



SA ICPA Annual State Conference 2025

South Australia Isolated Children's Parents' Association Inc.

Central Oval Complex, Port Augusta SA

Friday, 21 March 2025

Hosted by the Flinders Ranges Branch

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On behalf of State Council and the Flinders Ranges Branch, we would like to sincerely thank all our valued sponsors who have helped make today possible.



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BARB WILLOUGHBY

TOUGH LUCK
FLINDERS GIN
RANGES COUNTRY
RICE
FLINDERS ESSENTIAL

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Belinda Hatcher

Good morning everyone, it is my great pleasure as President of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of South Australia and on behalf of State Council to welcome you all here to Port Augusta for the 2025 Annual 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 'Through the Ranges – Growing Minds & Futures' is a great way to incorporate the name of our hosting branch and to highlight the wide range of ways our members are educating their children. For me through the ranges is a real representation of the journey my family has taken in regard to the education of our children, and it has been a privilege having SA ICPA there to guide us as we navigated the best path for all of our kids.

I am very pleased to announce that the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, the Hon Blair Boyer will be joining us today and will be delivering an update on some new developments that will have significant benefits to our rural and remote students as well as taking the time to answer some questions from our members. We are very grateful to Mr Boyer for taking time out of his busy schedule to be here today.

Opening speaker Isabella Slade is a great example of the value of equitable and accessible education for kids growing up in rural and remote parts of South Australia. Isabella completed her primary schooling through SOTA while living at Moolooloo Station near Blinman. She studied years 8 and 9 at Modbury Heights and then completed years 10 to 12 at Scotch College as a boarding student. She completed a Bachelor of Medical Imaging through the University of SA and after graduation she embarked on her career as a radiographer in Cairns. She then decided after 4 years she wanted to study medicine and did this at Flinders University and went on to complete her intern year at the Flinders Medical Centre in 2022. She now lives with her husband Owen in Cairns and works at the Cairns Base Hospital.

We are excited to welcome Jess Stenson as our guest speaker today. Jess is an Olympic, Commonwealth and World Championship marathon runner, who has been competing professionally since 2012 and proudly holds a Commonwealth Gold medal to her name, amongst many other achievements. Jess was born and raised in Lucindale and is mum to Billy and Ellie and partner to Dylan and considers her family one of her greatest supports. She attributes her success to her love of running, along with her commitment to a balanced approach to training and life. I have no doubt that we will all come away from listening to Jess with a connection to her story and feeling uplifted. Thank you, Jess, and thanks to the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board who have supported us in getting Jess here today.

As usual we will be seeing branch photo stories throughout the course of the day, as a way to showcase each branch and their families. These allow guests and members to see and appreciate a snapshot into the lives of the students and families of SA ICPA, who are the very reason why we are all here today.

The AGM will be held at the end of conference proceedings. Non-members 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. Nominations are due by the end of lunch proceedings.

SA ICPA would like to thank all 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 has once again offered to be the conference minute taker. And of course, many thanks must go to Lisa Slade and Michelle Hilder and

the rest of the Flinders Ranges Branch for the stellar job they have done organising this year's conference.

So please enjoy the 53rd Annual SA ICPA State Conference – I know that today's proceedings are full of passionate and inspirational speakers, stories and motions which are the perfect foundation for us to continue to support the range of education that our rural and remote families and their children will face in their lives.

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	
Mija Reynolds	
Di Thomas	
Candice Brown	
Katrina Morris	
Pamela Cuffe	

SA LIFE MEMBERS

Joanna Gibson
Jill Greenfield

BRANCH DELEGATES

Eyre	Di Thomas	
Flinders Ranges	Michelle Hilder	Mija Reynolds
Lone Members	Jodie Keogh	Anna Nunn
Marla Oodnadatta	Dani Chapman	Helen Williams
Marree Air	Jessica Bell	Lucy Morphett
North East	Katie Robinson	Leah Beard
North West	Edwina Bowie	Candice Brown
Port Augusta	Katrina Morris	Pamela Cuffe

BRANCH OBSERVERS

Flinders Ranges	Keziah Henery	Linda Haydon
	Sonia Fels	Rachael Hilder
Lone Members	Georgy Ewing	
Marree Air	Lisa Edwards	David Bell
	Maria Madsen	
North East	Donna Gaskin	
North West	Shona Amos	Alana White
Port Augusta	Rachel Smart	Kate Greenfield

CONVENING COMMITTEE

Michelle Hilder	Lisa Slade
Belinda Hatcher	Keziah Henery
Linda Haydon	Sonia Fels
Rachael Hilder	Mija Reynolds

Guests

Hon Blair Boyer	Minister for Education, Skills and Training
Rowan Ramsay	MP Federal Member of Gray
Tom Venning	Candidate for Grey
Anita Kuss	Independent for Grey
Hon Geoff Brock MP	Independent member for Stuart
Travis Tobin	Livestock SA, CEO
Leonie Mills	Livestock SA, Board Director
Josh McDonnell	Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far North, Economic Development Manager
Melissa Hogan	PIRSA, Principal Regional Advisor Far North
John White	PIRSA, Family and Business FaB Mentor
Kiara Stacey	Stock Journal
Kate Higgins	ABC North West
Tarnya Eggleton	RFDS Child Family Health Nurse
Hannah Allert	RFDS Patient Experience Partner
Michelle Doeby	RFDS Senior lead Digital Health Projects
Nicole Branch	Child and Family Health Service, Director of Operations
Deanna Huges	Little Poppins, General Manager
Holly Auld	Little Poppins, Director
Chris Fulton	Landscape SA Arid Lands, Partnerships and Community Engagement Officer
Claire McKenry	Landscape SA Arid Lands, North Flinders Community Landscape Officer
Sue Barry	Uni Hub Spencer Gulf, Centre Manager
Shannon Pillion	Uni Hub Port Augusta, Centre Manager
Elise Petty	NBN Executive Manager - Education & Regional Stakeholder Relations
David Freeman	Rural Business Support, Landowner Information Service Officer
Jo Vlassco	Office of Early Childhood Development, Senior Implementation Partner
Jo-Dee Markham	Office of Early Childhood Development, Senior Implementation Partner
Suzanne Clark	Office of Early Childhood Development, Regional Manager
Mandy Martin	Australia's Leading Home Care Agency
Jennifer White	Australia's Leading Home Care Agency
Emily Heywood Smith	Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project
Ashley Smith	Department for Education, Manager Transport Services Unit
Luke Fraser	Department for Education, Director, Strategy and Coordination
Deb O'Neill	Department for Education, Education Director Port Augusta and Far North
Paul Pitkin	Education Director for Flinders and Whyalla Partnerships
Richard Stokes	Australia Boarding Schools Association, CEO
Amanda Ferrari	Boarding School Expo Australia, Director
Jennifer Polley	SA Association of School Parent Communities
Jenice Zerner	SA Association of School Parent Communities
Julie Taylor	Open Access College, Principal
Rachael Russell	Open Access College, Head of Campus
Stacy Martin	Remote & Isolated Children's Exercise, Director
Will Mercer	Prince Alfred College, Assistant Director of Boarding
Ujith Perera	Immanuel College, Director of Boarding
Josie Palmer	Immanuel College, Deputy Director of Boarding
Jason Dam	Sacred Heart College, Deputy Director of Boarding – Boys
Andrew Junge	Westminster School, Director of Boarding
Joel Head	St Marks College, Agriculture & Trades Manager
Stuart Proud	Rostrevor College
Vic Knauerhase	Special Event Broadcasters
Di Knauerhase	Special Event Broadcasters
Jennifer Ruska	ICPA Australia, Federal Councillor

