAS but has had no response from them. This is an achievable goal. In Queensland there is a "bush to boarding" airfare that can be accessed.

Motion 10. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Lisa Slade

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

"That SA ICPA work with the Department for Education to address conditions that hinder isolated schools in getting Bus Drivers who provide a significant service to families of these areas."

Explanation

There are many potential bus drivers in isolated areas, but often they choose to be employed in more suitable work settings. There are several factors that seem to affect driver decisions here.

- To successfully apply potential drivers have to first pay for and pass a medical, which potentially also involves travel if a specialist is required, all at their own cost. In other country locations closer to Adelaide the cost ramifications of this are mitigated by distance, however in isolated locations this tends to build up. In addition to this driver accreditation also needs to be applied for and paid for. For someone who is semi-retired (a typical scenario in these areas) and looking at low hours and staggered times, a position such as an am / pm bus driver, this is not an appealing scenario, which can take a few months to unfold.
- Drivers work am and pm, not a great combination of work hours. Schools are then at times compelled to come up with a modified job situation which does not always suit a school's needs.
- Professional support for bus drivers is also needed to support them in their role. The work situation of a bus driver can be extremely pressured. They perform a role which involves managing a vehicle and a bus full of kids. It is especially a role which is a focus of parents and can erode away at driver confidence. This is a combination of roles which require support and training and would contribute to drivers stepping down at times.
- Professional development in the skills and method for managing school students on a bus would make drivers feel more competent and confident, contributing to a longer period of work in this job.

Comment:

Di Thomas, Eyre Branch: I support this motion. Bus drivers do need to jump through all sorts of hoops but so do the relief bus drivers who might only work a few times a year.

Ashley Smith, Department of education Transport Services Unit: I look after all the rural school bus services, we have 440 of them and it is a massive issue, trying to find school bus drivers. This is due to aging driver population, wages, the cost of accreditation and licences. Our unit is looking at alternative wage structures to make it more attractive for drivers to drive a department owned bus and to make it easier for country communities to attract and maintain bus drivers. Consideration to reimbursing drivers for their heavy vehicle licence and driver accreditation cost which involves medicals, working with children checks, national police clearance. Provision of training and induction packages for drivers, awareness of national heavy vehicle laws, driver fatigue, induction of new buses on delivery. Importantly the wage structure has been discussed for the past six months and hope to on board with that by the end of the year.

John Halsey, Emeritus Professor Flinders University: when I started teaching in the bush it was almost a taken for granted thing that you would be a school bus driver. Sometimes we need to go back to the past to find a solution for the future. I do think that need to be looked at again when you have these complex isolated situations, and the list of requirements needed. Looking at the idea of reinvigorating, or at least rethinking, using the teacher education workforce that currently exists and the SSO's as a pool of potential drivers.

Motion 11. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Mija Reynolds

Seconded: Lisa Slade

"That SA ICPA requests that the Department for Education provides extra country incentives to enable schools in isolated regions to entice Student Support Officers (SSOs) to work in these areas."

Explanation

SSOs provide a significant service to country schools in delivering successful learning to students in these locations. Where student numbers restrict the number of teachers that can be employed, SSOs enable a greater diversity of learning activities to be managed under teacher direction. However, attempts to get SSOs successfully into isolated schools are hampered by the following:

- Schools in isolated regions face a regular battle to fill SSO positions, they are the mechanism to assist schools in providing a more differentiated approach to teaching classes with up to and over four different year levels.
- SSOs are not eligible for Government Housing, which could be a significant factor in supporting successful applications in isolated locations.
- SSOs do not get all of the country incentives that teachers get for moving into country areas.

Comment:

Anna McCorkle, Federal Council: I do support this motion. You could also add to your explanation the really important role as local members of your community, the local knowledge an SSO may bring to the school, to each and every classroom, to each and every individual child. I guarantee you as a teacher, as a mum and watching learning happening in my community, it is the back story that will change what happens to that child each and every day. It is finding another way sometimes, knowing all of that and bringing all of that to that learning situation that will make learning possible. Learning is often not possible because of the backstory and these SSO's are vital for that.

Deb O'Neil, Education Director, Port Augusta: I really admire the work of all our educators in rural and remote schools. Teachers, Principals, SSO's, they do 101 jobs, they are extremely flexible. They are the grounds person, the cleaner, the bus drivers, everything. Currently the Department of Education has a strategy aimed at recruiting teachers and leaders into our remote and rural locations. Part of that strategy is to look at SSO's and other support staff because we know how vital they are to supporting our young people. We do have a workforce shortage. We can, with business partners, look at making positions more attractive and to get people where they are needed.

BOARDING SCHOOLS, HOSTELS AND SECOND HOMES

Motion 12. State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Mija Reynolds

Seconded: Ellen Litchfield

“That SA ICPA State Council lobby the South Australian Department for Education and the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, to increase the State Education Allowance (SEA) in recognition of the rapidly increasing boarding fees and the increase in living pressures faced by rural and remote families.”

Explanation

Inflation rises varied between 4.1% and 7.8% quarterly in the past 12 months with the cost of day-to-day necessities including food, electricity, and fuel increasing dramatically. For those living in rural or remote areas, the price of these commodities is more often than not *already* higher the further you live from metropolitan areas even before inflation is factored in. For many of us living in geographically remote areas, there is NO alternative but to send a child away to boarding school to complete their secondary education or to set up a second home. Families must pay high out of pocket expenses to ensure their children receive a compulsory education.

The SEA is currently set at \$4872.12. We request an increase of \$1000 per student. For an estimated 45 students in receipt of the SEA, it would be a cost to the Government of less than \$50,000.

Comment:

Jill Greenfield, North West Branch: I support this motion, we did get an increase 6-7 years ago, and we were so excited at the time. This does need to be increased. Personally, I think \$1000 is not enough.

Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Member: I spoke to this motion last year saying that we should be asking for more as Queensland, at that point were lobbying for a bigger increase of \$4000. Queensland has a tiered system of a basic component then 50 cents in each dollar over based on your tuition fees with a maximum of \$10,000. In SA there is only a handful of schools that can take boarding students in Year 7 so any extra support would be welcome. I live in Queensland, my children attend SOTA but my oldest child has started his first year of boarding in Toowoomba simply because of state borders and allowances. I got the first portion of my

allowance last week, my son attends a middle of the range tuition fee school, and it is a couple of grand extra so I do support this motion.

Richard Stokes, Australian Boarding Schools Association: We would love to support you in any way. Don't set a minimum figure of \$1000, I think you could go for more. I think you need to ask for CPI increase. We can do some homework for you if that helps to find some figures. The reality is they can't educate your children in high school so why can't they help support you financially.

Motion 13. State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Kirsty Williams

Seconded: Katrina Morris

"That SA ICPA lobbies the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA), along with denominational and independent boarding schools in Adelaide, to discuss access and availability of boarding for year 7 students who are geographically isolated."

Explanation

Many families are in the situation where they must send their children to boarding school from year 7 for high school due to SOTA and other rural schools no longer having Year 7s from 2025. Some families are now faced with 6 years of private school and boarding fees compared to 5 years in the past. The extra year can amount close to \$60,000.00 in tuition, boarding, and extra-curricular activities/requirements.

Most boarding schools have traditionally taken students in Years, 7, 8, and 9 however, some schools appear to be moving away from accepting younger boarders.

This is more prevalent in some of the catholic schools. In turn, this adds financial pressure on parents to seek boarding at other private schools in Adelaide that have higher tuition fees.

One of the more affordable boarding schools responded recently that there isn't the demand for year 7 boarding but if there was, the school would accept them. However, this said school does not advertise that it accepts Year 7 boarding students, only from Year 9. Information is conflicting and a challenge to navigate for families.

Comments:

Mija Reynolds, Flinders Ranges Branch: We are one of the families affected by this. The more affordable school we had hoped to send our son no longer takes boarders in Year 7. This meant we had to quickly look for another option and compete for scholarships. This shift/change has meant there are now more families competing for scholarships to help with fees. I urge families to research and plan very carefully.

Lisa Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch: I have a question to the boarding schools that are here – What are the reasons you might be moving away from Year 7 boarding?

Sandra Hughes, Principal, St Marks, Port Pirie: There are five Catholic boarding schools in SA, two regional and three in Adelaide. Both regional schools take Year 7 boarders. As for the Adelaide Schools, I can only suggest they are becoming oversubscribed, they are full. The way funding works for Catholic schools is that we have very limited access to state or federal funding for capital development. Currently St Marks is building a new boarding house which will be open next year for 33 boarders. A \$9,000,000 investment we are funding ourselves through parent contributions. As these schools become oversubscribed, I would assume they are prioritising their senior students who need to complete their SACE. As a Principal in Catholic Education, and involved in a lot of committees, I can certainly advocate for greater clarity about this.

Andrew Jarmen, Westminster School: This year we have taken seven Year 7 boarders and we have taken Year 6 boarders in the past. We are one of the schools that offer a 6 for 5, understanding that the extra year of high school is a financial burden for families. The longer students they can be with us at boarding school the more experiences they can realise, and we are seeing that growth. We are looking at a solution of planning to design more specific space for younger girls to come into our boarding program to add numbers. We are all looking for solutions because there is an unprecedented demand. I'm sure all the schools will have discussions with you moving forward.

Richard Stokes, Australian Boarding Schools Association: There are two state school and two independent school boarding facilities that do not take Year 7, at the moment, in SA. There are two things I'm going to

suggest to you. Sometimes schools run away from only having one student, I can understand that as it is a bit scary, so we need a bigger number to make it better for them. Secondly, when Year 7 became part of high school in Queensland, the state government provided the boarding schools with funds to build Year 7 boarding facilities. That might be something you could do some lobbying for. It might be useful.

Motion 14. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Louise Kohler

Seconded: Helen Williams

“That SA ICPA lobbies the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA), along with denominational and independent boarding schools in Adelaide, to discuss a designated ICPA bursary at each school/college.”

Explanation

For ICPA children, especially those residing in remote areas where access to traditional schooling is limited to School of the Air during primary years, the pathways to secondary education present significant challenges. Options include enrolling in Open Access College and similar online learning providers, pursuing homeschooling, considering private boarding arrangements, or opting for boarding schools. In more drastic scenarios, families may contemplate uprooting from their homes and employment, relocating to urban areas where educational resources are more readily available.

If financial cost was not a constraint for families, boarding schools provide one of the most suitable options for many ICPA children. Boarding schools offer a comprehensive and high-quality educational experience that supports not only their intellectual growth but also their social and emotional development. Armed with a quality education, children have more agency to critically determine their career choice, and if they choose to return to their communities, they have a greater capacity as leaders and change-makers, driving positive transformation and economic development in Australia agricultural industry.

Whilst boarding scholarships offered by schools are appreciated, they remain limited and highly competitive, with criteria that may be unattainable for many rural and remote children as they have not attended a face-to-face school or played club or competitive sport due to where they live.

We implore the ABSA and all boarding schools in Adelaide to engage in a genuine and constructive dialogue aimed at enhancing access and equity for ICPA children. As institutions committed to shaping service-oriented individuals, we urge schools to extend their understanding of our ICPA members’ backgrounds.

Comment:

Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: I support this motion, we have just been through the whole scholarship process. I understand that not everyone gets a scholarship but sometimes the applications are not always conducive to our students, they don’t all play sport as they can’t, they hundreds of kilometres away. I thank Lai Kaum at SOTA for introducing a student council so our children can tick that box. The application is like a CV, it is hardcore. It is a juggling act, you don’t want to stress your children by saying you will do this, you will learn an instrument because we need that for your portfolio. The application process is not conducive to our kids as we are literally trying to make things up. What are their cocurricular activities? Loading cattle onto a truck? Going to a gymkhana and riding a horse. The schools don’t really understand. There needs to be a bit of dialogue between the schools and our backgrounds. We can’t all have our children do SAPSSA, they can’t play sport and so on. My daughter’s first question in one of her interviews was – “What does a day in your school life look like?” She launched into, “Well, I have two lessons a day..” Before she could even say – then we have follow up work, the lady said, “Oh, you must have a lot of free time on your hands!” I support this motion; I think we have to have that discussion on how different ICPA families and their children are from mainstream.

Richard Stokes, Australian Boarding Schools Association: we do not get involved with fees or funding, that is not what we do. Boarding fees have gone up, if you need to please talk to the school about your situation, they will be very accommodating. What I will do is to undertake to get a message to the enrolment people to understand your situation.

Moved: Hollie Williams**Seconded:** Jodie Keogh

“That SA ICPA State Council support Federal Council in any way they can, with their lobbying efforts to have the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) increased.”

Explanation

The gap between the AIC Basic Boarding Allowance and the actual cost of boarding across Australia continues to grow and this disparity is contributing to the financial strain many families are facing in their efforts to afford compulsory secondary education. In September of 2023 Federal Council started their campaign and lobbying efforts calling for an increase into the AIC with a widespread petition, which gained over 2500 signatures and was presented to various parliamentarians at their October delegations.

