

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

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

Media Release

5th January 2024

Conveyancing Allowance Increase

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA (ICPA WA) welcomed the news prior to Christmas of an increase to the Conveyance Allowance for school travel in regional areas effective Term 1, 2024.

State President, Jane Cunningham said "It is welcome news for families throughout WA. ICPA WA has been advocating for an increase in the conveyance allowance for many years. In 1988 ICPA WA made a submission to the Minister for Transport recommending the subsidy rate be increased from 9 cents per kilometre to 20 cents per kilometre. It is interesting to note that some 35 years later, in 2023 the rate was only 25.24 cents per kilometre!"

Where it is not possible to provide a dedicated bus service in rural and regional areas, School Bus Services offers a conveyance allowance to parents/carers to assist in costs associated with driving their children to and from school or a pickup location, subject to eligibility criteria. "It has seemed justly unfair that a private vehicle being used for business purposes can claim 78 cents per kilometre yet families can only claim 25.54 cents per kilometre to access their child's education" Ms Cunningham said.

The Bus Fair Report - an inquiry into the Student Transport Assistance Policy Framework conducted in 2022 by the Public Accounts Committee, recommended the Public Transport Authority review the Conveyance Allowance to ensure it is based on a contemporary benchmark, adjusted in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and the basis for adjustments is transparent. The last review of the Conveyance Allowance occurred in June 2002 by the School Bus Task Force, which supported a rate of 16.08 cents per kilometre and was linked to the Transport CPI (Perth) index to allow for inflation.

"Rural and regional families can travel many kilometres per day transporting their children directly to school or a school bus pickup location for educational access. In recent times the costs associated with running a vehicle have increased exponentially and the assistance offered by the conveyance allowance was eroded to such an extent that it did little to assist with those costs. The increase from 25.24 cents per kilometre to 55.6 cents per kilometre will be a great help to families in recognition of those costs and we thank the Cook Labor Government for their increased financial support to get children to and from school," Ms Cunningham said.

ICPA will continue to advocate for regional parents and students in accessing education and we appreciate the support and commitment of the WA State Government.

5th January, 2024

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