CONFERENCE APOLOGIES

Chris Picton	Minister of Health and Wellbeing
Nichii Mardon	Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Port Pirie
Penny Pratt	MP Member for Frome
Kathryn Bruggemann	A/Deputy Chief Executive, Schools and Preschools
Ellen Day	Regional Tech Hub – Regional Partnership Officer
Clare Scriven	Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Anne Dunstan	CEO Association of Independent Schools of SA
Doug Fawcett	Pembroke School
Tanya Mitchell	NSW ICPA President
Libby McPhee	NSW ICPA Secretary
Robert Gill	Sacred Heart College, Director of Boarding
Peter Kelly	Deputy Chief Executive, Schools and Preschools
Dr Sandra Hewson	Saint Marks College Port Pirie, Principle
Jane Grech	Loretto College, Senior Director of Boarding and Strategic Projects
Rowena Fox	Education Director, Port Lincoln 1
Prof Martin Westwell	Department for Education, Chief Executive
Louise Martin	ICPA Australia President
Julia Broad	ICPA Australia Vice President
Sally Brindal	ICPA Australia Vice President
Kym Ross	ICPA WA Secretary
Wendy Henning	ICPA QLD President
Annette Boyle	ICPA QLD Secretary
Phil Noble	Prince Alfred College
Tiffany Keller	Walford School
Gillian Fennell	Livestock SA, Chair
Carolyn Cochrane	Seymour College
Kerry Williams	SPELD
Eddie Huges	Member for Giles
Jane Gloster	SA ICPA Life Member
Glennis Crawford	SA ICPA Life Member
Bob Baker	SA ICPA Life Member
Vincent Fleming	Urrbrae Agriculture High School, Assistant Principle/Agriculture
Mary Manning	Catholic Identity and Mission Advisor, Diocese of Port Pirie
Annie Sargood	Australia's Leading Home Care Agency
Sharon Nutt	Flinders Ranges / SA ICPA Life Member
Petie Rankin	North West
Leisa Breeding	North East



SA ICPA 2025

Conference Program

8:00	Registration	Central Oval Complex Port Augusta
8:45	Conference Commences	
	National Anthem	Jasmine Kimber
	President's Welcome	Belinda Hatcher
	Conference Convenor- Housekeeping	Michelle Hilder
	Introduction of Guests	Hollie Williams
	Official Opening of Conference	Isabella Slade
	SA ICPA President's Report	Belinda Hatcher
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
	<i>Minister for Education, Training and Skills</i>	Hon Blair Boyer MP
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
10:30	Morning Tea	
11:00	Flinders Ranges Branch Presentation	
	Guest Speaker	Jessica Stenson
	<i>Commonwealth & Olympic Marathon Athlete</i>	
11:30	Eyre Branch Presentation	
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
	Royal Flying Doctor Service	Natalie Szabo
	Lone Members Presentation	

SA ICPA 2025

Conference Program



12:00	Australia's Leading Home Care Agency	Mandy Martin
	Marree Air Branch Presentation	
	Federal Council Update	Jenn Ruska
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
12:30	Lunch	
1:30	North East Branch Presentation	
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
	Uni Hub Port Augusta	Sue Barry
	North West Branch Presentation	
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
2:30	Boarding Schools Expo Australia	Amanda Ferrari
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
3:00	Port Augusta Branch Presentation	
	NBN Co	Elise Petty
	Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project	Emily Heywood-Smith
3:30	Afternoon Tea	
3:50	Marla Oodnadatta Branch Presentation	
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
4:15	AGM	
4:45	Close of Conference	

STATE CONFERENCE MOTIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Motion 1. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA thank the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Port Augusta for reducing the Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) service gap that has been experienced in previous years".

Moved: Danni Chapman

Seconded: Helen Williams

Explanation:

Over the past several years, many South Australian Rural and Remote families have not been receiving appropriate CaFHS services. We thank the RFDS for being proactive and providing families and their children in the RFDS service area with a reliable service giving resources, guidance and advice.

Comment:

Nicole Branch, Child and Family Health Service: We are absolutely committed to working with the RFDS and we are able to provide telehealth services to families in remote areas. We are fortunate to have Tania working in partnership between CaFHS and the RFDS, Tania has been a CaFHS nurse for many years now, with huge skills and knowledge and together we are working to establish communication and handovers between each service so we can continue to provide the best service we can in some of the remote areas that are difficult for us to reach. We have also been very fortunate to be able to expand our workforce in Port Augusta, which means we will be able to compliment further and reach out to areas we haven't been able to do previously and continue to offer the best service we possibly can.

Motion 2. North West Branch

DEEMED COVERED

"That SA ICPA thank the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) for their continued work in providing a Child and Family Health Nurse based in Port Augusta."

Candice Brown, North West Branch: Request conferences permission for Motion 2 to be covered by Motion 1.

Permission Granted

Explanation:

Last year at conference, Mandy Smallacombe announced the exciting news that the RFDS was employing their own Child Family Health Nurse, delivering vital care to mothers and babies in the bush. This will/has made a huge difference to those in need of a specific child and family nurse and we appreciate the work that has gone in to making this change.

Motion 3. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

"The SA ICPA advocates to the Minister for Health and Well-being and the Department of Human Services to help secure the secondment of a Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) nurse back to Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE), ensuring new and young mothers in South Australia's outer regions receive the support they need and do not fall through the gaps, as is happening currently."

Moved: Pamela Cuffe

Seconded: Katrina Morris

Explanation:

This would ensure that young mothers in the outer regions of South Australia have access to essential health support and services. Currently, there is concern that these mothers are not receiving the necessary care, which could lead to significant gaps in health and wellbeing services. By securing this secondment, the goal is to enhance support for these mothers and ensure they are not overlooked. In the past 12 months, three new mothers have been referred to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and have been instructed to visit the CaFHS nurse in Port Augusta. They were also asked to purchase their own scales. Previously, CaFHS nurses would visit the station to measure and assess babies' milestones, as well as evaluate the wellbeing of mothers. These in-home CaFHS services continue to be offered to mothers in urban areas, but since this service was lost to RICE, we believe mothers in our region are being overlooked, resulting in increased isolation and a lack of necessary support.

Comment:

Nicole Branch, Child and Family Health Service: I'd like to clarify that asking families to purchase scales is not part of our service model. I am aware that some families have let us know that they have done that, but I'm not sure where that advice has come from. One of the things we need to understand is the service model that was previously applied through RICE, that will require further scoping from CaFHS and understanding and mapping. It will be great to take that opportunity to look at that and how that would complement RFDS or whether that will cross over and where the service gaps are. We are certainly open to understanding that and seeing what we scope and look at. Thanks for mentioning that.

Stacey Martin RICE: I guess the issue we have had is that the scales we previously had at RICE have been loaned out to families and they are not working correctly, some families have had issues. At the moment we are not able to loan scales and we are not sure if this is something we continue or that responsibility goes to someone else.

Motion 4. North East Branch**CARRIED**

"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."

Moved: Leah Beard

Seconded: Katie Robinson

Explanation:

The age of enrolling in pre-compulsory early childhood programs now extends to 3-year-olds. The cost of setting up a suitable learning area, supplying a laptop and suitable consumables, and the travel cost to attend face to face activities is yet another financial burden on remote families as they do their best to give their children the educational opportunities their urban peers have.

Comment:

Ali Alison, Federal Council: I would just like to comment that this is a fantastic motion and Federal Council are continuing to advocate for this. We do receive support for this and some indication that this should be happening, hopefully we can celebrate soon.

Motion 5. Port Augusta Branch**DEEMED COVERED**

"That SA ICPA continues to support Federal Council's advocacy for the inclusion of kindergarten children in the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) allowance to cover the costs of creating a fun, engaging, and meaningful learning environment."

Kartina Morris, Port Augusta Branch, request conference's permission to deem Motion 5 covered by Motion 4.

Permission granted

Explanation:

We are requesting that kindergarten children be included in the AIC to help cover the costs associated with setting up an engaging and educational learning environment.

Currently, the AIC allowance supports children from primary school onwards, but it does not extend to kindergarten-aged children. For young learners, particularly in remote or geographically isolated areas, it is essential to create a stimulating and well-equipped workspace that fosters early learning and development. The costs of providing such an environment, such as purchasing computers, educational materials, creating a child-friendly space, internet and other necessary resources, can be a financial burden on families.

The expansion of the AIC allowance to include kindergarten children, will ensure that all students, regardless of age, have access to the resources needed to thrive in their learning journey. This adjustment would help ease the financial strain on families and promote a positive and effective learning experience for young children in home-based education settings.

Motion 6. Marree Air Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA advocates to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills for geographically isolated children enrolled in a registered South Australian preschool education program to receive financial assistance from the state government for travel and home classroom expenses incurred by the preschool program."

Moved: Jessica Bell

Seconded: Ellen Litchfield

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. Some of our families enrolled in RICE have to pay for accommodation (4 nights \$586) plus travel 1280km (\$594), to attend RICE face to face programs, plus the craft and educational supplies that need to be purchased to complete lessons.