In early March, with the support of 20 key rural organisations (including SA ICPA) Federal Council, penned an open letter to Minister Rishworth, Minister for Social Services regarding their lobbying efforts for an increase of the AIC. SA ICPA State Council will continue to support Federal Council in any way they can in regard to this matter and look forward to hearing and relaying any developments as they come to hand.

Comment:

Julia Broad, Federal Council: we would welcome any support coming from this motion. We would love case studies or real situations to take to the Ministers when we get a chance to talk to them about it.

Richard Stokes, Australian Boarding Schools Association: We are working with Federal Council on this too, notice that this is a social service, this allowance, and it is wrong. It should be an educational allowance. It should be under the auspices of the education department federally, so when you are talking to your federal member mention that this is in the wrong place. It will mean that they will understand that this is about education, that is very important.

DISTANCE EDUCATION**Moved:** Louise Kohler**Seconded:** Helen Williams

“That SA ICPA lobbies the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the Rural Support Service in SA Health to add ‘Geographically remote families’ as an additional eligibility criterion to bypass a nearer specialist in the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) Guidelines for Assessment.”

Explanation

Currently, PATS will only provide assistance to a patient that has been referred to their nearest specialist, unless a GP has provided a valid medical reason. Whilst this may work for those living closer to their nearest specialist, the available days and times that specialists visit the nearest town more often than not fall mid-week. When living remotely and with children completing their schooling via distance education, this results in multiple days of absence from school to travel the large distances and is incredibly disruptive to their learning. A 15-minute appointment with distances of over 1000km round trip involved, it can very easily be 3 days away from home. When able to book appointments in the city, multiple appointments can be booked in the same trip often during holidays or either side of the weekend, and the quantity of school day absences can be avoided.

Families in our area receive the same PATS amount whether they attend an appointment in Port Augusta or Adelaide due to the maximum kilometres already being claimed, so the claim amount based on the Distance Calculator would not be increased.

Whilst family support, continuity of care, free accommodation, a preferred place of treatment, or personal convenience are not sufficient grounds to waiver the current criteria, we ask that SA Health see that consistency and reduced school absences in a child’s education is.

“That SA ICPA writes to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to request the establishment of a subsidy, to recognise the role of the home supervisor in Distance Education schoolrooms for geographically isolated families.”

Moved: Candice Brown

Seconded: Kristina Crawford

Explanation

Regardless of whether a family has a family member step in, or they pay an additional person to supervise in their home schoolroom, this comes as an added to cost. When enrolling children at Open Access College (School of the Air), the Enrolment Policy clearly states that ‘All students (except adult students) must have a parent or supervisor (at home or at their enrolled school) available at all times’. This will assist to ensure child safety measures are maintained during their course of study, for example supervision, as well as to provide support for the student as they complete the learning programs.” A home supervisor acts as a teacher support yet is not recognised and it appears the government is happy for the role to be paid for entirely by the family or a family member is a full-time equivalent volunteer.

A subsidy provided to families to compensate for a portion of the cost would alleviate pressure placed on families that comes from the full-time out-of-pocket position of supervising children in each geographically isolated classroom.

Comment:

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: I have been in and out of the distance education schoolroom for almost 20 years. First as a governess, then teaching my older children, and now a 9 year old in Year 4. The start of the term was hectic as a mother, teacher, community member and partner it was a big juggling act. I was learning a new school program, which wasn’t easy, navigating new lesson times, printing work, organising timetables and air lessons. We are experiencing a dry time currently; so phone calls, induction of new staff, tow run for food and parts, clean quarters, relocate and start daughter at uni, water run pulling sheep and goats out of troughs, cooking for 10 people, organise annual community event, start shearing, run to yard, trucking, ICPA meeting, in school And this was the first two weeks! I only have one child in the schoolroom so relatively easier than most with all the afore mentioned jobs necessary to keep our place running, there is only one person who misses out on a dedicated person looking after her education. This is not a baby sitting job, this is not an opportunity for us mothers to sit and read the New Idea, this is our children’s founding years of education. Why should they be prioritised down the list? Why should they have a frazzled mum already spreading herself thin? They deserve more and they deserve the dedication of someone looking after them.

Motion 18. SA Lone Members Branch

Deemed covered by Motion 17

“That SA ICPA lobby the South Australian Department for Education to provide a subsidy to assist with the cost of supplying a supervisor when a child must study via Distance Education.”

Jodie Keough, SA Lone Members Branch. I would like to request conferences permission to deem Motion 18 be covered by Motion 17.

Conference permission granted

Explanation

Students who do not have physical access to a face-to-face school through being geographically isolated gain access in South Australia to school through School of the Air, Port Augusta a campus of Open Access College. It is a requirement in the Enrolment Policy of the College that ‘*all students must have a parent or supervisor (at home or their enrolled school) available at all times*’. Refer to: *Open Access College Enrolment Policy*

The students have access to online lessons with their teachers, however, follow up tasks and the rest of the school day must be supervised in the home classroom. Supervisors in a distance education environment are essentially Student Support Officers being paid by a family.

The State Government is responsible for the cost of education delivery including supervision; however the cost of a supervisor is borne entirely by the family in a distance education environment. Families must either

employ a supervisor on a wage or in many cases, a parent, usually the mother, is forced to forgo paid work on the property, community, or outstation where they live, due to the need for them to stay home and teach their children. Many families cannot afford either option of this important and mandatory role.

Motion 19. North East Branch

Deemed covered by Motion 17

“That SA ICPA State Council request the Minister for Education to provide financial assistance towards the cost of supervising students in a Distance Education classroom.”

Leisa Breeding, North East Branch: We request conferences permission to deem Motion 19 be covered by Motion 17.

Conference permission granted.

Explanation

The role of the Distance Education Supervisor is essential for the education of children studying via Distance Education. Families living remotely are dependent on Distance Education as the only means of accessing a State Government school, such as School of the Air.

Families must choose to either employ a supervisor, or have a parent take on the role. Either choice comes at a high financial cost to remote families, with either a wage having to be paid or a parent having to give up work, to supervise the student/s. Assistance is urgently required to compensate families for the high cost of educating their children in a government school.

Motion 20. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA lobby relevant agencies to establish a fulltime Student Services Officer (SSO) for each remote classroom in South Australia, to supervise School of the Air Students.”

Moved: Pamela Cuffe

Seconded: Katrina Morris

Explanation

While each remote classroom is different, it is our firm belief that children in remote areas should have access to the same level of support as their counterparts in metropolitan schooling, and providing SSO assistance is crucial in achieving this equality.

Isolated students and their parents face unique challenges that differ significantly from those encountered in traditional classroom settings. These challenges stem from their geographical remoteness, limited peer interaction, potential feelings of isolation and drought. The presence of a dedicated SSO in their virtual classrooms can make a profound difference in the overall well-being and academic success of these students and frees parents to help where needed when times are challenging and wages need to be reduced.

Some key reasons why SSO support is essential:

Social and Emotional Well-being

Isolated students often lack regular face-to-face interactions with peers, which can impact their social development and emotional well-being. An SSO can provide valuable emotional support, fostering a sense of connection and understanding. SSO support allows parents to strike a healthier balance between family responsibilities, station duties and personal pursuits. The reduced stress associated with overseeing every aspect of their child's education and the financial commitments, enables parents to spend quality time with their families. Improved work-life balance contributes to enhanced well-being for parents, fostering a positive family environment. This, in turn, positively impacts the emotional and psychological development of the children.

Individualised Assistance

Every student has unique learning needs, and isolated children are no exception. An SSO can work closely with each student, providing personalised assistance tailored to their learning style, pace, and challenges.

Parental Support

Given the remote nature of School of the Air, parents play a significant role in the education of their children. An SSO can collaborate with parents, offering guidance, resources, and strategies to enhance their ability to support their child's learning effectively.

Academic Progress Monitoring

SSOs can play a crucial role in tracking and monitoring the academic progress of isolated students. By identifying potential challenges early on, interventions can be implemented to ensure that students are on track with their educational goals.

Building a Sense of Community

The sense of belonging to a supportive community is vital for a child's development. SSOs can facilitate virtual group activities, collaborative projects, and peer interactions, creating a sense of community among isolated students.

In conclusion, the inclusion of SSO support in School of the Air classrooms is an investment in the holistic development and academic success of isolated children. By providing these students with the same level of support as their metropolitan counterparts, we contribute to a more equitable and inclusive education system for all Australian students implementing SSO support in the School of the Air, ensuring that every child, regardless of their geographical location, has the opportunity to thrive academically and emotionally.

Comment:

Lisa Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch: A question to the Port Augusta Branch. When you say a fulltime SSO, I assume that is located at SOTA? No, you mean in the classroom? (The question was answered – the classroom not SOTA.)

Motion 21. Port Augusta Branch

WITHDRAWN

“That SA ICPE liaise with the Department for Education and Open Access College (OAC) to address concerns that the proposed School of the Air (SOTA) rooms, being included in the new Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) facility in Port Augusta, are not suitable.”

Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch: I would like conferences permission to withdraw this motion.

Conference permission granted.

Explanation

We thank the relevant bodies on moving forward with a proposal for the provision of a new updated area for School of the Air (SOTA) to be based in Port Augusta. We have concerns regarding the feasibility of SOTA moving into a shared space with the RFDS and the University of Adelaide. Accessibility to teachers, students and families in a safe environment is crucial. Originally the request was that *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 Port Augusta.”*

The establishment of a town school base for remote students and families to belong to offers a holistic approach to education, addressing academic, social, and emotional needs. By providing a physical hub for learning and community engagement, this model enhances the overall educational experience for remote students and contributes to the growth and vitality of the community. With the school being included in the RFDS building it takes away the ownership and place of belonging of our school. We are also concerned about whether all options have been explored. What happens if this new arrangement does not work, and we have lost our buildings in the current location.

Motion 22. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

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

Moved: Louise Kohler

Seconded: Helen Williams

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.

The current 32c/km is not reflective of the overall travel costs families are incurring to attend school events. Over a quarter of SOTA families live in excess of 500 kilometres from Port Augusta where SOTA is based, many having to travel large distances on rough unsealed roads.

The rate was increased in 2022 from 28c/km after a similar motion was put forward and we were told by the Department for Education that it would be looked at again in the 2022 budget review. We have not heard anything further on this and feel that families must be supported to attend these events by doubling the current rate, before they start choosing not to attend which would be detrimental to their child’s learning.

The cost difference based on 20 families travelling an average 500km per trip to school events at 60c/km as opposed to 32c/km would be as follows: (based on 500km average/family)

Current: 20 families x 500 km @ .32 = \$3200 \$3200 x 5 events = \$16 000

Proposed: 20 families x 500 km @ .64 = \$6400 \$6400 x 5 events = \$32 000

Total increase = \$16 000

Comment:

Jill Greenfield, North West Branch: Are there any government employees here willing to divulge the rate they are receiving?

Lucy Morphet, Marree Air Branch: As a contractor to the government the rate is 85c/km.

Richard Stokes, ABSA: the ATO rate is 85c/km

Ellen Litchfield, Marree Air Branch: Can we make a change to the motion?

Belinda Rowe, State Council: The motion itself doesn’t specify a figure so State Council will take all of these figures on board when dealing with this motion.

ADMINISTRATION

Motion 23. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION

“That the Flinders Ranges Branch host the 2025 SA ICPA State Conference.”

Moved: Lisa Slade

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

FLOOR MOTIONS

Floor Motion 1. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA liaise with the Department for Education and Open Access College (OAC) to address the concerns that the proposed School of the Air (SOTA) rooms being included in the new RFDS facility in Port Augusta should also include RICE within the facility to complete the Outback Hub.”

Moved: Pamela Cuffe

Seconded: Katrina Morris

Explanation:

By establishing a physical Outback Hub in Port Augusta to include School of the Air and the Remote and Isolated Children’s Exercise would enhance the overall educational and social experience for remote students and their families and promote growth in outback communities.

Comment:

Chloe Hunter, Director RICE: RICE were initially involved in the Outback Hub plans. Our current building has 350 square metres and the combined space available to SOTA and RICE at the time was approximately 300 square metres. We had to withdraw our involvement as continuing would impact on our unique service. Being situated with SOTA and the RFDS would not only provide support to our members but assist in the transition from preschool to school. This week alone, our Well Being Officer was able to support a family, with no connection to SOTA, commence their transition to Reception in the mid-year intake. Being separated from Sota will increase barriers for our preschool teacher, our wellbeing officer and our members.

Lai Kaum Lim, Head of Campus SOTA: This was offered to RICE and RICE withdrew, so it is up to RICE if they want to come on board. This is not a Department of Education or OAC decision. This is a RICE decision with the RFDS because the space was inadequate.

SA ICPA 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

AGM Motion 1

CARRIED

“That the minutes of the 2022 AGM and State Conference be accepted.”

