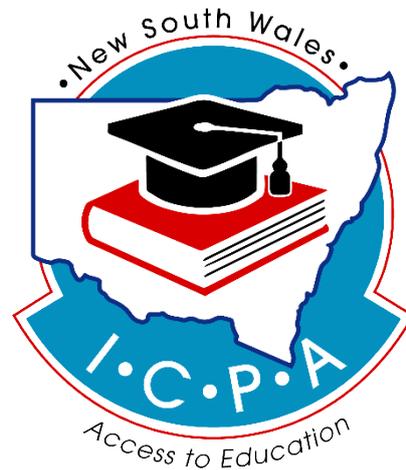


THE
ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF
NEW SOUTH WALES INC



Annual Conference
Euston 2025

Supplementary Branch
Motions

53rd Annual Conference

Hosted by the Balranald Branch

S1. Louth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the School Infrastructure Team - Department of Education to purchase generators or be included in the Smart Energy School Project for solar and batteries for both Louth and Wanaaring Public Schools to ensure school is able to operate regardless of power supply issues.”

Explanation:

Essential energy has many planned power outages throughout summer which usually are for a full school day plus a large number of outages due to storm activity. Due to the extreme temperatures in summer, school is unable to be run inside or outside. A generator has been installed for Wilcannia Central School and solar/batteries installed at Weilmoringle Public schools, given Louth and Wanaaring are in the same climate zone; we ask that the same access be provided.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S2. Louth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the Director of Educational Leadership, to commence a visual audit of the school and classroom at the conclusion of a principal’s tenure at TP1 or TP2 schools to ensure that the school is left in a tidy and organised state for the incoming Principal.”

Explanation:

At the conclusion of a principal’s contract, the school and classrooms should be left in a tidy and organised state so that the incoming new Principal is able to focus on planning for the new year. We request that a visual audit is undertaken before the last week of school so that the outgoing Principal has time to complete tasks granted by the DEL.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S3. Louth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests Housing Services to ensure that rental agreements for Principals or Teachers in TP1 and TP2 schools align with the NSW School Calendar to ensure housing is consistently available for incoming principals or teachers.”

Explanation:

Teaching housing is an incentive provided to rural or remote Principals and teachers. Access to housing is essential for a smooth transition into a new role. When a teacher or principal finishes at a TP 1 or TP 2 school, their lease contract should conclude before the beginning of the next school term so there is time for the residency to be cleaned and the new tenant to move in prior to the start of school. The last rental agreement for the Louth Principal house did not conclude until T1 W4. This presents additional issues with limited or no accommodation available in small rural and remote towns.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S4. Louth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the School Infrastructure Team - Department of Education to fix and reinstate use of the pool at the Wanaaring Public School.”

Explanation:

The pool at Wanaaring Public School is currently not in use due to cumulating factors over time. The parents of students at the school are not able to access swimming or survival lessons for their children unless they drive a 400km round trip. Previously these were taught at the school as a part of the school’s HPE program as done at many other schools. Given there is no pool or access to lessons within a 200km radius, we request that this asset is repaired and maintained.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S5. Louth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests that the Deputy Premier of NSW, changes the legislation to enable remote and very remote TP1 and TP2 NSW primary schools to become education ‘hubs’, in which students from preschool to year twelve can have practical access to public education.”

Explanation:

The most practical model for preschool and secondary students who are unable to go away to boarding school and/or do not have a suitable home environment in which to access their schooling, is a pop-up pop down model in their local TP1 or TP2.

The populations in these areas are very volatile and thus the pop up and pop down model is the most practical and cost effective.

The legislation needs to change to allow the preschool and secondary students on the public-school premises thus creating an education hub.

These are the facts:

- Access to 15 hours a week preschool for ALL four-year-olds is mandatory for Australian children.

And...

- Australian children are required by law, to be at school until they are at the end of the year in which you reach the age of 17 and 6 months or when you reach the age of 18 at any age if you have completed the minimum requirements for graduation from secondary school.
- This is rendered impossible in practical terms for some remote students in NSW

The NSW government, through now 3 different governments has had this anomaly pointed out to them for over a decade. LNP and Labour state governments have agreed and even actioned the pop-up pop down preschool model.

We believe the above motion is a practical solution. It is, in fact, the only solution. It has been proven to work in Qld an example being at Julia Creek State School (JCSS). Students are enrolled with Mount Isa School of The Air (MISOTA) through distance education and attend JCSS in a separate room specifically for secondary students. The students are supported by a teacher's aide.

Louth Branch ICPA fervently hopes the present government will effectively implement these pop-up pop down education hubs in remote and very remote NSW for preschool and secondary students.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S6. Bourke Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the Minister for Education and Early Learning and Department of Education to allow access to NSW Public Preschools for 3-year-olds in remote and very remote areas”

Explanation:

In remote and very remote areas 3-year-olds are not permitted to attend NSW Public Preschool even though they are considered one of the priority groups under Start Strong Funding. These children do not have access to any other early childhood services and are considered as some of the most vulnerable in the State.