Comment:

Edwina Bowie, North West Branch: I would love to see this allowance happen now whilst there is a roll out of this universal access to the two years of preschool. I would especially like to see it as we can see the State Government has given such a strong commitment in this sector in this once in a generation reform early childhood education and care. Their shared vision and our shared vision to support better outcomes for South Australia's children and I'd love to see the South Australian children also include our rural and remote children that attend RICE.

Anna Nunn, SA Lone Members: I am for the introduction of this allowance for the children who attend the preschool program in SA delivered by RICE. They deliver the service and there is also the opportunity to Port Augusta four times a year where they meet the other students and their peers. Socially this is so important for the children in preparation for their compulsory school years. Families without School of the Air students have no financial assistance to attend these events so some families won't attend kindy experience week. It would be fantastic if they could attend and their children are more socially ready for when they attend school.

Ali Alison, Federal Council: I fully support this motion. Federal Council has been advocating for 3-4 year olds to be included in the AIC Distance Education Allowance. The amount of money needed for this allowance is a tiny drop in the amount of funds being spent in this country on early childhood education. We recommend you keep advocating for this at a state level and keep us in the loop on how you are progressing. I spoke with Edwina and Hon Blair Boyer before morning tea and he is keen to have these conversations. Our federal portfolio leader is Julia Broad and would be grateful to know of your progress with these conversations for our advocacy at a federal level. Let's hope we can get this sorted soon too.

Motion 7. Marree Air Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA advocates to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills and the relevant departments for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services, to consider the unique needs of rural and remote families when it comes to the eligibility criteria for funding and subsidies."

Moved: Jessica Bell

Seconded: Lucy Morphet

Explanation:

In South Australia, the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) provides an Outback Childcare program that enables families to receive short-term childcare in the family home when they are in need of childcare during busy times or if they need respite or emergency care. Currently, this program does not attract any government support or funding, resulting in RICE having to rely on community donations or asking families to pay an unsubsidised full-rate hourly fee for the service.

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can only be received when a child is enrolled through a centre-based childcare facility or through the In Home Care (IHC) scheme. However, these schemes do not meet the needs of all remote families, as many are unable to support full-time in-home care. The temporary nature of the RICE Outback Childcare program is appealing to many families, as it allows them to plan care during the times of the year they need it most, without the burden of housing a full-time carer.

The cost of accessing childcare without the CCS is an unaffordable option, leaving families to try to find other ways to manage childcare needs. Families living in rural and remote areas have no real option of childcare like community creches, nearby centres, or extended informal support networks. Living on a remote cattle station 1,000 km from Adelaide makes relying on informal support networks for childcare impractical and often impossible.

A recent report indicated that the Federal Electorate of Grey (which encompasses 90% of South Australia, including all of its rural and remote areas) has the worst access to childcare in the country. The Outback Childcare service needs to be made affordable for families, as well as viable for RICE to manage and administer.

Comment:

Luke Fraser, Department for Education: it is really smart and sensible for ICPA raise right issues around early childhood education and care for rural and remote communities. I think the comment earlier that this is a really good time for advocacy as the state has really pushed hard on the opportunities that could be afforded and funding and so forth for the early years. In the policy sense there is a lot going on now and I think there is an opportunity for our department to work, particularly with the emergence of the Office for Early Childhood Development which is gaining a lot of traction now. So, very happy to work with ICPA to join them up with the Office for Early Childhood Development and see what can be done. The other thing is part of my role is to work with our Minister and the Office for Early Childhood Development in the Minister's national discussions with other Ministers across the country and we work with other states and territories to advocate nationally for national policy and national funding. So, if the motion is carried, I am very happy to continue to work on this.

Kirsty William, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: I think this is a great motion. It needs to be understood that these people are already entitled to the Child Care Subsidy, we are not asking for more money,

they just can't get the subsidy because we don't have the centre based day care to use. If they were to move house to Port Augusta, or somewhere, they could utilise the subsidy as they would be eligible but it is purely because the one size fits all does not work for RICE. We are not asking for more money we are just asking for a change in eligibility.

Motion 8. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA reach out to relevant local councils and the Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project to offer support for their efforts in addressing the 'childcare desert' that is impacting local communities across regional and remote South Australia."

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

Explanation:

Recently a group of 23 local councils across the north and west of the state came together to form the Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project (RCDAP) and represent families who reside and work in what has been named the 'childcare desert' within the Federal Electorate of Grey. A study in 2022 conducted by the Mitchell Group found that access to childcare in Grey was the worst in the country.

We feel that many of our members who live out of council areas are missing out on being represented by this project and we would like to encourage State Council to reach out to the RCDAP along with the Outback Communities Authority in an effort to bring our equally important voice to their advocacy.

There are wide ranging implications of little to no access to childcare that includes the ability to attract families into districts to take up employment in areas like teaching, nursing, law enforcement and emergency services. It also means that employers are unable to offer the incentive to those considering employment in the area. Not to mention that the children themselves are missing out on the opportunity for social interaction and early childhood education opportunities.

Comment:

Edwina Bowie, North East Branch: In February the Federal government released a guarantee that all children would have access to three days of childcare a week. Kids in the Grey Electorate don't have access to any childcare, how can the government say this. We have to be part of this, make sure our members voices are heard and not lost in the system and Childcare Desert of the Grey Electorate.

Lucy Morphet, Marree Air Branch: RDA Far North released a childcare study in 2024 and they are working with this Childcare Desert advocacy group. RDA Far North covers a similar geographical area from a northern perspective and there are other organisations join this group too.

Jill Greenfield, State Life Member: I totally agree with this motion. A lot of our members are out of council areas.

Belinda Hatcher, State Council: Obviously some of our members are a part of these council areas. The opportunity for us to be able to support this advocacy project in regard to data collection, how many members might fall within these local council areas, and we do appreciate that a large number of our members live outside of local council areas.

Emily Haywood Smith, Regional Childcare Desert Project: While this project was the initiative of the 23 councils it is advocacy for additional childcare services for the Seat of Grey. If you are in the Federal Seat of Grey then we want you to be part of this project, we want your voice to be heard through this project and we are absolutely there to be representing you, fighting for you at all levels of governments. Please get on board, thanks.

BOARDING, HOSTELS AND SECOND HOME

Motion 9. North West Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA advocates to the Department for Education and the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to increase the State Education Allowance (SEA) in line with the Education Sub Index of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)."

Moved: Candice Brown

Seconded: Edwina Bowie

Explanation:

Currently the SEA is in line with the general CPI (2.5% December 2024), this is significantly lower than the Education Sub Index CPI (6.5% December 2024). This reflects the rapid increase in education costs compared to general inflation, and as boarding fees are increasing families are struggling with the rising costs. Two boarding schools attended by our members' children have increased their fees by 5.4% and 6%. The SEA must be adjusted in line with the Education Sub Index of the CPI to ensure equitable access to compulsory secondary education.

Comment:

Ali Alison, Federal Council: at a federal level we are still advocacy for the AIC to be aligned with the Education Sub Index. Any traction you are able to get with the states may help to support our advocacy at the federal level.

Luke Fraser, Department for Education: We are constantly looking at the SEA and constantly looking how far it can stretch. We have been making incremental increases but clearly, they don't go far enough. We are very keen to continue to talk to ICPA about it and the issues attached to it, and to work with the government to see what can be done. I think there is a really good opportunity in the current climate with pushes towards early education and its importance. There is an opportunity to keep talking about this and to see what can be done.

Stuart Proud, Rostrevor College: A comment regarding the boarding fees, most boarding houses are certainly not profit making enterprises. We are about giving access to education opportunities that we support and advocate for. All boarding houses try and offer that value and any support from other funding for families we support.

Richard Stokes, ABSA: One of the problems we face is that people think boarding school is for rich kids, and it is not. 76% of boarders in Australia are remote and rural kids. They haven't got a choice but to go to boarding school to access high school. That is one of the things we work really hard to convince governments across the country to understand. The comments about rising costs, you only have to think about how much your food bill has gone up, then multiply that by the number of kids in our boarding schools, imagine what the food bills are! Let alone the fact that we are working really hard to professionalise the industry to make sure we have professionals looking after your children, because we should. That is something we are really conscious about, and, of course, we have had to increase the number of staff. When I started working in boarding in the 1980s, I was looking after one hundred boys by myself, I'm sure you wouldn't be happy with that. Thankfully we have done a lot of work to improve that and many of those things cost more money. Getting our governments across the country and the government of South Australia particularly to understand that would be really important. We support you 100% in this.