MOVED: Lisa Slade

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

AGM Motion 2

CARRIED

“That the SA ICPA Audited Financial Statements tabled, be accepted.”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

AGM Motion 3

CARRIED

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

Explanation: In light of reporting a loss for the second year in a row, State Council will continue to monitor our financial situation over the course of the next twelve months, with a view to requesting an increase to the State affiliation fee at the 2024 AGM. This will also take into consideration the possibility that Federal Council may be increasing their federal affiliation fee at their next AGM (as indicated at the 2022 Federal AGM). For now, we recommend that the fee remain at \$22 per member family until further investigation and consultation with branches can be carried out.

AGM Motion 4

CARRIED

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

AGM Motion 5

CARRIED

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2023-2024

President	Belinda Hatcher	Nominated: Michelle Hilder Seconded: Sonya Fels
Vice-President	Kirsty Williams	Nominated: Hollie Williams Seconded: Helen Williams
Secretary	Hollie Williams	Nominated: Lisa Slade Seconded: Kirsty Williams
Treasurer	Jodie Keogh	Nominated: Michelle Hilder Seconded: Hollie Williams
Publicity Officer	Ellen Litchfield	Nominated: Lisa Edwards Seconded: Jessica Bell
Immediate Past President:		Vacant

APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch:	Di Thomas, Stef Roske
Flinders Ranges Branch:	Mija Reynolds, Michelle Hilder
Marla Oodnadatta Branch:	Dani Chapman, Helen Williams
Marree Air Branch:	Ellen Litchfield, Jessica Bell
North East Branch:	Jo Drennan, Kristina Crawford
North West Branch:	Candice Brown, Edwina Bowie
Port Augusta Branch:	Katrina Morris, Pamela Cuffe

SA ICPA 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

AGM Motion 1

CARRIED

“That the minutes of the 2023 AGM and State Conference be accepted.”

MOVED: Kirsty Williams

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

AGM Motion 2

CARRIED

“That the SA ICPA Audited Financial Statements tabled, be accepted.”

MOVED: Jodie Keogh

SECONDED: Michelle Hilder

AGM Motion 3

CARRIED

“That the SA ICPA State Affiliation fee be increased to \$25”.

MOVED: Jodie Keogh

SECONDED: Michelle Hilder

Explanation:

As mentioned in the membership fee AGM Motion 3 explanation from the 2023 AGM, the SA ICPA State Council have decided that due to rising administration costs that there will be a fee increase for member families from next year onwards. We are recommending a small fee increase from \$22 per annum to \$25 per annum for the 2025 year, with the hope that the fee remain at this rate for the foreseeable future.

AGM Motion 4

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA Lone Member Subs be increased \$50”.

MOVED: Jodie Keogh

SECONDED: Michelle Hilder

Explanation:

To allow for the Federal and State affiliation fee increase there will be a small fee increase in the Lone Member subs from \$45 to \$50.

AGM Motion 5

CARRIED

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

MOVED: Jodie Keogh

SECONDED: Michelle Hilder

AGM Motion 6

CARRIED

“That the suggested amendments to Section 10 (Annual Subscription) of the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association of South Australia (Inc) Constitution be adopted.”

MOVED: Kirsty Williams

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2024-2025

President:	Belinda Hatcher	Nominated: Jodie Keogh Seconded: Mija Reynolds
Vice-President:	Kirsty Williams	Nominated: Jodie Keogh Seconded: Hollie Williams
Secretary:	Hollie Williams	Nominated: Dani Chapman Seconded: Gerry Nunn
Treasurer:	Jodie Keogh	Nominated: Belinda Hatcher Seconded: Kirsty Williams
Publicity Officer:	Ellen Litchfield	Nominated: Bridie Ferguson Seconded: Lucy Morphet
Immediate Past President:		VACANT

APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch:	Di Thomas
Flinders Ranges Branch:	Mija Reynolds & Michelle Hilder
Marla Oodnadatta Branch:	Dani Chapman & Louise Kohler
Marree Air Branch:	Ellen Litchfield
North East Branch:	Josephine Drennan & Kristina Crawford
North West Branch:	Candice Brown & Edwina Bowie
Port Augusta Branch:	Pamela Cuffe & Katrina Morris

SA ICPA Presidents Report

Belinda Hatcher

Members and guests of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association, it is with pleasure that I present my second (but first in person) Presidents Report at this the 2024 SA ICPA State Conference.

As I reflect on the last 12 months, it would be easy for me to dwell on the tough time that my family and I had as a result of Daniel's accident but instead I choose to focus on the amazing support that got us through and big part of that support has come from within the ICPA community. I didn't realise that while I was supporting others as a member of State Council, I would also be making friends and developing connections that would be there to support and help me out when I needed it most. They say teamwork makes the dreamwork and what a team this year's State Council and SA ICPA members have been.

The 2023 State Conference, held in Woomera on the 23rd of March was a wonderful success and it was where we welcomed the new 2023/24 State Council. I was so grateful to Jill and Lisa for chairing the day in my absence and the rest of the councillors for helping to make the day as great as it was. For the first time in a while the SA ICPA State Council was as full as it could be and it was exciting and encouraging to see so many new and returning members put up their hand to be part of State Council

After conference was over it was time for the new State Council to get to work on actioning the motions and areas of advocacy that were brought forward for the year. Key areas of focus SA ICPA have been:

- Increasing the State Education Allowance and the Remote Travel Allowance
- Increasing the Student Travelling Allowance.
- Advocating to the State Education Minister and Department for Education for the provision of a standalone facility for School of the Air in Port Augusta.
- Continuing to work with the Child and Family Health Service to see improved services and outcomes for members.
- Supporting Federal Council with their advocacy campaigns throughout the year.
- Continuing to advocate for financial support for distance education supervisors at both a state and federal level.
- Road safety and maintenance and access to affordable air travel for students across the state.

As usual motion letters were compiled and sent off to the appropriate recipients and followed up with a delegation and further advocacy from the 11th to the 13th of September 2023. We had a very warm and successful first meeting of delegation with Minister Geoff Brock, who has always been willing to do what he can to support SA ICPA. We also met with Julie Taylor from the Open Access College, Cara Savarton - State Government & International Relations and Ashley Smith, Christian Barnes and Constance Christou, Transport Services Unit from the Department for Education and Annie Lawless and Tarnya Eggleton from the Child and Family Health Service.

As many of you would be aware there can sometimes be a struggle for continuity when it comes to staffing within the South Australian Education Department and it is often hard to keep those connections strong so in the future the idea of more than one delegation and periodical catch ups is one state council will be undertaking and I believe it will help deepen those connections and continue to build the understanding and reputation of ICPA.

When we met with the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Mr Blair Boyer we were pleased when he announced that there would be a small but welcome increase to the Remote Travel Allowance from \$250 to \$500 per year. Our other motions and advocacy were taken into consideration but unfortunately the outcome of his response was not what SA ICPA or our members were hoping for.

We are always grateful for the Minister's time during our delegations, but I still believe we have a long way to go to see our organisation and its advocacy more strongly understood and valued by Minister Boyer and his office. State Council will keep continue fighting for this to happen.

In February of last year SA ICPA applied for a Thriving Communities grant with the application outlining the plan to engage the services of 'Bank of Ideas' and its founder Peter Kenyon to come up with a key document that would not only enable SA ICPA State Councillors better understand and implement the objectives of ICPA, but to help further develop the passion and commitment of members and volunteers towards ICPA. With the grant application being successful we got the ball rolling by having Peter Kenyon speak at last year's conference as the first step of the process. Once conference was over, we set about organising the second and third stages – a set of one-on-one interviews with past and present members and stakeholders of ICPA and then planning and facilitating a two-day workshop for participants to work with Peter to build the story around ICPA, its members and the volunteers who become involved. The workshop was a great success and produced some innovative and practical solutions and suggestions for propelling SA ICPA safely into the future.

During today's program, we will get to hear from Peter, who is going to give us a final wrap up of the last 12 months and launch the new volunteer engagement and support manual that has been created as a result of this process. The next 12 months will be an important time for us, making sure we follow through with what we have learnt and created. If we do that well, we will hopefully be able to see that members are more empowered by and engaged in ICPA for years to come.

As well as delegation meetings, SA ICPA State Council have been busy building connections with some new stakeholders throughout the year. We had a meeting the Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES), which was an introduction to each other of both our organisations and with the plan to inform members of the services that SIES can offer families with children who have specific learning needs. I was also invited by the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) to convey any communication needs that our members may have. Even though there isn't any specific issues at the current time, ACCAN are keen to have regular catch ups in the future. Hollie has been busy growing the relationship with secondary schools who have an interest educating in rural and remote ICPA students and it is exciting to have several of those school here today. As always if you have something you wish to raise or want to know where to turn for support when it comes to the education of your child/children please remember to contact someone on State Council and we will be more than happy to help.

Unfortunately, due to station commitments I was unable to attend the 52nd Federal Conference in Darwin and I know I missed an excellent few days. Thanks to everyone who went from SA, especially to Hollie and Kirsty for representing our state council. Congratulations to Alana, Federal Council, and the NT State Council for putting on such a successful conference and a big congrats to Louise Martin on her election as the new Federal President. I am sure that along with this year's councillors she will capably lead Federal Council for the future years.

Federal Council have been very busy this year in all their advocacy work and I look forward to hearing all that Anna has to report later today when she gives us a Federal Council update. SA ICPA State Council would especially like to thank Judy Newton, Federal Membership Officer and the new Federal ICPA Tech Team for all their hard work in working through the challenges that have come from implementing the new rolling membership format. I am confident that this time next year all the troubles will be a distant memory and there will be smooth sailing ahead!

Federal Council also launched a nationwide campaign lobbying the Federal Government for a significant increase in the Assistance for Isolated Children Boarding Away from Home Allowance. While the campaign was successful with regard to support from members and stakeholders alike, there would seem to be some more hard work to come for Federal Council as they continue to work on this campaign.

In February Kirsty and I attended a joint council meeting in Darwin. It was a busy couple of days but as always it was wonderful to be in the company of other state councils as well as Kim and Louise from Federal Council.

We are all so vastly different and yet we can come together to share our knowledge and skill for the great good of the organisation and our members.

One of the key things that we took away from the meeting was a proposed change in direction in regard to the advocacy for an allowance for distance education tutors – or DETA as it has so fondly been referred to over the years. This advocacy has gained very little traction at either a Federal or State level so it was decided to reframe the focus away from referring to it as a teaching allowance instead to seeking financial support for families to engage the services of a home tutor either from outside the home or a parent or family member. Generally, distance education tutors are not performing the role of an actual teacher, rather something that is similar to a Student Support Officer (SSO). Using this knowledge and change of wording there is a very real chance with proper investigation into what we are asking for, that we could see something positive come from this change. We have several motions tabled today that have taken this approach and SA ICPA State Council look forward to heading down this path of advocacy.

We continue to deliver the Pipeline publication, in full colour now, to members bi-annually and it is always wonderful to read about all the comings and goings of members. Thank you to Mija our Pipeline Editor, who works very hard to get hold of articles, photos, and news so that we have something to look forward to and read twice a year. That along with our social media channels and the website gives members several ways to access what they need to in regard to all things ICPA. While we are on the website, a very big pat on the back to Lisa Slade for stepping into the role of State Webmaster and keeping the ever-changing landscape of news and information up to date. It has been a big year of transition and she has done a stellar job.

I would like to say thank you to our outgoing State Councillors this year Steph Roeske, Jessica Bell and a very special thankyou to Helen Williams. Helen has been on State Council in some way shape or form for many years. She has been State Secretary, State Treasurer and State Publicity Officer as well as a branch rep for the Marla Oodnadatta branch. Nothing is ever too hard for Helen and her willingness to just put her hand up to be in a role or get a job done is admirable to say the least. So thank you Helen – we will miss you but I have a feeling that you will be keeping an eye on us in the back ground (and across the yard!) for years to come. And a big thank you to this year's State Council executives Hollie, Kirsty, Jodie, and Ellen and all the other councillors for all their hard work over the last 12 months. We are all busy and your commitment to supporting ICPA has always been exemplary.

This year's theme of 'Making Tracks for Education' has been a perfect way to acknowledge the lengths that families go to while educating their children in the outback. From the physical act of driving long distances while taking children to school, to the literal paths in which families are choosing to follow for the next step in their child's learning journey. There are so many different tracks being made every day and it is vital that we remember and appreciate that those choices are being made for many reasons and while it may not be the path you have chosen to go down, they are the right ones for those making them in that moment. It is also so important that we appreciate the great sacrifices that come from having no choice but to travel down these difficult paths. All too often when we are seen to be advocating for equal opportunities, more financial support, or access to better services there are those who are on the outside looking in that are not willing to or have trouble appreciating how much those sacrifices are affecting the families making them.

When you leave here today, I ask that if the situation ever arises where you witness a lack of understanding of ICPA, its members and their needs that you help them to understand. Talk about how you came here today and heard first hand those sacrifices made, show a friend a photo and share the inspiring story behind it or just simply tell them to visit icpa.com.au and educate themselves on what we do and how they can support us better.

Please enjoy today and safe travels when you make your tracks back home. Cheers Belinda

SA ICPA TREASURER'S REPORT

Jodie Keogh

Madam President, fellow ICPA members, guests and visitors.

