



2024 Conference Motion Update

November Report

Success for some of our most remote itinerant families.

At the 2024 ICPA Federal Conference, Supplementary Motion S1 was supported and carried by the attending members. This motion called for Services Australia to review and amend the “*no reasonable access to school*” criteria to better cater for travelling families whose core business is situated in geographically isolated areas.

ICPA (Aust) engaged in discussions with Services Australia addressing issues members faced with Centrelink forms, particularly the requirement to include a postal address on the application, which has deemed members “NOT ELIGIBLR” despite meeting the criteria for this allowance.

Services Australia has updated their AIC guidelines for travelling families, the updates provide clearer criteria for families with itinerant work, offering greater flexibility for those who move frequently due to their livelihood. These amendments are:

Parental work requires frequent moves

The applicant has applied because the work/livelihood of a parent of the student needs frequent moves. Evidence provided must confirm all of the following:

1. parent travel is a necessary part of earning their livelihood and not merely a preference
2. the parent's occupation requires them to work on site rather than at a fixed location
3. the parent needs to relocate at least 5 times a year for work purposes, including within the same property or station
4. the parent's work means that the family and most of their belongings move each time they move (belongings may be placed in storage)
5. due to these moves the student would miss at least 20 consecutive school days during each move or a cumulative total of at least 100 school days in a year

Evidence must support the applicant's claim by showing their travel is a necessary part of earning their livelihood and not just a preference.

Ask for:

1. If not self-evident, (for example, occupation is show worker) then evidence that their particular trade or skills directly cause their itinerancy

2. A statement from the applicant showing details of planned travel movements in the year of study and, where relevant, travel movements for the past 12 months. Locations and dates employed at those locations must be included
3. Supporting evidence from employer(s) or other authorities of the family's past and proposed movements, and
4. If the relocation of the family involves the placement of the majority of their belongings in storage, a statement from the storage company verifying this

This is a positive outcome for remote families, and we thank Services Australia for listening and supporting our continued advocacy.