Motion 10. Marla Oodnadatta Branch**CARRIED**

“That SA ICPA requests the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to consider increasing the State Education Allowance (SEA) as a stepped allowance based on tuition fees that a family incurs.”

Moved: Danni Chapman

Seconded: Helen Williams

Explanation:

Currently the SA SEA allowance is \$5105.98/year to all families that qualify for the Assistance for Isolated Children’s Basic Boarding or second home Allowance, this is regardless of varying tuition costs paid to schools or the distances families must travel to access this education.

There are vast areas of South Australia where students have no access to secondary education due to geographical locations. For many South Australian families, boarding school is the only option for students to receive a cohesive education which includes important learning opportunities, face to face interactions with teachers and other students, sporting, musical, and a variety of other extra-curricular activities.

Families are facing cost of living pressures to afford boarding school fees without adequate assistance from the government. It is imperative that the government helps affected families so positive educational outcomes are achieved.

At present the equivalent allowance in QLD (LAFHAS) covers tuition up to \$3245/year. Where QLD schools tuition costs exceed \$3245, an additional allowance of 50c per \$1 over that amount can be claimed up to a maximum total allowance of \$10,625.

2024 Comparison of Tuition Allowances - South Australia and Queensland - Year 8 Boarding Student

SA Boarding School	2024 Tuition Fees	2024 Boarding Fees	2024 Total Tuition + Boarding	2024 SA State Education Allowance	QLD Equivalent Allowance 2024	Difference 2024
Sacred Heart College	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 23,898.00	\$ 33,348.00	\$ 5,105.98	\$ 6,297.00	\$ 1,191.02
Immanuel College	\$ 22,276.00	\$ 22,256.00	\$ 44,532.00	\$ 5,105.98	\$ 10,276.00	\$ 5,170.02
Pembroke College	\$ 29,391.00	\$ 29,070.00	\$ 58,461.00	\$ 5,105.98	\$ 10,276.00	\$ 5,170.02

Queensland Equivalent Allowance is a stepped allowance based on tuition fees.

* 2024 Allowance covers tuition fees up to \$3144 per year

* Where tuition cost exceed \$3144, an additional allowance of 50c per \$1 over that amount can be claimed up to a maximum total allowance of \$10,276

Comment:

Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Members: I’d like to speak for this motion, I notice the SEA has increased from \$5,105.98 to \$5,269.00. I’m the councillor with a foot in each state, my children are in a Queensland boarding school, and no means are they in a very high tuition school. I have just received my semester one allowance from state government and it was \$4,500. Times that by two, \$9,000, that is a huge disparity. I really support this motion, I know a lot of people say that I choose to send my children to a high tuition school, well I haven’t chosen to send my child to that school. In SA there are only a number of schools that take kids in Year 7 and that needs to be taken into account. I’m very supportive of this motion.

Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: we put forward this motion as we have been battling a SEA increase for a very long time. History states the allowance is to do with the boarding component however we feel this is one way forward if we are looking at tuition. The Queensland tuition/SEA allowance is paid directly to the school as shows on your invoice. If people are getting a scholarship, then they are not “making” money from the allowance. This is the fairest way and you only get the larger amount if you are paying larger school fees. Whereas if we keep upping the SEA some people could be pocketing money if they are not sending their children to ‘elite’ schools where the fees are much more. We just saw this as a fairer way to get the allowance increased, you are not pocketing the

money, you have to be out of pocket to get this larger amount. We thought this a good thing to investigate as a way forward.

Richard Stokes, ABSA: There are two very important points we need to remember here. First of all it is about school choice. You need to be able to make a decision on where to send your child based on what that school can provide for you. What the fees are is actually immaterial in many ways and should be. School choice is a very important concept. Second thing is not every boarding school suits every child. Fees are different because they provide different services, different opportunities. You must have the opportunity to be able to do that. Please use that as a really important advocacy issue because the choice of a school is often dictated by what that school can do for your child and how your child fits into that boarding facility.

Motion 11. State Council

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA discuss with the denominational and independent boarding schools in Adelaide, the need for a designated ICPA bursary at each school/college.”

Moved: Ellen Litchfield

Seconded: Kristina Crawford

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's 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 thank those boarding schools in Adelaide who responded following a similar motion last year. We hope that other schools and colleges will follow suit and engage in a genuine and constructive dialogue extending their understanding of our ICPA members backgrounds, enhancing access and equity for ICPA children.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Motion 12. North East Branch

CARRIED

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

Moved: Leah Beard

Seconded: Katie Robinson

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 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.

Comment:

Jill Greenfield, SA Life Member: I totally agree with this. At a federal level we are trying to get an allowance, we have met with the Department and lots of Ministers trying to get this over the line, we have been for 30 years. This is a no brainer. During COVID all we heard was how parents were suffering when they had to stay home, for a couple of weeks, and teach their children. I had three children who did School of the Air from whoa to go for twelve years. Half I employed someone, half I did myself. It would be great to get this across a state level but we are really trying to get it at a federal level too.

Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Members: I speak in support of the motion. In the Open Access College Enrolment Policy, it actually states that there must be a supervisor in the classroom at all times. That is a legality placed on families doing School of the Air.

Jennifer White, Australia's Leading Home Care Agency: We have been advocating the Federal Government to allow distance education families to employ an educator using the Childcare Subsidy during those distance education hours. Hopefully this becomes a possibility.

Motion 13. Port Augusta Branch

DEEMED COVERED

"That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to establish a Distance Education Home Supervisor Allowance."

Pamela Cuffe, Port Augusta Branch, I would like Conference permission to deem Motion 13 covered by Motion 12.

Permission granted.

Explanation:

This proposed allowance aims to recognise the significant contributions of geographically isolated home tutors, primarily mothers, who dedicate substantial time and resources to educate their children in remote areas.

South Australia encompasses vast remote regions where traditional schooling options are limited or non-existent. Families in these areas often rely on distance education to provide their children with quality education.

In these settings a full-time compulsory home tutor/ supervisor, usually mothers, assume the role of primary educators. They manage daily lessons, administrative tasks, and ensure their children's educational needs are met, all while balancing household and station responsibilities.

The commitment to home-based education often necessitates that parents reduce or forgo employment opportunities, leading to a loss of income and the choice between a station hand on the station or someone in the schoolroom.

Motion 14. North West Branch

DEEMED COVERED

"That SA ICPA request the Department for Education, and the Minister for Education, Training and Skills provides a supervisor remuneration to families when enrolling a child through Open Access College, School of the Air (Port Augusta) as per the Open Access College enrolment policy."

Candice Brown, North West Branch, I would like Conference permission to deem Motion 14 covered by Motion 12.

Permission granted.

Explanation:

The "Open Access College enrolment policy October 2023" states:

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 developed by Open Access College.

Port Augusta School of the Air supervisors are not being remunerated for the compulsory work that they perform in supervising a child at school. This is not only a learning issue but also a safety issue, which is outlined in the policy.

This remuneration would show a government commitment to equity in education for remote and isolated children.

<https://www.openaccess.edu.au/assets/documents/enrolment-oac-policy.pdf>

Motion 15. 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: Dani Chapman

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. Over half 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 cost of attending these events is constantly increasing given the increasing cost of fuel and parts. 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 sustaining to attend school events.

Families must be supported to attend these events by at least 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 64c/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

Comments:

Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch: What amazing value for \$16,000 especially when you consider the value that gives to the teacher, being able to set their eyes on their kids and do assessments at the same time to see where that kid is so they can support that kid in their education. \$16,000, bargain!

Motion 16. Port Augusta Branch**CARRIED**

"That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to increase the School of The Air travel reimbursement from \$0.32/km to the current ATO rate of \$0.88/km."

Moved: Katrina Morris

Seconded: Pamela Cuffe

Explanation:

Currently, the reimbursement for travel to school events, such as school experience weeks, school camp and induction stands at \$0.32 per kilometre. This does not adequately reflect the rising costs associated with travel. SOTA families commit to regular long distance travel to ensure access to essential education, support, resources and social interactions for their children.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) currently sets the standard rate for car expenses at \$0.88 per kilometre, which better reflects the increased cost of fuel, maintenance, and other travel-related expenses.