I am pleased to present my first Treasurer's Report for SA ICPA. I have been a SA ICPA member for many years and after completing my Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping last year, along with the bookkeeping role I do for the company I am employed by I felt I could use these skills in the Treasurer role.

I would like to sincerely thank Michelle Hilder, previous SA ICPA Treasurer for the guidance and assistance she has provided in teaching me the ropes and always being available, they were huge shoes to fill. I would also like to thank Belinda, Hollie and all I have worked with throughout my first year, it is very rewarding being part of a such a dynamic team.

My report includes the audited Financial Statement for the year 2023 and the unaudited Interim Report from 01/01/2024 to the 29/02/2024.

SA ICPA made a profit of \$18209.32 for the 2023 year. Of importance to note in this profit is the receipt of the 85% profit amount from the 2022 State Conference hosted by Port Augusta of \$6722.85 which was not receipted in last year's financial report. North West Branch also held a very successful conference which resulted in a profit of \$12457.87. Thank you to those branches as these funds help with our advocacy and councillors to fulfil our roles, increase of efficiency and technology and attend vital face to face meetings, delegations and conferences. An increase to our DECD Operational Grant was also received however this will be offset from the rising cost of in expenses which is felt through all aspects of life now. The FRRR Nutrien Ag Grant which was received in 2023 will not be seen in our expenses until the 2024 financial year. Newsletter costs this year see a decrease however this is due to the invoicing dates and will be reflected in 2024.

At the end of 2023 we had a bank account balance of \$60,978.02.

SA ICPA were grateful to receive an Operational Grant from the Department for Education of \$46,135 to support ICPA's operational expenses being paid in yearly instalments over the next 3 years. This grant helps cover the cost of councillors to attend face to face events, delegations, Joint Council Meetings, Conference, printing of the Pipeline and any other operational expenses. The first payment of this 3-year grant was paid in October 2023.

We were also granted in conjunction with OCA, a Thriving Communities Grant to help us reinvigorate and come up with a key document to enable State Council to better understand and implement the objectives of ICPA but also give the wider SA ICPA community the opportunity to take back key components to other community organisations they are part of. Expenses so far incurred in this grant are due to be reimbursed this coming financial year. This is being facilitated by Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S who has a proven track record of helping community organisations.

Due to being proactive in December we were also fortunate to receive a FRRR and Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grant to support us in a high-quality State Council Workshop. We are in the process of finalising our workshop and location to upskill our team and create a cohesive and collaborative group. Thank you to FRRR and Nutrien Ag Solutions for this opportunity.

State Council has been continuing to use Zoom to meet for regular meetings. We are investigating other meeting and collaboration software that may be able to better suit our needs.

SA ICPA held the 2023 State Conference, hosted by the North West Branch in Woomera on Thursday, 23rd March 2023. This coincided with SOTA Port August School Experience Week and we were lucky enough to have the SOTA students sing the National Anthem and their school song to start off the Conference.

Woomera was a unique place to hold the Conference and it all went very well. Thank you to the North West Branch for a great conference and your contribution.

Federal Conference was held in Darwin, Northern Territory on the 26th and 27th July 2023. SA ICPA had a great roll up of members head up to balmy Darwin including State Vice President, State Secretary and myself. Branches including Marree Air, Marla Oodnadatta and Flinders Ranges also sent delegates and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely among the business of the well-run conference.

At Federal Conference a motion was carried that Federal Affiliation Fees for members would increase to \$25.00 to come into effect with the membership year starting on 1st January 2024.

A rolling membership model was to be implemented at the same time but some database and software issues have put this on hold until this is all working correctly. This will mean that a member can choose to have their membership renewed automatically each year, with of course the option to opt of this choice. The Federal Membership Officer, Judy Newton has been working very hard on this along with Federal Council and we thank them for their dedication to get this up and running.

If any member has issues renewing or joining up online please do not hesitate to contact myself and I will be more than happy to help guide you through the process.

SA President, SA Vice President and SA Secretary attended delegation in Adelaide in September 2023. Meetings were held with MP Geoff Brock, CaFHS, Open Access College and Hon. Blair Boyer, Minister for Education including The Education Department.

I would like to make special mention of the SA Lone Member Officer, Helen Williams. Helen stepped back into this role after a hiatus and as a Lone Member myself I appreciate the updates that Helen sends out to Lone Members. Whether we have children actively involved in the ICPA advocacy areas or just have a vested interest in ICPA, including attending this conference I encourage those who do not think they fit into a branch or just want be kept abreast of our advocacy to join up as a SA Lone Member.

Mid North Accounting were engaged to carry out the audit of the SA ICPA financials for the 2023 year. Again, they were very professional and the process ran smoothly, were presented and received on schedule.

For the 2023 membership year 107 membership families either renewed or joined.

We have 9 School Corporate Members and 5 Federal Corporate Member for the 2023 year. This enables these members to receive all State and Territory Publications.

BRANCH REPORTS

MARLA/OODNADATTA BRANCH

President: Kirsty Williams

2023 saw a reasonably good season in the area however, the rainfall was fairly patchy with some receiving plenty of rain and others getting very little. It has been much the same for the early part of 2024.

This year on the schooling front, we have Bonnie Williams of Anna Creek joining her 2 siblings in the schoolroom through Alice Springs SOTA and Lenny Williams of The Peake joining his 3 siblings in the schoolroom through Port Augusta SOTA, both starting Reception. Asher Colman of Mt Sarah is half-way through kindy and will begin Reception mid-year. Harvey Williams of Nilpinna and Mackenzie Chapman of Mabel Creek are both on the other end of the continuum finishing their schooling in 2023 and taking the big leap into the workforce, both heading to Queensland on stations for the 2024 season. Mackenzie was accepted into Equine Science through Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and deferred.

This year will be the last year for both Magenta Williams (Nilpinna) in Year 6 and Lucy Williams (The Peake) in Year 7 on School of the Air, before they embark on their secondary school journey. This year has also seen Logan Williams (Nilpinna) make the transition (like a duck to water) from Private Boarding and attending Orroroo Area School to Boarding in Adelaide at Sacred Heart College.

Throughout 2023, a number of our members attended both the State and Federal conferences. Having the State Conference in Woomera throughout School Experience Week (SEW) meant it was very easy for many of us attend already being in Woomera. Federal Conference in Darwin saw 3 of our branch members (with husbands in tow) attend. You couldn't get a place that felt more 'holiday like' and whilst Dani Champman, Hollie Williams and myself attended conference, Corey, Tate and Cam enjoyed the Partners' Tour, Heli Fishing and many cold beers. Whilst they had a great time, it is was also good for the blokes to see what is involved when attending conferences and that we are in fact fairly busy. The comment was thrown around of 'When do you get to go and have fun!', but we managed plenty of that post-conference!

In December, our Branch had its first face-to-face meeting in many years, held at The Peake prior to our Christmas Party. With a laptop on the table with Zoom for those that couldn't make it, it was great to be able to discuss things in person as a 'chat' rather than having the meddling of a screen for all attendees. I feel whilst distance and consequently time, zoom meetings are much easier to 'fit-in' however, so much can be achieved at a face-to-face meeting including items that are not necessarily on the agenda. It is important that whilst doing something as valuable as ICPA work that we have fun at the same time.

At this meeting, the following were elected:

President: Kirsty Williams

Secretary: Frankie Fennell

Treasurer: Helen Williams

Publicity Officer: Hollie Williams

State Council Delegates: Dani Chapman & Louise Kohler

2024 is turning out to be a huge year for what was our 'little' branch that has had an influx of members. When I first moved to the area in 2012, we were struggling to get any more than 3 or 4 people involved to now having 15 couples/families as members.

This year has been our turn to convene conference under the excellent guidance of Dani as Convenor. Having the advantage of being an ex-Quorn local, Dani has made the organising and booking of venues and caterers that whole lot easier. Our branch members might live a long way from Quorn yet it has and is so uplifting working with a group of do-ers! I also want to make special mention of today's Opening Speaker Anne Scammell, who has come full circle from teaching distance ed, sending kids to boarding school, teaching special needs and languages in mainstream, teaching at SOTA and foremost, for being the most supportive and encouraging Mum of whatever my brothers and I have chosen to do in life.

Three weeks after conference on April 14th, our Branch is catering once again for the S*itbox Rally. This involves participants staying overnight in Oodnadatta with us providing a cooked dinner, cooked breakfast and a packed lunch for over 500 people. Whilst it is a mammoth task, a lot of fun is had on the day and proceeds are shared between the Oodnadatta Racing and Horse Sports Inc and our Branch. Fundraising opportunities like this enable our Branch to continue giving a one-off \$1500 payment to students finishing their primary schooling, sending members to conferences and we are hoping that in 2024 we can offer our Branch member families some additional learning opportunities or experiences.

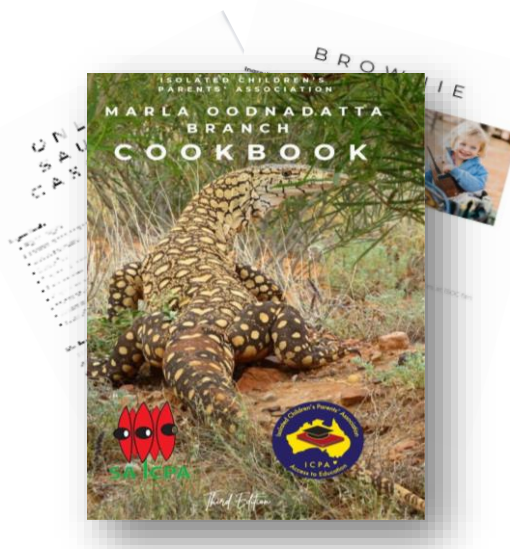
Lastly, our Branch is thrilled to release the Third Edition of the ICPA Marla Oodnadatta Branch Cookbook. I am unsure exactly how long ago the second edition was published but it was definitely long before Canva, email and USBs were even a thing. The book includes a collection of recipes from all of our members with nothing too fancy! This will be an ongoing fundraiser for our branch so please share with your friends far and wide.

Save the Dates 2024:

Oodnadatta Gymkhana – May 11th

Oodnadatta Bronco Branding – July 13th

William Creek Bronco Branding – August 17th



EYRE BRANCH

Di Thomas

Once again, I start my report by stating that although this is the Branch Presidents report, I am not the President. That title belongs to my partner John Duncan who is unable to attend.

This past year as State Council delegate I attended the State Conference in Woomera and a State Council face to face meeting in September. It was good to see and catch up with everyone without the restriction of Zoom.

In November I joined other members at a workshop in Quorn with Peter Kenyon from Bank of Ideas. It was a very informative workshop with ideas on building a better ICPA. It was also a chance to get to know members a bit more in a relaxed atmosphere.

In December we held our AGM. John Duncan was nominated and voted in as President. I took on the secretary/treasurer positions as well as the delegate for State Council. Our membership count fluctuates from year to year and I am pleased to say that although down a bit compared to recent years our membership is still strong.

Some of the issues that have come to our attention through our branch are;

- Lack of bus drivers and relief drivers.
- Preschool children on buses. Only allowed if there is room, not actually counted when working out numbers for buses.
- Airfare costs and availability. Bus travel is not an option.

FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH

President: Michelle Hilder

The Flinders Ranges Branch has had a very busy year throughout 2023 with this year already looking like it will be another busy year ahead. We have many members in our Branch and have welcomed one new member family to our Branch, so far this year. Thanks to you all for your contributions and support you give to the branch.

Our fundraising events held in 2023 for the Branch were a BBQ and Cheese Stall at the Annual Hawker Races, a Bake Sale held at Orroroo at the 54 31 Collective Shop and providing Afternoon Tea for the Hawker Hospital 150 Years Celebrations. A big thank you to anyone that helped organise these events and to everyone who has contributed in anyway with helping on the day, providing food, and making donations.

The 2023 SA ICPA State Conference, "Launching Futures Since 1972", was held at The Eldo Hotel, Woomera on Thursday, 23rd March 2023 which was hosted by the North West Branch. We were represented by members of the Branch, Sonya Fels, Mija Reynolds (delegates), Keith Slade (observer), Lisa Slade Vice President SA ICPA, Michelle Hilder Treasurer SA ICPA. Unfortunately, our State President, Belinda Hatcher could not be in attendance on the day due to Daniel sustaining a serious injury from a motorbike accident and was awaiting surgery in Adelaide at the time. Our branch report to State Council was compiled by Sharon McInnis, a wonderful photo story set to music representing our members. A lot of work went into the presentation and the end result was amazing. Our Branch presented three Motions and two Supplementary Motions. These Motions were carried.

Belinda Hatcher was re-elected as State President at the AGM. Michelle Hilder stepped down as State Treasurer after four years and remains on State Council this year as a branch representative, along with Mija Reynolds. Mija has taken over as both the Pipeline editor and publisher and continues to do a fantastic job compiling an informative magazine for members, which is no small feat. Lisa Slade stepped off Council and has taken on the role of State Webmaster (an off-Council position). It is pleasing to see our branch continues to be well represented at a state level.

