

**NT President - Federal Conference 2025**  
**Adelaide - July 2025**

**Moira Lanzarin**

I proudly stand before you to deliver my fourth and final speech as NT President.

The Conference theme, “Education for the Heart and Mind” is especially relevant for us all. Just as we are all about growing our children and their education – ICPA provides a personal growth journey for parents and teaching staff as well. I love seeing the increasing confidence and capacity as new members come through, taking their turn in leadership roles, so ably supported by those who have been before.

I would like to shout out two stellar examples of this: Katy Hayes and Sally Dyer. Both here today. Both daughters of ICPA. Both School of the Air kids, Boarders, Home tutors, and Bush Mums. Now Secretaries of their respective ICPA NT Branches. Working hand in hand with their Branch President’s and committees, they keep their members connected and us all on track. Both beautiful and amazing individuals. I don’t think either realise just how special they are and what a stellar job they do. Thank you and well done. Keep on doing and being you.

ICPA has also helped me grow and develop. Not just in my time as NT President but from a much earlier time too. I consider myself a child of ICPA. My school of the air and boarding school days in North Queensland were all the better because of the advocacy and actions of my Mum and others busy working at a Branch, State and Federal level of ICPA.

I see my task as NT State President is to lead the State Council in our advocacy to relevant stakeholders about state related issues. I also see my task as a conduit and connecting mechanism between Federal Council, our Branches and our stakeholders.

For those who are unaware, ICPA NT Executive are all limited to a maximum of 4 consecutive years in one role. At every AGM, all positions are declared vacant and can be contested. This good governance keeps the organisation fresh, with real lived experience and helps to elevate potential burnout. The workload is large and to fit it in, other things must give and flex.

The task of ICPA NT President was not one that I actively sought. I was already on the NT State Council as Treasurer and thoroughly enjoying and becoming comfortable with that role. But the President position needed to be filled and nobody was putting up their hand. I was capable, able and felt a sense of responsibility. In truth, I felt that I needed to take it on, like I needed a hole in my head. My father - my mentor, close friend and business partner - had just passed away from Cancer; both my sons - had just left home to start boarding school. Why would I need or want this extra responsibility and workload? But in reality, ICPA was exactly what I needed. I didn’t hold it up - it held me. It gave me purpose and clear direction on those difficult days where my motivation was low, where I struggled to get out of bed or put one foot in front of the other. I have enjoyed every bit of my time but I am also ready to pass the baton on. Jobs like decluttering the shed and Big House at Coodardie and catching up on maintenance and office work need more of my attention and effort than I have given them of late.

In the NT we have had a very stable State Council with a lovely balance of fresh insight and solid experience. They are an amazing and special group whose support and assistance means so much. I am so proud of all of them and thank you does not seem enough. Bec Osmotherly - Treasurer; Catherine Atkins - Secretary; Amanda Murphy - Vice President; Julianne Vlach - Assistant Secretary; Kiya Gill - Publicity Officer; Katherine Branch President & Councillor - Connie Woods; Alice Springs Branch President & Councillor - Danyelle Haigh; Territory Wide Mentor & Councillor - Jacinta McInnery; and Councillors Mel Kerr and Amanda Brown.

The thorough and democratic process of our motions is a key attribute of ICPA. Taking this through to the next step of updating our actual Portfolio Policies is something that had not been occurring. Our Policy Document was last ratified at Conference in 2002. Many had attempted its update. In 2024 Constitutional amendments were made to give clarity and efficiency to this process and we then sought and contracted interstate expertise from ICPA Qld Life Member and past federal Secretary, Kim Hughes to work with us and fully update these documents. It was with great satisfaction that these were presented and approved at our 2025 State Conference.

This year's NT State Conference was held in Katherine hosted by the amazing and energetic Katherine Branch, convened by Jess Coronas - ably supported by her mother, ICPA and northern legend, Bernadette Burke and a large committee. Our theme was Country Kids Count. I don't need to explain to anyone here today why this is true but I will anyway! Not only are country kids, our kids and therefore our heart and soul, but country kids are important and valuable everywhere. Strong values, solid work ethic, responsibility, independence, resilience and ability to positively interact with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, social classes and age groups are regularly sighted as important differentiating features of country children. This makes them sought after employees and natural leaders of business and community.

We once again flew the ICPA flag at the NT Cattlemen's Annual Conference in Darwin, with an information booth. This exposure and interaction creates such an important connection and link between our combined membership base and it was great to have NTCA President Henry Burke speak and participate at our State Conference.

November 2024 saw me in Alice Springs, strengthening relationships and speaking at the Local Government of Northern Territory annual conference. There and at every opportunity possible, I reinforce that one cannot achieve economic development and advancement of the regions without looking after families. And to look after families, one must consider access to EDUCATION and healthcare, communications and safe roads.

During Delegation and in between, progress is being made on some long standing issues. We have a positive and productive relationship with both the NT Education Minister and the Education Department.

I was unable to attend Joint Council this year in Perth but the NT was most ably represented by our Treasurer and Secretary - thank you to WA for hosting. This cross collaboration and sharing of knowledge is so valuable. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the invaluable work of the Tech Team and the leadership and general support of Federal Council over and above their Federal advocacy roles.

It is for all these reasons and so much more, why the work of ICPA is so important. Why we strive every day to ensure all children have equitable access to education, regardless of their geographic location. Why we work so hard to ensure that NO child falls through the cracks, because of where their family lives.

Please take a moment to reflect and consider why we volunteer? It is not because we are rich and wealthy or have heaps of spare time on our hands. In many cases this is so far from reality it is laughable. We volunteer because we care. We volunteer because some things are just so important that handing the task to a paid employee would not give it the justice it deserves. Our volunteers are priceless and I most sincerely thank each and everyone of you for your contribution.

But volunteering is not a one-way street. By giving, we are also receiving in so many ways.

Regional Australia is filled with the most amazing, generous and truly beautiful people. It is an absolute pleasure and a privilege to work and stand beside you all. To my NT members and State Councillors - you are next level. Thank you everyone.