Motion 17. North East Branch**CARRIED**

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

Moved: Leah Beard

Seconded: Katie Robinson

Explanation:

Face to face events are a vital part of remote and isolated students' education as these are the only times students can interact in person with their teacher, classmates and peers. The cost of attending face to face events is high and the current rate of 32 cents per km is insufficient to take into account the high amount of kms involved in attending these events.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL**Motion 18. Flinders Ranges Branch****CARRIED**

"That SA ICPA request that the Department for Education provides extra country incentives to enable schools in isolated regions to attract and entice appropriate teachers to work in these areas."

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

Explanation:

Whilst we appreciate that there are already a number of measures in place that offer incentives to attract and retain staff to rural and remote areas, it would seem that these alone are now not having the effect that they are intended to. Rural and remote schools are finding that due to locality, perceived lack of professional development opportunities, limited school size and class numbers they are struggling to get responses to job advertisements, sometimes even getting no response at all. It is also very difficult to attract suitable teachers for specialist subjects like Maths, HPE and STEM due to the smaller number and diversity of student needs.

Schools who are trying to recruit staff would be well served by being able to inform potential staff that there is suitable funding in place that would allow them to attend Personal Learning opportunities in metro areas with the knowledge that their classes would be supported by appropriate Temporary

Relief Teachers (TRTs). Feeling connected to peers who are working and residing in city areas is often important to those who are employed in country areas.

Access to leave opportunities is something that needs to be considered more closely for staff in rural and remote schools. The importance for teachers who are relocating to country areas where they have no immediate family or support systems, being able to access leave that is 'structured' to reflect distance and location is vital not only for staff retention but also the general wellbeing of the teacher. The opportunity to perhaps have an extra day's leave (that they know will be covered easily) will allow for a less stressful situation when trying to manage even something as simple as a weekend away.

Comment:

Ali Alison, Federal Council: This is an important issue and a good motion. It is an issue everywhere. Federal Council is advocating for this issue as well. There are incentives in place for teachers to move to rural areas but this needs urgent review and looking at constantly. Another issue is incentivising experienced teachers to these areas. We cannot just keep focusing on young graduates, we also need experienced teachers out in rural and remote areas.

Anna Nunn, SA Lone Member: I currently have a child enrolled in preschool with RICE and we are 8 weeks into not being able to recruit a preschool teacher to Port Augusta to cover the program. We have had 8 weeks of TRTs. RICE have been working with Augusta Park Primary School; the department source we get the teacher through. It has been a struggle, hats off to RICE for covering with the TRTs and making sure that it has been a seamless experience for the children who are clearly unaware to the reason they may have three different teachers a week. I strongly support this motion.

Di Thomas, Eyre Branch: I've been on the Governing Council of a rural school for nearly 20 years and this is a huge problem not only for teachers but also principals. We seem to get them for a year or two, then they take leave and seem to disappear.

Stuart Proud, Rostrevor College: I support this motion. I moved from a metro Melbourne at the beginning of the year. This is an issue over the whole of the teaching sector. It was quite a prestigious school and we struggled with teaching staff there too, probably 4-5 staff under. Whatever is being done to recruit students in to training, it is no longer that much of a desirable sector to be working in. Burn out for teachers is about 6-7 years at the moment and it is a much bigger problem and then it is magnified to this rural community level. It is a bigger issue than just country schools.

Deb O'Neill, Dept of Education, Director for Port Augusta and Far North: We are well aware of the issues at RICE and we are working really hard with our business partner to try and negotiate that. We do have an interim model in place but we do have someone we are trying to get all the checks and balances so that they would be recruited and placed there. We work with our business partners in the Department for Education and we do everything we can to try and make it as individualised as possible for teachers and SSOs that are coming in to our settings and we really wrap around them and ask what do you want, what can we do? We are being really creative. We have country tours that come out visit Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, where we bring graduates out to see what it is like in the country and we have a lot of advocates that came here for one year and ended up staying for ever. We are working really hard, we feel your pain and we are trying to support you.

Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: It is really important that the focus not just be on new graduates. We need to nurture and hold on to those really experienced people because sometimes the focus is getting new ones into the area, which is well and good but there are a lot of people who have been doing this for years. They really need these incentives too, to make it lucrative so they are not going off and doing other jobs that are less stressful. It is good to be inclusive of the new graduates but we need to be fostering the older ones.

Motion 19. Flinders Ranges Branch**CARRIED**

“That SA ICPA request 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.”

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

Explanation:

Student Support Officers (SSOs) provide a significant support to country schools in delivering successful learning environments for students in rural and remote areas of SA. Where student numbers restrict the number of teachers that can be employed, SSOs enable a greater flexibility and diversity of learning activities that can be managed under teacher direction.

However, attempts to attract and then retain SSOs successfully into rural and remote schools are often being hampered by some of 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.

Motion 20. North East Branch**CARRIED**

“That SA ICPA request that the Department for Education provides extra funding to rural and remote schools to allow additional Student Support Officers (SSOs) to be employed.”

Moved: Leah Beard

Seconded: Katie Robinson

Explanation:

SSOs provide a significant and valuable service to rural and remote schools in helping to deliver successful learning outcomes 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, learning challenges and behaviours to be managed under teacher direction. However, funding allocations to rural and remote schools make it difficult to engage sufficient SSOs where they are needed.

Comment:

Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch: I’d like to speak in support of this motion. SSOs are just vital, they support the teachers so much is helping with a real quality education for all of the kids in those classrooms. Especially those kids who may fall through the gaps. Any additional SSOs would be something I would support.

Deb O’Neill, Education Director, Port Augusta and Far North: I do support this motion and the one before regarding the incentives to entice SSOs and support staff to schools. They don’t get the same incentives the teaching staff do and I think that is an area this motion could put a bit of pressure on as we face the same issues.

Motion 21. Eyre Branch**CARRIED**

“That SA ICPA asks the Department for Education (DfE) to increase the Car Allowance component of the Student Travelling Allowance Scheme, which is paid to families who transport their children to school or bus stops, to better reflect the increase in cost of living and rising fuel/car maintenance prices.”

Moved: Hollie Williams, State Council on behalf of Eyre Branch

Seconded: Di Thomas

Explanation:

The DfE's claim payment for student travelling allowance is currently one of the lowest rates in Australia. This means the rate parents are paid to get their children to bus stops, or school barely covers the cost of diesel, let alone the wear and tear on vehicles and time lost from working. The rising cost of living and inflation are challenges for families, and the travelling allowance should increase to reflect these factors. The current diesel price is one of the costs not reflective of the allowance and the price of four-wheel drive tyres. With dirt roads that are not always in fair condition, four-wheel drives are necessary to maintain safety for families, and the cost of running these cars is substantially higher than the same car in the city and significantly higher than the cost of running a smaller city car.

Motion 22. Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

"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."

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

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.
- 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 position such as an am and 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 here 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, I'm involved with a small rural school where our finance officer is also a bus driver because we just can't get bus drivers in our area or relief bus drivers if the bus driver is unavailable. A few years ago we had to get a company in to supply drivers and they also used their own bus. I hate to think what that cost the Department.

Ashley Smith, Dept for Education Transport Services: This is an ongoing issue, finding bus drivers around the state as we have a state wide shortage at the moment. Within our unit we have employed a Bus Driver Liaison Officer, he is currently working his way around the state talking with bus drivers, providing support, training and induction to new bus drivers, hopefully to gain some more bus drivers.

We have developed online training packages for drivers with emergency management plans, student management plans, bus driver induction, bus driver start up procedures plus more. We also fully understand the driver licence and accreditation is an issue so we are still trying to work out how we can assist drivers in that area.

Motion 23. Eyre Branch

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA ask the Department for Education (DfE) to expand their bus calculation formula to include preschool students, as they catch buses to school-based preschools but aren’t currently entitled to a seat on those buses.”

Moved: Hollie Williams, State Council on behalf of Eyre Branch

Seconded: Di Thomas

Explanation:

Currently, preschoolers are not counted in DfE bus numbers but can access the bus if seats are available. This affects the running and routes of buses for our small rural school, as the number of students on a bus route affects the viability. Currently our buses have large areas to cover due to students’ locations being few and far between. Preschoolers sometimes must be driven into school, due to lack of seats on a bus, which means parents with multiple students at school can put their school-age children on the bus but not preschool children. Almost all of the students at rural schools, such as Miltaburra Area School, arrive via bus, due to the school’s location, which is in the middle of a paddock. This means buses are critical in ensuring students attend school and parents can get their children, including preschoolers, to school. The DfE has announced it ‘will invest in 15 hours of preschool a week for all 3-year olds, which will be rolled out in stages from 2025 to 2032’. If the Government is committed and being realistic about ensuring ALL 3-year olds have access, including our rural and remote 3-year olds, then it must also commit to having these children included in bus transport calculations.