Federal Conference was held in Darwin on the 26th and 27th July 2023. Many State Council ICPA members attended. Lisa Slade represented our branch and moved a motion seeking change to the Family Day Care legislation on the branch's behalf.

In December, we held our AGM via ZOOM and the following were elected.

President – Michelle Hilder

Vice President – Vacant

Secretary – Sonya Fels

Treasurer – Rachael Hilder

Publicity Officer – Jo Ridsdale

State Council Representative 1 – Mija Reynolds

State Council Representative 2 – Michelle Hilder

Thanks to the executive and committee, who have been working behind the scenes to keep the branch cogs turning, special thanks to Sonya Fels for keeping us organised and our members in touch with the goings on of ICPA and to Rachael Hilder for keeping on top of our finances.

I would like to congratulate and commend all students in our Branch for a great year and wish anyone that is embarking on a new journey of their school life, or other field, all the best and good luck.

On behalf of the Flinders Ranges Branch we would like to congratulate the Marla Oodnadatta Branch on host the 2024 State Conference. May 2024 be a productive and enjoyable year for all of us.

MARREE AIR BRANCH

President: Lucy Morphett

The Marree Air Branch has had a relatively quiet year apart from the excitement of a few new babies! We welcomed Huxley Morphett at Callanna, Albie Ward at Wilpoorinna and Alfie Nicholls at Angepena.

The Marree Sports Club hosted their Gymkhana & Motorkhana on the June Long Weekend which was another great success and a great family friendly weekend out. The National Bronco Branding Championships were hosted in Marree in September, pulling a crowd of over 400 to our tiny town. The success of these two events assisted with fundraising for the year. Copley & Districts Gymkhana Club & Innamincka Sporting Club also pulled off two successful gymkhana/motorkhanas in 2023.

Our newest SOTA member is James Oldfield from Cowarie who started kindy in 2023. While we don't have any boarders heading off this year, Cody Bell from Dulkaninna and Sydney Litchfield from Mt Lyndhurst will be heading off in 2025. Cody and Syd will be the first of the youngest generation heading off to school next year and we hope that the Bell and Litchfield families have time to soak in their last school year with everyone at home.

A few of our families were able to go overseas in 2023/24 which was a highlight for the kids. The Edwards family took their kids to Bali where they spent time relaxing, swimming, getting braids and spending some quality time together. The Oldfield kids from Cowarie spent a month in Denmark with their mum Maria's side of the family. It was the kids first time seeing snow and was quite the transition from 49°C to 4°C!

Lisa Edwards, Lucy Morphett and Huxley Morphett attended the 2023 Federal Conference in Darwin. They recounted how great it was to feel the ICPA passion and connect with other parents from other states.

It's true when they say the bush is a community of its own. As many of you already know, Jess Bell, a dear friend and long-time volunteer and supporter of ICPA is in the middle of a serious health battle. It has been heart-warming to see the support and well wishes she has received over the last 6 months from people in this network and beyond. The resilience and courage Jess and the rest of the Bell family have shown is something to admire. The battle is not over just yet, and as one part of treatment finishes, we hope that the next part is more forgiving, and Jess can get back to Dulkaninna soon to enjoy some of that Autumn weather we all love. The Bells send out a big thank you!

In January, we held an AGM via email and the following were elected:

President: Lucy Morphett

Secretary: Kate Litchfield

Treasurer: Lisa Edwards

Publicity Officer: Lucy Morphett

State Council Delegates: Ellen Litchfield

On behalf of the Marree Air branch we would like to congratulate the Marla-Oodnadatta branch on hosting the 2024 conference.

NORTH EAST BRANCH

Leisa Breeding

The last 12 months through 2023 was reasonably quiet for the North East Branch. With our members having busy lives it seems harder to catch up in person, something that we look forward to try and change during 2024 and have more face-to-face meetings.

In branch news all of our kids are growing up fast and moving up through primary school quickly. We have a good mix of Broken Hill SOTA, Port Augusta SOTA and students attending face to face schools in both Adelaide and Burra.

Local events included the Annual Yunta Gymkhana and for the very first time Motorkhana which was a big success. Sadly after 60 years the Easter Yunta Tennis Tournament won't be held in 2024 but sounds like some new ideas are in the pipeline. Elders held their wool show and Christmas wind up at the Yunta Race Club which was well attended in a very busy December.

Something different our North East kids have to look forward to this year is a trip to Bounce in Adelaide, kindly donated by Lodestone Mines in Broken Hill. It will be great to have an opportunity to get together and have the kids enjoy themselves doing something a bit different.

Rainfall over the North East has been erratic with the low rainfall continuing in some areas where others have had better consistent falls.

Our AGM has seen the following positions filled:

President: Leisa Breeding

Secretary: Josephine Williams

Treasurer: Leisa Breeding

Publicity Officer: Katie Robinson

Thank you to the Marla Oodnadatta Branch for all their hard work towards hosting the 2024 SA ICPA State Conference.

NORTH WEST BRANCH

President: Candice Brown

As I type my first President's report, navigating my way back into the Arcoona schoolroom this term with 3 kids to supervise, I am very grateful that my branch has many ladies with a wealth of knowledge to help guide and support me.

Towards the end of 2023 our branch had its AGM and Christmas tree function at Mobella Station. I would like to say a big thank you to Tash and her crew for organising and hosting such a lovely get together. The following were elected to positions:

President – Candice Brown

Secretary – Petie Rankin

Treasurer – Megan Henderson

Publicity Officer – Edwina Bowie

Branch Delegates – Edwina Bowie & Candice Brown

Life Members – Joanna Gibson, Jill Greenfield & Lorraine Greenfield

A massive thank you to Jill for all her hard work over the years, her wealth of knowledge for our North West Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) branch and the SAICPA State Council has left me with big shoes to fill. Thank you to the previous position holders, those who have continued with their roles and a big thanks to those who have taken on a new role.

The North West hosted a successful 2023 State SAICPA Conference, convened by Petie Rankin & myself in the rural location of Woomera. We had a great turnout for the day. I would like to say a big thanks to those that pitched in and played a part in making the conference fantastic.

We have some recruited some new members, growing our branch to 12 families. We have welcomed:

Alana White, Matt Curnow with young Paisley of Parakylia Station

Bobbi Lou and Tom Martin with Lily and Cameron of Ingomar Station

Rena Sharp and Ryan Eade with their children Darcy and Lily of Mt Eba Station

Hayden Rankin continues her schooling in Year 11 at Pembroke, with her younger brother Ryder, year 8, joining her. We wish Ryder all the best for his boarding journey. The 2 younger Rankin boys Eli and Lawson are still enjoying School of The Air (SOTA) in Years 4 and 5.

Our branch was blessed to have Laura Hewitt (Greenfield) to be our opening speaker at the 2023 SAICPA State Conference, Laura is now managing Pernatty Station with her husband Ben. Anna Greenfield is currently completing a Master of Learning & Teaching (Primary) and Bridie is currently away working on a station in South West Queensland.

Amelia Gibson is working on a farm out of Narrabri New South Wales, Molly is currently at Yudnapinna helping with shearing and then will head back to Katherine, Northern Territory to live and work. Molly is studying a Bachelor of Nursing online via Charles Darwin University. Charlie is in the final year of his Diesel Mechanics apprenticeship. Living and working for a large earthmoving company in South West Queensland.

Max Matheson is in his final year at Prince Alfred College (PAC) and is studying super hard, still aiming to study medicine. Sam who is Year 8, also at PAC, has settled into boarding school life with this being his second year away, he is enjoying school and loving rowing. Winsome started at Walford this year and has settled in well, she is loving the new school journey with both her parents being very proud.

My daughter Ruby Willis has finished her SOTA schooling and is continuing her schooling online with Open Access College this year. Ruby was the 2023 SOTA Student Council President, receiving at the end of the year the 2023 Principal's Award. My son Nelson is in his final year at SOTA and is off to a good start, and my youngest Hudson has begun Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) Kindergarten.

Shona Amos, Toby Crowell and their daughter Tanner have settled in nicely at North Well Station.

Will Chamberlain at Mulgathing Station is enjoying learning with the RICE Kindergarten program.

Megan and David have welcomed their second grandchild into the Henderson family.

Lorraine Greenfield was awarded with Life Membership. It was a huge honour for this to be presented to Lorraine after many years of dedication, holding many positions and providing much support for SA ICPA and the North West branch. Congratulations Lorraine.

Our annual Glendambo Gymkhana was held in October and was enjoyed by many. The North West branch catered and served up delicious hamburgers on Friday night for the crowd.

Congratulations to the Marla Oodnadatta branch for hosting the 2024 SAICPA State Conference, thank you.

PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH

President: Katrina Morris

Hope this finds everyone well and with a little rain in your area to keep things going. Although we love a get together it's been tricky getting everyone in one spot for our AGM. We resorted to an email meeting in the end and a quick meeting before the GRPA meeting. Although these meetings were short and sweet, we were able to get a lot out of them and look forward to people attending conferences.

The bees have been going along well and Ruby and Bailey at Corunna hosted another bee keeping day with Chris Fulton and Geoff Bowry. Even though I wasn't there it was a very informative day, learning more about the hives. It's been such an amazing and on-going learning curve, with all members from young children to adults being involved. Barb and her grandkids have been selling honey at the local creators market in Kimba and Barb's hive is the one to see. Producing an abundance of honey for us all to try.

We have a new baby in the district. Congratulations to Chloe and Caleb on the arrival of their little girl Malia. It's always so lovely having a little bubba around. We have a young couple tying the knot in a bush wedding at the Scrubby woolshed in Apil.

The GRPA hosted the Outback Ball in a wonderful night of entertainment. It was so good to see so many young people from our district enjoying themselves along with their parents. There really is nothing like dancing the night away under the outback sky, especially when the weather is favourable.

We have such a diverse range of kids in our diverse branch. Babies, SOTA, Rural, schools, boarding, further education, Uni. Everyone is really taking the bull by the horns at the moment and giving things a red-hot go.

Lastly we would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Nicolson family on the passing of their mother Penan Nicholson, who passed away in Adelaide early this month. Penan was a founding member of the Pt Augusta Branch and South Australian ICPA. Penan attended many a meetings alongside her husband, the late Don Nicholson. Michelle and I were able to hear some great stories from Penan and past members of the ICPA when we hosted the High Tea a few years ago. Penan's children related a funny story from her ICPA days to pass onto everyone about when Don and Penan were flying back from Brisbane after a conference and Penan was presented some flowers while Don was the president. The hostess asked Penan where her flowers were from and she commented how lucky Penan was to have been to Italy, Penan's response – 'No, Roma QLD'.

LONE MEMBER'S REPORT

Helen Williams

We have 12 Lone Members for 2024 so far, hopefully a few more to come.

Communications via email are sent out on a regular basis.

Our membership fee of \$45 will be increased next year to \$50, due to increases in state and federal fees.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

BOARDING SCHOOLS, HOSTELS AND SECOND HOMES

Michelle Hilder

After holding The SA ICPA annual conference, letters were sent to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills requesting an increase to the State Education Allowance and Remote Travel Allowance. SA ICPA representatives also met with the Minister at delegation which was held on 13th September 2023. A letter was received from The Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills confirming that the State Education Allowance had been increased to \$4,872.12 at the beginning of 2023 as per the yearly Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate. We are excited to announce to members that the Remote Travelling Allowance component of the State Education Allowance was increased from \$250 annually, to \$500 from 2024. A small but welcomed win for SA ICPA and its members.

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (ICPA Aust) Annual Conference was held in Darwin, NT in July 2023. Alana Moller was appointed as the Boarding/Hostels/Second Home Federal Portfolio Leader for ICPA Australia. In 2023, thirteen Portfolio motions were carried at the Federal Conference and all motions for this portfolio have all been actioned by Federal Council. All of the motions related to educational affordability and financial assistance for geographically isolated students including the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Allowance, the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) School Funding Model, Fringe Benefits Tax on boarding fees, the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program and funding for students with disability in boarding facilities.

Increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Allowance

An increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Allowance – Basic Boarding Allowance has been on the agenda for many years. A dedicated campaign appealing for an increase was, once again, used by Federal Council throughout 2023. The impact that the rising cost of boarding fees are having on remote and isolated families is huge.

The impact of the Direct Measure of Income (DMI) School Funding Model for non-government schools and the flow on effect that this will have on school fees, particularly for boarding families, continues to be addressed by Federal Council.

There has been no response received by Federal Council on the Fringe Benefit Tax outcome for employers who offer valuable financial assistance to their employees to assist with the exorbitant expenses incurred to provide their children an equitable education in rural and remote locations, in order to retain staff. This assistance is deemed a Fringe Benefit.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Program

The Commonwealth Scholarship Program announced by the Federal Government in 2023, which was aimed to provide scholarships for low and low to middle income families from regional, rural and remote areas to assist with boarding fees and associated costs seems to have been a success. Federal Council understand that the first roll out of the scholarship saw 100 recipients gratefully receiving the assistance.