Community preschools allow access to three-year-olds which gives them increased hours of early education prior to starting school. Access to high quality early learning in the 2 years prior to commencing formal schooling is essential given the developmental vulnerabilities of remote children.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S7. Louth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the NSW Department of Education remote and very remote schools’ teaching principals and teachers’ staff incentives, includes financial assistance to move to and away from their position for temporary and non-departmental roles also.”

Explanation

Louth ICPA believes this ‘bespoke’ incentive would be a significant incentive for staff considering working for any length of time in a remote location. Due to the remoteness of where the schools are located, there is great expense attached to accessing removalist services. This would also assist with residencies being vacated in a timely manner for cleaners and new staff to move in, which has been an issue at some TP 1 and TP 2 schools.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S8. Wentworth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the Secretary of the NSW Education Department ensure that the Tech Help Desk based in Dubbo, supports School of the Air students, and is adequately funded to continue operations, and a budget be provided to ensure computers that have already been purchased by the Education Department can be delivered to struggling geographically isolated School of the Air students.”

Explanation:

The Helpdesk based in Dubbo is staffed by people who are familiar with the challenges of delivering education via School of the Air to isolated home school rooms. The challenges are different to those faced by people living in larger regional centres and cities, and the Department must ensure adequate assistance is provided to these unique sites.

The decision to centralise a tech help desk and staff it with people with limited knowledge of the networks we use is a blatant cost cutting exercise with no positive benefits other than to the budget bottom line, but many negative consequences, including, most disappointingly, the standard of education for our rural and isolated children. This combined with the many other issues we are forced to deal with daily such as the old technology, intermittent and unreliable power and internet, gives the overall impression that the NSW government is not committed to educating its most disadvantaged young students.

We are also aware that new updated computers remain in storage waiting for a budget to allow them to be set up in isolated school rooms. Not only is this an appalling waste of government funds, but it is also yet another example of the negative consequences that rural and isolated students face when decisions are made by people who are not directly impacted by them.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S9. Wentworth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests Transport for NSW reinstate previous bus run routes when a new student joins within 5 years of the previous bus run changing.”

Explanation:

Recently, two of our small schools have had the distance of a bus run reduced after students have left those schools. Obviously, this makes sense, as bus runs need to have flexibility to adapt to changes in student enrolments. However, ICPA expect this flexibility to be applied both to reducing and reinstating bus runs as required. If a bus run ran to a certain location and was then reduced after no more students required the service, ICPA expects that when new students require the service to be provided to that previous location, Transport for NSW will reinstate the bus run. This should happen immediately as the bus run is not being extended but only reinstated to a previously used location.

Not reinstating bus runs to their previous locations is having a significant impact on parents' ability to join the work force and operate their own businesses. It has a negative impact on our small primary schools as well as high schools. As a result, parents are making the decision to continue across the border as they are forced to drive significant distances to access schooling. If the NSW government are genuine about education, jobs and agriculture they will reconsider the impact that not reinstating a bus run has on these families and the wider community.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S10. Wentworth Branch

“That ICPA-NSW requests the Department of Education remove ‘school zoning’ when the home location is more than 20km from the nearest school and does not have access to public transport to school.”

Explanation:

Our branch has recently been made aware that families living in remote locations have been rezoned to certain schools where there exists no transport to attend that school and attending that school has a significant impact on employment and the needs of other children in the family.

Zoning a child to a school 30km in the opposite direction to the only available high school and in the opposite direction to any services such as groceries, doctors and employment and where no public or school transport exists, removes a person from our workforce and reduces a child's ability to access education with frequent absences to meet needs.

This is yet another example of decisions being made with no understanding of the impact to the individual or the community. The geographical distance and accessibility to a school

should be considered on an individual basis and parents should have the ability to decide which school they enrol their children in based on what is most suitable for that family when considering access to sport, childcare, employment, high school and supermarkets.

The reality of life in a rural and isolated community is very different to that of large cities, and these differences need to be considered before making permanent decisions. Making rules that apply to all citizens across the state without taking into consideration the nuance of rural life is lazy policy making and counterproductive to the best interests of the people in the bush.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S11. Tibooburra-Milparinka Branch

“That ICPA-NSW State Council continue to advocate for access for high school students, to student term hostel accommodation at Allison House in Broken Hill.”

Explanation.

We would like to thank ICPA state council for all the advocacy in 2024, in particular, contacting the Minister for Education when student accommodation was suddenly ceased at Allison House, Broken Hill, in Term 1 2024. Thank you for conducting a survey to help Allison House Accommodation Inc with data collection and advocating for access for our remote students to high school education.

The situation continues to be dynamic with Allison House Student Accommodation Inc into 2025. We know in past years ICPA-NSW has assisted Allison House Student Accommodation Inc in helping to access grants and funds to assist them in continuing to be able to provide student accommodation during school terms. So, in continuing with this, we would also like to thank and request State council to continue to liaise with Allison House Student Accommodation Inc and continue to advocate for access to student accommodation for school terms in Broken Hill at Allison House.

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered

S12. Broken Hill Branch

“That the Broken Hill Branch hosts the ICPA-NSW State Conference in Broken Hill in March 2026.”

Carried/Lost/Withdrawn/Deemed Covered