Comment:

Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch: I’ve been coming to this conference for about two decades and this motion comes up every year! I’d like to attend next year and see that this has been taken care of.

Di Thomas, Eyre Branch: This is just a quick comment regarding those schools that are out in the middle of a paddock. If a parent has to drive their child to preschool, they can’t spend their day in town while they wait for their child, this is no town. They need to be included in the bus calculations.

Motion 24. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA requests airlines servicing the northern areas of SA to provide a student fare.”

Moved: Pamela Cuffe

Seconded: Katrina Morris

Explanation:

As per our request from last year we are keen to keep this issue on the agenda, so that Boarding students returning home are not faced with the dilemma of long bus journeys that greatly erode available down time or huge airfare costs. Families are faced with the situation that they need to cut a long weekend short to allow for the two days travel via the bus because the cost of air fares precludes families from being able to utilise them.

Comment:

Edwina Bowie, North West Branch, on behalf of Petie Rankin, North West Branch, who can’t be here today because of dry conditions and station commitments. “I support this motion wholeheartedly,

paying boarding fees sometimes brings me to tears at just how expensive it is. The one thing that makes me feel better is to see my boarding kids. But seeing them comes at a cost of \$680 one way, Adelaide to Coober Pedy. That also becomes tear jerking as it then means we have to decide if it is doable, to take four days off to go down and see the kids as the cost of a motel and fuel is far less than the return flight for two kids, a mere \$2720 at the peak. If we do go down, it is only one of us as we both can not leave at the same time. That means the kids don't get to come home to the family environment. Introducing student fares would ease this pressure and make it easier for kids to get home for short term visits."

Edwina Bowie, North West Branch: I'm in my sixth year with children at boarding school and I have only managed to get one of my kids home once during the term. I have three kids boarding and I have only managed to get one home once and I have another five years to go. I would love to be able to bring my kids home during the term, it would be wonderful. It would be great to see this motion get some traction; there is a definite inequity here.

Di Thomas, Eyre Branch: Hopefully this includes the western side of South Australia as well. We don't have the option of a bus as there is only one bus a week. Parents from our area drive their children as it is cheaper than flying, especially when they have more than one child. The cost of flying is horrendous and many have to drive an hour or more to get to the airport, then home, then back to the airport, then home again. It would be great to have a student concession fare for the northern and western areas of SA.

Jen Ruska, Federal Council: I hold the federal travel portfolio. I suggest the branch takes this motion to Federal. Wording is everything, we have requested to get a student discount fare, or rate, or code. I have been told for the QANTAS representative that they do not like the word "discount". You are asking for a student fare, that is different. That they would be more receptive to, so I suggest you bring this to Federal Conference.

Motion 25. SA Lone Members Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA approaches Regional Express (REX) Airlines to request they provide children accessing REX flights, to and from rural South Australian areas for education purposes, with a fixed student fare."

Moved: Anna Nunn

Seconded: Jodie Keogh

Explanation:

Rural and Remote students in South Australia deserve equal access and opportunities in education which includes travel to and from Boarding schools in regional areas. SA ICPA has 110 member families, with around half of those having children who must attend school away from home to access secondary schooling, which is most often at boarding schools in Adelaide.

We request that the possibility of a subsidised fare scheme for families who are using flights from regional centres (Coober Pedy, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Broken Hill) to transport their children to and from boarding school be explored.

Currently there is a scheme in Queensland called 'Bush to Boarding' where REX Airlines offers flights to students from: Cairns to Burketown, Doomadgee, Mt Isa, Karumba, Normanton and Mornington Island and Brisbane to St George, Cunnamulla, Thargomindah, Charleville, Bedourie/Birdsville/Boulia and Mt Isa.

These fares are offered at concessional rates and are at a capped price dependant on distance travelled. They can be booked within a fairly flexible timeframe.

We duly note REX are currently in Voluntary Administration. We are also aware it is hopeful that the Administration period will end on 30 Jun 2025 which would mean that REX will be in a position to introduce this initiative for South Australian students.

Jodie Keogh, Lone Members: This is not a new initiative; it is already in place in Queensland and would be easy enough to include South Australia.

Jen Ruska, Federal Council: I suggest again that this motion be taken to federal conference. The Albanese government have stated that as REX is in receivership they maybe purchasing REX. We can take this to government, saying you own it now there needs to be a student fare or the government can pay for them. this is a federal motion.

Motion 26. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

“That SA ICPA requests 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.”

Moved: Dani Chapman

Seconded: Helen Williams

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 are 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:

Helen Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch: A comment for the motion. Obviously, I live out from Coober Pedy, now it is my grandchildren I worry about. Yes, there is a bus that they can come home on and it is cheaper but it travels all through the night. This is not a go at the bus service, and I won't go into detail but I do know of incidences where the police have been called because of people having trouble getting on /off the bus. Another time a window got broken because someone wasn't allowed on the bus. For reasons of safety, I would not like my grandchildren, or any children on that bus.

Kirsty Williams Marla Oodnadatta Branch: I speak for the motion; it is different to the previous motion as we are asking the government to subsidise airlines to give a student fare as there are different airlines functioning in different areas of the state. Our kids can't come home for an exeat weekend if we drive unless we give them a few extra days off school. We book flights for them to come home in May, looking at \$400 one way and we have a 500km round trip just to pick them up. We go home and then have a 500km round trip to drop them off. I think it is important for other people to realise that we are just not being lazy and that we still have quite a drive ahead of us even if they do fly home. If secondary school is compulsory, then the government need to help us to get them there and back.

Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch: I'd like to speak for this motion. I live an hour and a half drive north of Port Augusta, yes, I live in the Far North, but the bottom of it. When my children were able to utilise an airfare for an exeat weekend that actually saved then over 6 hours travel time during the course of that weekend. Having that extra time meant more rest at home which set them up for greater success at school.

Jodie Keogh, Lone Members: Sending a child on a bus unaccompanied under a certain age is not even an option.

Lisa Edwards, Marree Air Branch: I have a question. Are we proposing that it is a student fare right through to university and trade school rather than restrict it to boarding school. If someone has gone away to study, they should be able to come home.

Jen Ruska, Federal Council: If you travel internationally, you get a student airfare up to 25. There is absolutely no reason, in this country, why our students have to pay full price from the age of 12. Our government has to pay for our kids' education they should at least be supplying a discount. This is another motion to bring to Federal conference. If the government they are students for our tax until they are 25, they are a student until they are 25, not independent.

Stuart Proud, Rostrevor College: Most schools term dates are the same so there are large numbers of student going in the same direction on key flights which could potentially access cheaper fares. This is how we could potentially help with that conversation and buying power to maybe access some cheaper fares and more enticing to the airlines.

SPECIFIC NEEDS

Motion 27. North East Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA State Council request the Minister for Education, Training and Skills and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to make targeted funding available for the provision of speech pathologists in rural and remote schools and in particular for distance education students."

Moved: Kristina Crawford

Seconded: Leah Beard

Explanation:

There is a general lack of speech pathologists servicing rural and remote areas (in both the education and health sectors). There is also a long-term understanding that early intervention and ongoing therapies give students the best possible chance of not 'falling through the cracks' and risking their education being compromised on an ongoing basis. Also, it is widely acknowledged that any issue affecting a student's ability to learn is exacerbated by remoteness and distance. Providing funding specifically to address this issue would go a long way to closing this particular gap.

Comment:

Tarnya Eggleton, RFDS Child Family Health Nurse: I absolutely support this motion. In my role as a health nurse, I am struggling to refer families on to speech pathology and occupational therapy. A recent conversation with a family at Innamincka who I referred to a Port Augusta agency to be told they were out of their catchment area. Some negotiations got the family virtual support but we know there is just a shortage of speech therapists and occupational therapist for rural and remote families.

Ali Alison, Federal Council: Accessing health is a huge issue across all remote and rural areas across the nation. Regular, consistent quality intervention is vital to education. I strongly urge you to bring this motion or a similar motion to Federal Conference. This is an issue that private and government funded sectors need to work together on. If you have case studies and personal stories to support your motion please include these as we can use them for our advocacy. Great motion, thank you.

Motion 28. Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

"That SA ICPA advocates to 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."