Funding for students with a disability in residential boarding facilities

No response has been received by Federal Council from a letter which was sent to the Minister for the NDIS & Government Services, Hon Bill Shorten MP. The letter was seeking additional funding for geographically isolated students with a disability who must live away from home in a residential boarding facility to access appropriate education, so that their needs can be met, and reasonable adjustments and accommodation can be implemented in accordance with The Disability Standards for Education 2005.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pamela Cuffe and Helen Williams

The Communications portfolio has gone along very quietly this year- and we haven't been contacted about many problems in South Australia.

However, on a federal platform, Communications issues continue to be raised at ICPA Federal Conferences and we thank our federal counterparts for their continued and dedicated effort to engage with key communications stakeholders.

A large number of our members in South Australia have transitioned over to Starlink- which seems to be going along well. It has negated the use of a separate Education Port and a number of families have cancelled those. Starlink can be a permanent arrangement or there is the option of a "Roaming " version where clients can move around and take their dish with them. This is especially good for children doing their school work in a remote environment as they just have to set it up wherever they go.

In our rural and remote areas, a land line telephone remains an essential part of communications. At the 2023 Federal Conference, members again requested that services be reliable, fit for purpose and maintained at a fully functioning standard. A commitment was sought to ensure all communication providers fulfil their Universal Service Guarantee (USG) obligations in the provision and functionality of essential communication services to enable the delivery of rural and remote education.

Reassurance was also sought that the USG be maintained to ensure rural and remote customers are not left without adequate communications due to stringent repair timeframes not being upheld. This is frustrated by the fact there are very few telephone technicians stationed in the rural areas of South Australia- particularly in the more remote areas.

During meetings with Communications personnel in Canberra, ICPA (Aust) reiterated the imperative need for two communications services which are independent of each other in rural, regional and remote areas. We continue to advocate that all residents living in these isolated areas should have access to two independent communications services and not be solely reliant on one communication avenue. Mobile and internet services both require power (especially if using fixed Smart Antennae or Cel-Fi equipment) and if there is a power outage, which can be frequent in rural and remote areas, the service cannot be relied upon and many properties that are on self-generated power do not run their generators 24 hours a day.

Hollie Williams and Pamela were able to attend a meeting with Telstra on January 17th, 2024, which had some information regarding 3G, Starlink and Telstra. As of July 1st, 2024 3G will be turned off and 4G and 5G will be the main services throughout Australia. Telstra have reiterated that they are committed to providing 4G before they close the 3G network. If you have any equipment that requires 3G to operate you will need to look into upgrading the operating system or possibly replacing the equipment as there will only be 4G available. Telstra is offering a voice service with Starlink satellites, using a Smart modem 3 to provide the home service, consumers will be able to opt to install the equipment themselves. This is a world first. Customers who take up a Telstra plan powered by Starlink will be able to bring their home phone number if they wish to, with Telstra local onshore support. Please let the Communications portfolio holders know if you are having any difficulties in these areas.

Once again, we thank our federal counterparts for the amazing job they do in advocating for us all.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Kirsty Williams

At last year's conference, a number of motions were brought to the table covering the issues of the need for a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) as well as a focus on a stand-alone building for School of the Air (SOTA).

This year there are 39 enrolled students at SOTA across 25 families. There are a handful of new staff including the well-received introduction of a full-time Student Support Officer (SSO) based on campus in Port Augusta as well as a second itinerant teacher. One Junior Primary teaching position is yet to be filled with limited applicants each time the role is advertised.

The SOTA year started with Induction week held in Week 2 in Port Augusta. As has become the norm over the past 5 years under the guidance of Head of Campus, Lai Kuan Lim, a very well organised and productive few days were spent learning new things by both the students and supervisors. 2024 saw the introduction of Microsoft Teams across all year levels replacing Webex. Whilst Teams has some advantages, the constant technical issues have resulted in all classes bar 1 returning to Webex for online lessons as of Week 6 until these issues can be rectified.

This week, SOTA students have enjoyed their second face-to-face at School Experience Week (SEW). Students in Years 3, 5 and 7 took part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Other SOTA school events to be held this year include School Camp in Adelaide (Term 2, 1-5 July), Mini Schools at Leigh Creek (Term 3, 23-26 September) and Get-Together in Port Augusta (Term 4, 6-7 December).

Delegation in September was positive enabling SA ICPA to discuss a number of DE issues with various stakeholders; Open Access College Principal, Strategic Policy and External Relations manager at the Department for Education and the Minister for Education, Blair Boyer at Parliament House.

A new SOTA building being incorporated into the new RFDS building continues to be a possibility with negotiations still taking place.

The cessation of the Cert 3 being offered to supervisors at SOTA in 2023 was disappointing however, a replacement course (Certificate 3 in Community Services) has been found thanks to the efforts of Lai Kuan and Julie Taylor in the background. Whilst the course is not directly related to Education, it is fantastic that families have the ability to offer governesses the option to study as an incentive.

2023 saw the return of mid-year intake at Kindy and Reception levels. Placing additional pressures on DE schools in regard to staffing, it also comes at an extra cost to families who are required to put their child through an additional 6 months of school should they start mid-year. Children who start mid-year kindy start school the following mid-year and are then required to complete 6 terms of Reception.

This year is also the end of an era for SOTA with the last year 7 cohort going through. From next year, SOTA will follow suit of other States and be an R-6 school. This is going to have effect on the overall SOTA enrolments and also means families with children in Year 6 this year are having to work through their options for 2025 whether that be Boarding School at Year 7, distance ed through OAC or Private Boards.

A large focus for Federal remains on the need for a DETA allowance. However, given the little traction this has had over the years despite the countless hours of effort, how this is tackled is likely to change in the coming months. The previously held Geographically Isolated Distance Education (GIDE) Day is getting a makeover to encompass and reflect the advocacy needed across all different ways of learning in rural and remote Australia. The day yet to be named will be an ICPA awareness day rather than just focusing on DE.

We thank ICPA Australia for their continued work in the DE realm. For those wanting further details on the great work that ICPA has done in the Distance Education arena, have a look on the website to have a read of current issues that Federal Council have been pursuing.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Edwina Bowie and Candice Brown

Being new to the Early Childhood Education and Care portfolio, I've enjoyed working on these matters, especially with my fourth little one, Willa, at my side. It's wild to think that she may soon be enrolled in the new 3-year-old kindy program. Given that both Candice and I have young children, it feels particularly fitting for us to collaborate on these significant issues.

At both the state and federal conferences last year, motions were proposed in support of the Federal Council's initiative to extend the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education allowance. This extension would include three to four-year-olds enrolled in approved pre-compulsory distance education programs. This age group of children needs support as they transition to formal schooling programs, yet there is currently a lack of financial assistance available for this specific group. Advocating for this extension will not only bridge the gap between rural and urban students but also enhance access and affordability for families in remote areas. At the 2023 delegation, attended by Belinda Hatcher, Hollie Williams, and Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education Blair Boyer expressed willingness to advocate for the extension of the allowance, pledging to raise the matter on the national cabinet agenda and represent our interests.

Additional motions were raised at the 2023 State Conference to address the pressing need for a dedicated facility that could house both the School of the Air (SOTA) and the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) premises. This idea has been under consideration for a while, and such a standalone campus would cater to the unique needs and learning styles of outback families and children. Creating a purpose-built facility would greatly benefit our minority community, especially considering the current state of the existing buildings, which require urgent attention.

The 2023 delegation extensively discussed the new SOTA building, engaging with both Open Access College and Minister Blair Boyer. Plans have progressed to integrate the Royal Flying Doctor Service Base with SOTA into a purpose-built facility. While the new campus may not match the current site in size, it promises state-of-the-art modern amenities and will be a vast improvement for the students and teaching staff. This project is anticipated to be completed by as early as 2026, marking an exciting milestone for SOTA.

State Council submitted a motion at the last state conference expressing gratitude to CaFHS (Child and Family Health Services) for their collaborative efforts with SAICPA in improving outcomes for its members. The motion was successfully passed, acknowledging the positive impact of this partnership. However, speakers at the conference emphasized the ongoing necessity for SAICPA to advocate for equal care and support for mothers and babies in remote areas. To support their advocacy efforts, case studies documenting the experiences of new mothers were compiled for presentation to relevant parties at the 2023 delegation. We hope these firsthand accounts raised awareness and helped to drive action toward addressing the unique challenges faced by mothers and babies in the outback. During the delegation, attendees met with CaFHS, who expressed eagerness to identify gaps and enhance support for our members. CaFHS is dedicated to collaborating with SAICPA to assist families and promote their services. They requested that members residing in rural areas mention their location when making appointments, aiming to provide more flexible scheduling options at CaFHS offices. Important information for SA ICPA families, including resource links and helpful information about the services on offer and when checks are required can be found at <https://cafhs.sa.gov.au>.

As always, Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) continues to play a vital role in providing childcare services to outback children. Starting from the beginning of Term 3, 2023, children born between 1st May and 31st October became eligible to begin preschool, resulting in RICE experiencing its first mid-year intake for preschool. These children will now transition to SOTA for the first mid-year reception intake this current year. This extension of eligibility aims to provide more children with the opportunity to engage in early education and foster their development.

It is a significant step in ensuring equitable access to preschool education for a broader range of children. 2023 saw the release of the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care's final report. It has several recommendations on the work that can be done across the early years sector to ensure the best start for all South Australian children from birth to age 5, including preschool for 3-year-olds from 2026. The latest information is that three-year-old preschool will be rolled out in stages from 2026 to 2032, with a rollout plan to be released in mid-2024. When the rollout plan is released by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), RICE will update families. At this stage, there is no information regarding the implementation of all 3-year-olds being offered preschool through RICE, or what this will look like in the remote and isolated learning context. 2023 also saw the introduction of an online playday program, which was a resounding success. The program includes engaging activities like counting, singing, story time, and various activities. A big thank you to Chloe Hunter, Director of RICE, for her invaluable contribution to ensuring the smooth operation of such an excellent organization, and Tania George, the RICE kindergarten teacher for her dedication and outstanding work with our remote and isolated children.

Last year also saw the Regional Development Australia Far North research the current and future childcare needs within our communities, particularly focusing on Port Augusta and its surroundings. In pursuit of community input, they organized an online consultation meeting to delve into the challenges and available options regarding childcare in the region. SAICPA members participated in this session, offering their valuable views and ideas.

In 2023, the Federal Council published a briefing paper that covered several significant topics. Firstly, it highlighted the significance of Universal Access to Early Childhood Education and recognized the obstacles of affordability and access faced by rural and remote children. Secondly, it emphasized the need for flexibility in Early Childhood Education Programs, advocating for the utilization of school buildings and staff qualifications to expand access to early childhood education in remote areas. Additionally, the paper highlighted the importance of Mobile Playgroups as the sole accessible early childhood service for certain rural and remote families. It acknowledged the funding challenges faced by Mobile Playgroups and called for provisions to establish new ones. Lastly, the briefing paper addressed the challenges in accessing childcare services and offered potential solutions, including changes to visa criteria and the implementation of a National Working with Children Check.

Currently, the Federal Council is actively engaged in reviewing Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) matters. Julia Broad is leading the Federal Council's response to the Productivity Commission's (PC) draft report on ECEC, collaborating with the National Rural Women's Coalition, with a final report expected by June.

A motion from the Flinders Ranges Branch, presented at the 2023 Federal Conference, focusing on Family Day Care in rural and remote towns has caught the attention of the PC. Julia has provided further explanation to the PC for consideration.

The PC is grappling with the challenge of accommodating diverse ECEC needs across rural and remote Australia. They're considering implementing Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) for the 3-4-year-old preschool cohort as an interim measure to enhance ECEC affordability for geographically isolated families. Additionally, the PC has suggested establishing an ECEC Commission to oversee and coordinate services nationwide.

The In Home Care (IHC) Review indicates that IHC only partially meets its objectives and recommends focusing on the distinct needs of the three targeted cohorts. The review also proposes adding education degrees to the list of eligible qualifications for IHC providers, a change deemed to have high impact and low risk.

For more information and up-to-date briefing papers, please visit <https://icpa.com.au/au/portfolios/early-childhood-education-and-care>.

We would like to thank ICPA Australia ECEC portfolio leader Julia Broad and her team, Nikki Mahony, Ali Alison and Kate Thompson for all their hard work and efforts.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

Di Thomas and Dani Chapman

At a State Council level, the three motions that were raised and carried at the State Conference have been actioned. A letter was written and concerns discussed at delegation.

One of the biggest costs to families getting their children to and from boarding school is airfares. For some, this is the only means of travel other than driving as there are no other travel options available. The bus service is only once a week for some areas. For some families it is over a nine-hour drive one way, taking them away from work and family commitments.

During delegation when members met with MP Geoff Brock, one of the issues raised was the road conditions of outback SA and the importance of them being well maintained for safe travel.