Moved: Dani Chapman

Seconded: Helen Williams

Explanation:

We thank the Minister for Health and Wellbeing for his response in 2024 regarding this matter in which he stated, *'To maintain its sustainability, PATS needs to ensure that the scheme's eligibility criteria are applied consistently and fairly for all clients.'* We believe that the current eligibility is not applied fairly to our families living very remotely. 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. A child living very remotely has a minimum of 3 days absence in one week from school, just to attend a 15-minute appointment. This is incredibly disruptive to their learning and in turn can create additional problems for the child. When able to book appointments in the city, multiple appointments can be booked in the same trip for multiple children, often during holidays or either side of the weekend, and the quantity of school day absences can be avoided. This also means only one claim for PATS is being claimed even with multiple children having appointments, rather than multiple claims. We ask that SA Health see student attendance as a priority and that 'geographically remote family' is added to the eligibility criteria.

ADMINISTRATION**Motion 29. North East Branch****CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION**

"That the North East Branch host the 2026 SA ICPA State Conference"

Moved: Leah Beard

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".

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.

MOVED: Jodie Keogh

SECONDED: Michelle Hilder

AGM Motion 4

CARRIED

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

Explanation:

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

MOVED: Jodie Keogh

SECONDED: Michelle Hilder

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's 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: Danielle 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:	Danielle Chapman, Louise Kohler
Marree Air Branch:	Ellen Litchfield
North East Branch:	Kristina Crawford, Josephine Drennan
North West Branch:	Candice Brown, Edwina Bowie
Port Augusta Branch:	Katrina Morris, Pamela Cuffe

SA ICPA 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

AGM Motion 1 CARRIED

"That the minutes of the 2024 AGM and State Conference be accepted."

MOVED: Kirsty Williams SECONDED: Hollie Williams

AGM Motion 2 CARRIED

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

MOVED: Jodie Keogh SECONDED: Dani Chapman

AGM Motion 3 CARRIED

"That the SA ICPA State Affiliation fee remains at \$25".

MOVED: Jodie Keogh SECONDED: Dani Chapman

AGM Motion 4 CARRIED

"That SA ICPA Lone Member Subs be \$50".

MOVED: Jodie Keogh SECONDED: Dani Chapman

AGM Motion 5 CARRIED

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

MOVED: Jodie Keogh SECONDED: Dani Chapman

AGM Motion 6 CARRIED

"That the suggested changes to the SA ICPA Policies document be accepted."

MOVED: Jodie Keogh SECONDED: Dani Chapman

ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2025-2026

President: Belinda Hatcher	Nominated: Katrina Morris Seconded: Edwina Bowie
Vice-President: Hollie Williams	Nominated: Kirsty Williams Seconded: Jodie Keogh
Secretary: Dani Chapman	Nominated: Helen Williams Seconded: Hollie Williams
Treasurer: Kirsty Williams	Nominated: Dani Chapman Seconded: Jodie Keogh
Publicity Officer: Ellen Litchfield	Nominated: Jessica Bell Seconded: David Bell

APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

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

SA ICPA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Belinda Hatcher

Members and guests of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association, it is with pleasure that I present my third Presidents Report at this the 2025 SA ICPA State Conference.

We started the year with the 2024 State Conference being held in Quorn and hosted by the Marla Oodnadatta branch which was a great success. Anne Scammell and Sophie Matterson were wonderful and very fitting guest speakers, all our panellists and speakers throughout the day were interesting and informative and the motions were presented and debated in a passionate and respectful manner. There was a family friendly and relaxed atmosphere at the evening events and the cricket match at the conclusion of the conference was a fitting way to end the proceedings and a good way to remind us of the core reason for ICPA – the families and the kids of rural and remote South Australia.

We held our AGM at the conclusion of conference, and we were fortunate to have an almost full state council again. Once the dust had settled after conference, State Councillor's begun working hard on drafting motion letters, gathering case studies and making a start on the key areas of advocacy that we planned to action for the year.

The key areas of focus for 2024/25 have been:

- Increasing the State Education Allowance.
- Advocating for better access to child and family health services 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.
- Access to affordable air travel for students across the state.
- Updating the constitution as well as policy documents.

Delegation was held at the end of 2024, and it was a short but sweet group of meetings attended by myself, Katrina Morris and Ian Morris. We met with Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education Training and Skills, Clare Scriven MLC, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Luke Fraser, Executive Director of Strategic Policy and External Relations, Department for Education.

Our meeting with Minister Boyer was at a café in Port Adelaide and the casual nature of it was a welcome change. We discussed an increase to the SEA, a subsidy for DE supervisors, bus drivers and SSO's in schools as well as housing for teachers and SSO's in country areas. He was engaged and interested in our advocacy and said that whilst we may not always get the outcome we are hoping for, that our voice and issues are being heard and that we should not stop asking for what our members are requesting. He then took time to outline the new technical colleges being built in metro and regional SA. The regional based colleges, one of which will be in Port Augusta will have live in facilities for yr 10, 11 and 12 for blocks of practical learning. Whilst they are not 'boarding' facilities as such, they will be of great benefit for regional and remote children from across the state. Especially if, as we requested, they bring an agricultural / pastoral course into the learning available. Mr Boyer was committed to attending the 2025 State Conference and we are grateful to welcome him here today even if it is only for a brief time.

We had an encouraging meeting with Minister Scriven and we were able to reiterate the deep connection that education has with people who live and work in the agricultural sector and she agreed that it was important to maintain communication with her office and that should we need support with actioning motions and members needs to please get in touch. Our last meeting was with Luke Fraser from the Department for Education, and it was valuable in outlining what the core purpose of ICPA was and how the organisation supports families in rural and remote SA access equitable educational opportunities for their children. He was quite unfamiliar with ICPA at the beginning of the meeting, but by the end there was no doubt he had a good grasp of who we were and who our members are and was very receptive to all the things we spoke about.

Ian and Katrina's daughter Bonnie was the 'mascot' for SA ICPA during our meetings and it was great to have Minister Boyer witness and take particular note of how she was sitting quietly while reading a novel during our meeting. This was such a positive reflection on how amazing our bush educated kids are and the very reason why we were meeting with him in the first place.

Earlier last year, State Council were lucky enough to receive two grants, that were designed to support State Council in holding a face-to-face meeting and workshops designed to improve the skills of all councillors. After a few months of planning, eight State Councillors met in Clare from the 29th to the 31st of May. We held our meeting on the first night and had the councillors who could not be in Clare with us join in on zoom. As well as conducting a meeting we also took part in a public speaking workshop, a meet and greet with the Member for Frome Penny Pratt and in the afternoon, we participated in a targeted strategic planning session.

It was especially special to have young Willa and baby Albie join us with their mums, who were a constant reminder of why we do what we do and why it is so important to hold these types of events. Their presence embodies the future of our communities and highlights the significance of valuing and strengthening the commitment of our volunteers. Each generation builds upon the work of those who came before, and it is moments like these that remind us of the impact we are making today for the children and families of tomorrow.

Unfortunately, due to station commitments I was unable to attend the 53rd Federal Conference in Sydney and I know I missed an excellent few days. Thanks to everyone who went from SA, especially to Hollie and Jodie for representing our state council. Congratulations to Louise, Federal Council, and the NSW State Council for putting on such a successful conference. South Australia moved a motion during conference to host the 2025 Federal Conference and it was carried with acclamation. Fast forward to the present time and Mija Reynolda and Edwina Bowie, as conference convenors along with the convening committee have been busy with the plans for this year's Federal Conference, which is in being held in Adelaide on the 30th and 31st of July. The details are coming together, and it is shaping up to be an excellent showcase for all thing South Australian. Keep an eye out on socials and in your email for details as they come to light.

Federal Council have been very busy this year and I look forward to hearing all that Jenn Ruska has to report later today when she gives us a Federal Council update. We continue to thank them for all their hard work. I would also like to thank Judy Newton, Louise Winton and Nikki McQueen - database manager, Federal Membership Officer and Federal Webmaster, as well as the rest of the ICPA Tech Team for all their dedication in getting the memberships as well as the database and website running smoothly and for ironing out any problems that have arisen. The website and database are still works in progress so if any members find themselves having trouble, please do not hesitate to get in touch with them via the email icpatechteam@icpa.com.au.