A number of meetings with relevant parties involved discussions around teacher recruitment and efforts to retain teachers in rural areas. Whilst the country incentive no longer expires after 5 years for rural teachers, it seems greater measures are required. The need for the government to provide a larger pot of funding and support for teachers and SSO's to attend professional development is necessary to equip teachers/SSO's with the skills required to deal with the ever-increasing number of challenges in a classroom. Currently it seems that schools are not funded accordingly to provide the necessary training required.

A small win for SA ICPA was announced during the meeting with Minister Boyer indicating that he is committed to doubling the Road Transport Allowance (RTA) from \$250 to \$500/year and that a further review of this allowance is scheduled.

The Federal Portfolio holders for School Travel are Naomi Obst and Sally Brindal with Jennifer Ruska as leader. Rural Schools Federal Portfolio holders are Anna McCorkie, Tracey Alder and Wendy Henning with Naomi Obst as leader.

At an ICPA Federal level, two motions were submitted at the 2023 Federal Conference, both were successfully carried and are extremely important:

1. Capped Student Fares
2. Implementation of Sensor devices on Vehicles that Transport school children.

Federal Council will continue to advocate for the many levels associated with School Travel within the rural and remote context and they are currently in the process of developing a plan of action regarding the above motions. As always, the federal council welcomes any case studies that South Australian members have to support the advocacy on these and any other matters.

Last month the State and Federal portfolio leaders for Rural Schools had a zoom meeting. The lack of student airfares was discussed at great length. There are some concessions on some airlines in some states, but it is very limited in its reach. There is still the call for sensors on all school buses to make sure no child is accidentally left on the bus at the end of the run. A discussion about the travel allowance raised some interesting variances between states. All still below the actual cost.

One point that was supported by all states, is to have Kindy children counted on buses and considered when setting bus routes.

The 2023 Federal conference portfolio report is available on the Rural School / School Travel Portfolio section of the website <http://icpa.com.au/au/portfolios/rural-schools-school-travel>

SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Hollie Williams and Jo Drennan

At the 2023 ICPA State Conference, two supplementary motions were carried. They both requested, that SA ICPA write to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, the Hon Blair Boyer to request that basic Student with Additional Needs (SWAN) support training be standard for all School Support Officers (SSOs) across Rural Schools and Open Access College School of the Air Campus and to have the financial support to do so. At delegation in September, we raised these motions with the minister and had a good discussion around this.

The Students with Additional Needs (SWAN) program has been adapted and is now referred to as the Abilities Based Learning and Educational Support (ABLES) program. ABLES is available to all schools via a free subscription. Minister Boyer indicated that schools have access to over 60 courses as part of the Education Departments online training department and that funding to access them is available through each school Inclusive Educational Support Program (IESP). There are also several pilot programs being rolled out over the next 12 months that will help to attract, train and retain appropriate SSO's. SA ICPA asked that regional and remote schools/staff be considered in these pilot programs.

In November, SA ICPA State Council members were involved in a zoom meeting with members of the Education Department's External Relations team, as well as the members of the Statewide Inclusive Education Services (SIES), which is a corporate unit of the Education Department that provides support to parents and carers to enhance the learning outcomes of students with disabilities or learning difficulties. It is State Councils hope to continue this relationship and have quarterly meetings.

SA ICPA have continued our relationship with Specific Learning Difficulties SA (SPELD), who provide many services including advice and programs for children with specific learning difficulties. This service has proven to be an excellent resource to SA ICPA families who are able to access their service at a discounted rate. This is made available through an annual donation from the Indulkaninna Foundation directly to SPELD to help ICPA families.

Miffy Waugh leads the Federal portfolio for the Specific Education Needs, with support from Nikki Mahony, Kate Thompson and Jennifer Ruska. Current issues ICPA (Aust) are advocating for on behalf of members; Provision of Medicare rebate for telehealth services where this is not already accessible, Provision of travel and accommodation assistance for travel to face-to-face specialist services, Improved staff training for teachers in rural and remote locations, Workshops for rural and remote parents of gifted students, Early identification and intervention for learning difficulties, Provision of additional resources in boarding schools for students with disabilities, Access for all Australians to federally funded health clinics, Incentives to attract qualified health graduates to live and work in rural and remote areas, Rebates from Private Health Insurance companies for all Allied Health Services for children and an Increase of age-appropriate Mental Health resources and programs for rural and remote children.

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Katrina Morris

The Federal Council of ICPA have recently published a briefing paper on key points for rural and remote students plus some recommendations.

Federal Tertiary Education Briefing Paper

The Tertiary Education Briefing Paper provides information on the key issues impacting engagement in tertiary education for rural and remote students.

Key Points for Rural and Remote Tertiary Students include:

- The under-representation of rural and remote students in higher education.

- Barriers to accessing higher education including cost, socioeconomic status, distance, school experiences (interest in pursuing higher education), preparedness and aspirations. These are key considerations for students who are considering taking up the option of tertiary education.

ICPA (Aust) believes that the following issues need to be addressed in order to alleviate these barriers for Rural and Remote Tertiary Students:

1. Appropriate financial assistance for relocation and ongoing costs

The high cost of relocation and ongoing costs such as securing accommodation, travel to the place of study initially and travel home during the year and living away from home, upfront and ongoing living expenses.

2. Access to financial assistance

- Youth Allowance eligibility barriers including parental income limits.
- Centrelink Processes
 - It is vital that Staff are appropriately trained to provide accurate information and assistance in relation to allowances particularly Youth Allowance.
 - There is a need to address the issue of unacceptably lengthy waiting times when contacting Centrelink.

Some recommendation are that the Federal Government maintains and enhances the current financial assistance for rural and remote students who must relocate from home to access tertiary education and that Rent Assistance be substantially increased for rural and remote students receiving Youth Allowance to more closely reflect the real cost of living for this cohort.

I found some really interesting links on the Department of Education media page and have put a brief outline of the contents. Please have a closer look for more information.

Tips to thrive while studying at university.

Are you starting university this year? Your first year can be stressful, from figuring out your course load, to moving out of home (if you're relocating) and adjusting to campus life. This article features some tips and tricks to ensure that you thrive in your first year and onwards.

- Explore your campus – both in-person and online
- Take care of yourself
- Organisation and budgeting
- Networking and making friends
- Making use of student resources
- Study support

Startup Year Pilot Program

There were 11 universities selected to participate in the Startup Year pilot program. The Startup Year provides an exciting opportunity for recent graduates, postgraduate and final year undergraduate students to participate in courses to help them develop skills to achieve startup business success. The program will be delivered through the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP). Students will be able to access a STARTUP-HELP loan to support their participation in courses.

Destination Australia Program Scholarships

Would you like to explore the beauty of regional Australia while you undertake tertiary study? Do you already live in a regional area? Are you thinking about studying? Why not consider applying for a Destination Australia Program scholarship?

The program provides eligible domestic and international students with scholarships of up to \$15,000 per student per year to assist with the cost of living and studying in regional Australia.

The program:

- contributes to the growth of education in regional and remote Australia.

- offers students from Australia and overseas the opportunity to undertake high quality education, training and research, and experience a great lifestyle in a regional community.
- ensures regions share in the social, cultural and economic benefits that international students bring.
- offers students the opportunity to study a Certificate IV to PhD with a duration of one to four years.

Thirty-two education providers have been approved to offer 551 scholarships to students through the 2024 program which is open for applications. Students can apply directly through certain providers for a scholarship. To find out more about the program, visit the Destination Australia Program webpage.

Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships Program

New students commencing teaching degrees in Australia in the first semester/study period of 2024 can apply for scholarships of up to \$40,000 to support their studies. The \$160 million Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships program aims to attract high-quality candidates to teaching to address teacher workforce shortages.

Some helpful links

[Tips to thrive while studying at university - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[Successful universities announced to deliver Startup Year courses - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[Destination Australia Program scholarships available for 2024 - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

[Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships Program - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)

PUBLICITY REPORT

Ellen Litchfield

The focus of ICPA publicity this year has been our social media presence and to increase our visibility by our stakeholders. At the beginning of the year, we introduced each state council member on our Facebook page and received good engagement from our followers. Branches have also sent in photos for us to post and they are well received. We are not currently using any other forms of social media but this is something we have discussed as a State council; if we should be extending into other platforms and what benefits would come from that.

We worked with a facilitator this year to discuss how we can increase community involvement and continue to grow ICPA. Ensuring we have strong visibility within our community will be fundamental to increasing ICPA membership and improving our advocacy outcomes so publicity is an area we will continually try to improve.

THE PIPELINE

Mija Reynolds – Editor, Design, and Publication

It gives me great pleasure to present my report of our state newsletter, The Pipeline. I would like to thank our members for their contributions to the newsletter and urge you all to consider submitting articles, photos, news, and relevant information in the future. Thank you to State President Belinda Hatcher for your support, it is most appreciated. Hollie Williams, State Secretary for your support and awesome ability to chase up and deliver a plethora of content to me. This is a big part of what makes our newsletter so diverse, yet personalised. Thank you to Jodie Keogh, State Treasurer for supplying mailing and membership lists when I have asked for them.

The Pipeline will continue to publish two editions per annum. One in summer and the other in winter. This has changed since our last conference when, in the past, we would publish January and July editions. The reason for the change to seasonal editions allows for me and other state councillors, the time to put our best efforts in to sourcing content and typesetting the newsletter whilst we also juggle our businesses and private lives. Essentially this takes pressure off us to meet a stricter deadline during the holiday season whilst still meeting general publishing timeframes.

Our latest edition 104 Summer 2024 is our first edition to be printed in full colour throughout. I hope our readership have enjoyed the colourful pages. We have been afforded this opportunity through a successful grant application submitted by state councillor Ellen Litchfield to Beach Energy. Future editions will continue to be printed in full colour throughout.

Our membership enjoys reading about news, achievements, and general stories pertinent to the ICPA demographic. If you have an idea that you think would be valued by our readership, please contact me or the State Secretary to discuss. It would be greatly appreciated.

The Pipeline has a link on our SA ICPA website and current issues are uploaded post print and distribution. These can be accessed online for our members reading pleasure at any time.

Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful state conference in Quorn. Most importantly, don't forget that the deadline for the next edition of The Pipeline is 3rd June 2024.

REVISE

Georgy Ewing, Manager REVISE

2023 was another quiet year for REVISE. As has been noted in the past, this may be due to the fact there are less "teaching mums", and more governesses than in the past. It may also be due to the current group of govies being quite settled. We only had three on- station placements, Taylorville, Kootaberra. And The Peake These placements arose as a result of SOTA losing an itinerant teacher, so REVISE filled the gap.

We had one "off -station" placement early in Term Two. This occurred when two families were in Adelaide while older students were on camp in Canberra. The governess from one family, and myself, were able to work with the younger students in the library at Open Access College, Marden. What a great few days! The students thoroughly enjoyed the library atmosphere and were able to join in with Zoe, the librarian, during her session.

During the year, we had attendances at six SOTA events – Induction and School Experience Weeks, camp at El Shaddai, Get Together and Sports Day. I also attended the ICPA Conference in Woomera. Over the year a total of 7,360 kilometres was travelled.

We had a request for support from a family living in SW Queensland. Unfortunately, we were unable to help with this. Currently, Queensland requires all volunteers to hold a Blue Card, this is the equivalent of our Working With Children Check. At the time of the request none of our volunteers had a Blue Card, but this has now been rectified. This situation highlighted some of the irregularities that occur due to states having different requirements. I believe this is an issue that has been raised at the Federal level of ICPA. REVISE would very strongly support any moves to bring in greater consistency with issues that affect families throughout the whole of Australia.

At our REVISE meeting at SOTA in February we discussed the possible usage of our volunteers providing short term support for students via Zoom or Teams. For example, a student may be struggling with the concept of long division, a couple of sessions with a REVISE volunteer could help solidify their understanding. I think one benefit that has come from our experiences with COVID lockdowns, has been the greater use of these media. Of course, SOTA families are very familiar with online learning, something us city dwellers are catching up on! As yet, we have not undertaken any sessions of this sort, but it is definitely something we are interested in supporting.

I'd like to thank Trish Ellin for her continued support and mentoring. While she is no longer actively involved with placements, Trish is still very interested. Finally, a word of thanks to Garry Coombes for his support, especially with our finances.

OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Petie Rankin

It is with pleasure that 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. Lai Kuan is passionately diving into her 5th year as SOTA's Head of Campus, ensuring that the mark she leaves behind her is bigger than the one she stepped into.

SOTA CAMPUS

SOTA welcomed some new faces at the beginning of 2024, and they were wonderful to see during induction week. Our Itinerant Service saw Rhys Moyne step in alongside the ever-capable Megan Thoms, (who has recently won her position for 4 years and we count our lucky stars she did) so he is a fortunate bloke to have her show him the ropes. We also welcomed another male, Jonathon Altmann, to our teaching staff so the ratios are slowly equalizing! Jonathon will be a SOTA based SSO which is wonderful, and much overdue, news. Madlen Stringer came onboard to teach the crazy Reception/Year 1 class, a feat requiring strength and durability! Mel Clarke has dropped down in age level from the upper primary to the ever-keen Year 2/3's while Navneet Kaur has taken on the task of taming the wild Year 4/5's. Rebecca Morley has bravely accepted the Year 6/7's and will carry them through to their graduation as this will be SOTA's last year of Year 7 being included in primary school. It will see our overall numbers decline by losing our year 6 and 7's in December, but we now have a mid-year intake of Receptions so it's all part of the ebb and flow of fluctuating enrolments.

Induction week was held in week 2 this year, as part of a plan to allow new staff members and families time to settle in and write down questions in preparation for their face-to-face visit in Port Augusta. By all accounts, it went exceedingly well and the teachers felt like they knew their students when they tumbled through the door of the Outback Centre.

Student Council will continue this year, with 10 students (an increase of 2 from last year) being elected from our year 5/6/7's classes. The roles for the council members will include President, Vice President, Wellbeing and Community Engagement and Communications, with the students participating in meetings and collaborating on ideas to support the children and families in SOTA.

Every year, SOTA CGC is given the opportunity to nominate someone for the Rowan Ramsey MP School Community Award and 2023 saw the award go to long-time SOTA mum/committee member/FAC position holder/caterer/teacher/ dirt road traveller/most remote SOTA family honour - Jodie Keogh. This will be the Keogh family's last year on SOTA and Jodie's standout commitment to SOTA and the various committee's she's consistently been on only reiterates why she was so deserving of this award. Congratulations Jodie.

SOTA held its 65th anniversary celebrations at the El Shaddai campsite in Wellington where memories, guests, cupcakes and laughter were all in droves. The families managed to pull out the photo albums to show 'how it used to be', with stories being told around the room from days gone by. We also used the opportunity to showcase the vibrant new school song to those that hadn't heard it, with the govies teaching the students the dance moves to go with it!

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

LGU: The implementation of a systematic synthetic phonics program in R-2 will now be driven by the resources provided by LGU, moving away from Sounds Write. SOTA is participating in the trial of LGU's comprehensive suite of resources, and benefits from the guidance of a dedicated literacy coach, a valuable support system contributing to our ongoing efforts to establish a strong foundation in literacy.

Introduction of Teams: Late in 2023 SOTA trialled using Teams for the deliverance of lessons, as we move away from Webex. The trial had its ups and downs but, as we move further along in 2024, the students and staff are finding their way around the platform with ease.

MARDEN

Marden Primary

The Orientation Session on Friday 2nd February saw students and their families attend, including a few of the new enrolments for 2024. Students engaged in an introductory language activity and spent time with their teachers. A Parent Information Session was held by Casey Hall (AP- Primary), Jodie Zajac (teacher librarian), Michelle Henshaw (Student Wellbeing Leader) and Simmone Williams (Social Worker).

Senior Years

Senior Years Careers come-in day 2023 was a big success. 55 students came and participated in a range of activities, preparing for the future and participated in the Careers Expo at Marden. Students reported they felt more prepared and confident about the future at the end of the day.

On Tuesday 29th August Marden held its first online 'Inspiring the Future' event which saw approx. 40 students engage with two presenters from different industries about their job, pathway and skills required in that industry. In 2023, SA Power granted permission to paint 4 stobie poles along Marden Road – what an exciting project to undertake!

Student Wellbeing

The psychologists are currently looking at what group programs to offer students in 2024 and other initiatives to support students.

Our enrolment period is well underway with most re-enrolment appointments booked and over 400 college-based students enrolled for 2024.

Berry Street Action Group are preparing resources for teachers to use in 2024. The focus is on setting up a trauma-informed classroom and co-constructing classroom expectations.

UPDATES AND NEWS

Senior Years SACE completion 95.7%

Stage 2 Number of Results

2022: 663

2023: 811

Top ATAR 96.85

Stage 2 Merit awards – 8 students achieved merits

VET

VET Qualifications Completed:

Certificate II: 8

Certificate III: 15

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN - Increase student achievement in reading

SOTA

Teachers collected the first set of DIBELS data to track student reading progress as well as to inform their planning of differentiated learning. The approach to improve reading has also been strengthened with the support of the literacy coach from Literacy Guarantee Unit and the appointment of a learning SSO based in Port Augusta.

STEAM and HUMS Teams

New staff in both curriculum areas have been well supported by OAC experienced teachers to engage with the online process at a deep level. STEAM Team are working on identifying appropriate types of feedback for students and staff within their PLC's. Staff have been working collegiately with MS TEAMS upskilling. A positive observation is the increase in the number of cameras on within the student cohort.

Marden Primary

The Professional Learning Day session on 1st February with Doug Fisher facilitated the beginnings of the Professional Learning Community discussions and work on the SIP for 2024. The focus for the final year of the SIP is to embed the teaching of reading comprehension across our programs.

HUMS TEAM

HUMS TEAM have reviewed PLCs for last year and reviewed the Goal 2 of the SIP, refining both success criteria and actions.

SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT

Lisa Slade

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their patience while I've been getting my head around this role. I have found the new website reasonably easy to navigate and user friendly, but there is still quite a lot to learn!

The portfolio and branch pages have been updated this year to include new information or changes. I think it is important to keep the information fresh to help with user/member engagement. Once the SA State Council AGM has taken place, I will again update the branch executives on the webpage. If branches can get in the habit following their AGMs, of asking new executives for a high-resolution portrait image of themselves, along with an accompanying blurb (written in third person) that would help streamline this process.

Branch and State Life Members have been added to the website, thank you to all of those people who have helped bring this important element to fruition. I am still looking to update some of this information, so if you have anything additional to contribute (particularly around our State Life Members) that would be greatly appreciated. This could be in the form of award speeches, Pipeline articles, or photos.

In 2023 State Council requested our website developer, Mark from Enrega, create a State Conference page on our website, along with an online Conference registration form. From my side of things, this has worked well, the success of which is partially due to leveraging off of what other State's Councils have tried and tested in previous years. Information flow between State Council, Mark, the Marla Oodnadatta branch (convening branch) and myself has been exceptional and I thank them for ensuring all of the information required to input into the template was provided in a timely manner. This should lessen some of the load for the Conference Registrations person, with attendance data being easily downloadable from the website.

ICPA have now implemented the new rolling membership model, which means your membership now continues for 12 months regardless of the date you renew/join online, and you will be sent a reminder when it is due to be renewed again. We continue to 'watch this space' with regards to the recurring payment feature on the online renewal form.

Federal Council were very excited to announce the creation of the new Tech Team within council. The purpose of this team is to a new team to oversee the running and ongoing development of the ICPA website and provide support for any other tech queries or issues.

The members of the team are Nikki MacQueen (Federal Webmaster), Kym Ross (WA Webmaster), Tammie Irons (Qld Webmaster), Kate Thompson (Federal Councillor) and Judy Newton (Federal Membership Officer). These ladies bring a wealth of knowledge to the team and are excited about the current changes and upgrades taking place. The team can be contacted icpatechteam@icpa.com.au

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

2023 Financial Statement AUDITED



MID NORTH ACCOUNTING

ICPA of SA

**Financial statements
For the year ended
31 December 2023**

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Contents

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Committee's report For the year ended 31 December 2023

Your committee members submit the financial report of ICPA of SA for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Committee members

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Belinda Hatcher (President)
Kirsty Williams (Vice President)
Hollie Williams (Secretary)
Jodie Keogh (Treasurer)
Ellen Litchfield
Helen Williams
Mija Reynolds
Michelle Hilder
Dani Chapman
Josephine Drennan
Kristina Crawford
Candice Brown
Edwina Bowie
Katrina Morris
Pamela Cuffe
Di Thomas
Steph Roeske
Jessica Bell

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

Operating result

The profit of the association for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$18,209.

Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the association during the year.

Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

Environmental issues

The association's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.


Indemnification and insurance of officers and reviewers

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or reviewer of ICPA of SA.

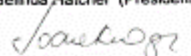
Reviewer's independence declaration

The reviewer's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 31 December 2023 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the committee:



Belinda Hatcher (President)



Jodie Keogh (Treasurer)

Dated 07/03/2024

Dated 07/03/2024

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Income statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Income		
Affiliation Fees	5,449.44	3,945.18
Donations	-	3,050.00
Fundraiser Income	-	2,360.00
Grants	20,000.00	10,000.00
Interest Received	291.04	20.78
Lone Membership	-	45.00
State Conference	19,180.72	-
	44,921.20	19,420.96
Expenses		
Advertising & Promotion	256.50	-
Affiliation Fees	2,576.09	3,728.00
Audit Fees	748.00	660.00
Bank Charges	12.42	-
Conferences & Meetings	20,400.95	11,114.38
Donations	-	1,000.00
Fundraiser Expenses	-	5,422.15
Insurance	1,029.41	995.31
Newsletter Costs	750.74	4,897.84
Office Expenses	216.88	-
Printing & Stationery	215.00	91.17
Staff Training	275.00	-
Subscriptions	230.89	494.89
	26,711.88	28,403.74
Net profit (loss)	18,209.32	(8,982.78)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	42,768.70	51,751.48
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	60,978.02	42,768.70

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report of Mid North Accounting.

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Balance sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	60,978.02	42,768.70
Total current assets		<u>60,978.02</u>	<u>42,768.70</u>
Total assets		<u>60,978.02</u>	<u>42,768.70</u>
Net assets		<u>60,978.02</u>	<u>42,768.70</u>
Members' funds			
Retained earnings		60,978.02	42,768.70
Total members' funds		<u>60,978.02</u>	<u>42,768.70</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report of Mid North Accounting.

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The financial statements cover ICPA of SA as an individual entity. ICPA of SA is a not-for-profit association incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 ('the Act').

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of preparation

In the opinion of the committee of management, ICPA of SA is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements 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 and material accounting policies all comply with the recognition and measurement requirements in the Australian Accounting Standards.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

Income tax

The association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

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.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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.

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

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.

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.

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
3 Cash and cash equivalents			
Bank SA Express Saver		46,629.35	31,338.05
Bank SA Society Cheque Account		14,348.67	11,430.65
		<u>60,978.02</u>	<u>42,768.70</u>

4 Events occurring after the reporting date

No matter or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the association in future financial years.

5 Retained earnings

Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		42,768.70	51,751.48
Net profit (loss)		18,209.32	(8,982.78)
		<u>60,978.02</u>	<u>42,768.70</u>

6 Statutory information

The registered office and principal place of business of the association is:

ICPA of SA
920 Willippa Rd
Willippa SA 5432

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Statement by members of 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.

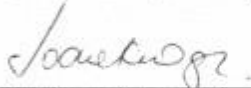
In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of ICPA of SA as at 31 December 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that ICPA of SA 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:



Belinda Hatcher (President)



Jodie Keogh (Treasurer)

Dated 07 March 2024

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Independent review report to the members of association, ICPA of SA

Report on the review of the financial report

Opinion

I have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of ICPA of SA (the association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023, the income statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of the association for the year ended 31 December 2023 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Responsibility 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 Reform Act 2012, 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.



Vonnie Lea CPA

Mid North Accounting Pty Ltd

06 March 2024

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Certificate by members of committee

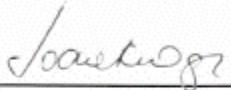
Annual statements give true and fair view of the financial position of incorporated association.

We, being the members of the Committee of the ICPA of SA, certify that -

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of ICPA of SA during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 31 December 2023.



Belinda Hatcher (President)



Jodie Keogh (Treasurer)

Dated 07 March 2024

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2024 Interim Financial Statement UNAUDITED

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2024 - 29/02/2024

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

Income	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	179.00	
Braintree Transfers	2815.61	
Donations	2000.00	
Interest Received	103.64	
PayPal Transfers	1767.53	
Total Income		6865.78
Expenses	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	2509.00	
Bank Charges	43.51	
Joint Council Expenses	2940.73	
Newsletter costs	1226.22	
Printing & Stationery	224.98	
Subscriptions	284.00	
Total Expenses		7228.44
Net Profit (Loss)		(362.66)

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

2024

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much?
Federal Allowances: Services Australia 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	\$12,816 per year, made up of 2 components: \$9,960 – Basic Boarding Allowance \$2,856 - Additional Boarding Allowance (*ABA is subject to Parental Means Test, and actual boarding costs – ie. boarding charges must be greater than \$9,146 in 2023)
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Education Allowance 	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$4,980 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.	\$7,564 per year paid in fortnightly instalments, for up to three students. \$20,178 maximum second home allowance for each family (three children). icpa.com.au/au/portfolios/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 kilometers 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.	\$4872.12 per year. www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/travel-concession-and-allowances
Remote Travel Allowance		\$500 per year

Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)

Apply through Services Australia (www.servicesaustralia.gov.au)

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

* To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from nearest/appropriate Govt school OR 4.5km from transport and 16km from nearest Govt School OR are adversely affected by road conditions preventing travel to school for more than 20 days in the school year (journey exceeds 3 hrs) OR meet special needs criteria.

* The AIC Additional Boarding Allowance threshold is \$58,108 or less for 2023. It is reduced by 20c for every dollar over \$58,108 and also dependent on the number of children in your family pool.