We were reminded in September last year that working together as a collective organisation across all three tiers of ICPA is important and can be of great benefit to our members. We were approached by a member from a branch saying they were having trouble accessing the AIC for their student who had started school as part of the midyear reception intake. In collaboration with Federal Council, the issue was quickly identified, remedied and now all students who begin their formal primary school education and who meet all the other criteria for AIC, are eligible for their allowance from the first term they start school.

In February of this year, Dani Chapman and I attended a joint council meeting in Perth. 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 Kelly and Louise from Federal Council. It was great to catch up with familiar faces as well as to get to know those weren't so familiar. We discussed things such as the website and memberships; the flow of information across states; the roll out of Brevo: cost sharing; Federal Conference; a home tutor allowance and many more. As always you quickly learn at these meetings that while our states may vary in number of members and council structures, the needs of our members are always the same and the reason why these catch ups are vital for the organisation.

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. Our social media pages as well as the website are great tools that allow members to access and view information that they need to in regard to all things ICPA. Thank you to Lisa Slade and Ellen Litchfield who in their roles as Webmaster and Publicity Officer have kept members up to date with current news and information.

I want to take the time to say thank you and farewell to Lisa Slade who is stepping down from her role as Webmaster and therefore effectively ending her time as part of the SA ICPA State Council family. Lisa has been a steadying hand for SA ICPA throughout her many years on State Council as well as just being a good friend who was always available for advice or just a chat. Her knowledge of all things ICPA was endless and we will miss her immensely. All the best Lisa as you dedicate more time to yourself and your family.

Thank you and farewell to our outgoing state councillor Candice Brown who has been a North West representative for several years now. Thank you and farewell to Jodie Keogh, State Treasurer who after many years on State Council has decided to step down from her role. We will miss her input and wish her all the best as she spends her time with both her feet in one state and supporting her young family's educational path. I would also like to acknowledge Hollie Williams, who isn't leaving state council just yet but who is finishing up her tenure as State Secretary. Thanks Hollie and we are glad you are sticking around for a bit longer. Finally, a big thank you to all of this year's State Council for all their hard work over the last 12 months.

Over the past 12 years that I have been involved with SA ICPA, I have witnessed the ebb and flow of membership numbers, the evolution of branches, and the growth of children and families within our community. Despite these changes, the core mission of helping members access the most equitable educational opportunities has remained steadfast. Branches that were once full of SOTA kids are now supporting kids away at boarding school or just starting out at kindy and others who only had boarding school kids are now full of kids at uni or starting SOTA. This diversity and range within our membership is a testament to the ever-changing landscape of education, and it's one that we can only navigate together. We rely on you to share your case studies, stories, and the unique needs of your families so that we can continue to support this wide-ranging community. Your local branches, as well as state and federal councils, are always available to assist with anything—whether it's a small question or a larger issue.

SA ICPA, with the support of our valued stakeholders, are eager to address the diverse needs of our members in the coming year. We are committed to supporting our families in every way we can. Please enjoy today and safe travels when you leave as you make your way 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 second and final Treasurer's Report for SA ICPA. I have thoroughly enjoyed the role this year after finding my feet in the first year. Once again, many changes have again happened in the Treasurer and Membership space however I have appreciated the challenges it has brought.

I would like to thank the Executive Belinda, Hollie, Kirsty and Ellen and all I have worked with throughout this year, it is very rewarding being part of a such a dynamic team.

My report includes the audited Financial Statement for the year 2024 and the unaudited Interim Report from 01/01/2025 to the 28/02/2025.

SA ICPA made a profit of \$6682.00 for the 2024 year.

At the end of 2024 we had a bank account balance of \$67660.05

Federal Affiliation fees this year are set at \$25.00, with State Affiliation fees also \$25.00. A reminder to branches that any branch affiliation fee increases (or decreases) set at your AGM's this year come into effect on 01/01/2026.

Marla Oodnadatta Branch held a very successful conference which resulted in a profit of \$4564.46 to State Council. Thank you to those branches who convene State Conference 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.

In addition, The Oodnadatta Racing & Horse Sports Club generously donated \$2000 to State Council. Many of these members are the same people in the Marla Oodnadatta branch. They are a very proactive branch, and we thank their members for their financial support to State Council.

SA ICPA were grateful to receive the second part of our 3-year Operational Grant from the Department for Education of \$15375.00. 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. This was received in November, and we are thankful to the Department for Education to help support our organisation in our advocacy.

We finalised the OCA, Thriving Communities Grant in partnership with Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S and the handbook developed has been distributed to our members. As a State Council we look forward to implementing the ideas in this handbook and also seeing these ideas being taken back to other community organisations that our members are also a part of.

I would also like to acknowledge Beach Energy who granted us \$6000 towards upskilling our councillors and allowing us the funds to attend a face to face workshop in Clare. This was greatly beneficial, and we look forward to continuing these workshops into the future.

State Council has been continuing to use Zoom to meet for regular meetings. We are investigating other meeting software that may be able to better suit our needs and Microsoft Teams is looking to be a better collaborative solution.

Federal Conference was held in Sydney, NSW at Dolton House on 30th & 31st July 2024. Hollie Williams and I attended on behalf of State Council, alongside other members from SA with branches represented including North West, Flinders Ranges and Port Augusta. We were thrilled that State Life Member and North West Branch Life Member, Jill Greenfield was nominated for Federal Council and we have some SA representation at this level – congratulations Jill! Federal Conference is always very informative, inspiring and educational. Excellent dinners and activities were also offered, which is so important, allowing us to connect with other ICPA members from throughout the country on an informal level.

SA President Belinda Hatcher and State Councillor Katrina Morris, along with Ian Morris attended

delegation in Adelaide on 1st & 2nd December 2024. Meetings were held with Hon. Blair Boyer Minister for Education and Training, Minister Clare Scrivens Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and Luke Fraser from the Department for Education. These were good opportunities to meet face to face and discuss the issues affecting our members. Myself, Hollie Williams, Edwina Bowie and Pamela Cuffe were able to join in on Zoom for two meetings.

The rolling membership model started mid-January with some hiccups, but these have been ironed out. This gives members 12 months of membership from the date that they renew or join, which can be at any time during the year. Unfortunately, the auto renewal feature has hit some hurdles and is yet to be implemented. The workload of the Federal Membership team has been huge, and we thank them for their hard work.

I urge you to direct any issues joining or renewing online to the ICPA Tech Team. This is a dedicated team within ICPA who are there to help you with any membership issues and will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours. I also want to encourage all branches to accept manual memberships as a last resort and encourage online memberships. The ICPA Tech Team can be contacted by email on ICPATechteam@icpa.com.au

Mid North Accounting were engaged to carry out the review of the SA ICPA financials for the 2024 year. Again, they were very professional, and the process ran smoothly. The reports were well presented and received on schedule.

For the 2024 membership year 133 membership families either renewed or joined.

We have 6 School Corporate Members and 4 Federal Corporate Members for the 2024 year. This enables these members to receive all State and Territory Publications.

BRANCH REPORTS

MARREE AIR BRANCH

President: Lucy Morphet

Now that we are in 2025, we can look back on a busy and productive year for members of our branch. Our members have been actively involved in various events and initiatives, contributing their time and effort to support our community and one another. It has been relatively dry for most of our branch members, with some receiving good falls of rain earlier in the year, while others continue to await much-needed rainfall.

A special highlight this year was hosting lunch for 105 adventurers on 8th May, who were participating in the Variety SA Northern Flinders Dreaming 4WD trip. The event took place at Dulkaninna Campground, with perfect autumn weather making it a memorable day. Thanks to the generous donation of scotch fillet from Rangers Valley Beef, our steak burgers were a hit with travellers. We are grateful to have been approached for this opportunity, as fundraising events like this are essential for our branch.

As always, our families are facing significant changes in schooling, with children moving into new educational stages. Some of our youngest members will begin their schooling journeys in 2025, while others, like Sydney Litchfield from Mt Lyndhurst Station, who will be attending Scotch College, and Cody Bell from Dulkaninna Station, who will be heading to Westminster School, are preparing for boarding school life. This is a big change for these families, with both boys being the first to go away to school. We are sure they will embrace the new experiences and opportunities that boarding school life will offer them.

As we head into 2025, we remain committed to supporting our members in their educational pursuits and advocating for the needs of remote families. A heartfelt thank you to all our members for their continued support and involvement in our branch activities. Your contributions are valued and appreciated.

FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH

President: Michelle Hilder

The Flinders Ranges Branch have welcomed three member families to our Branch throughout the year with a total family membership of twenty-six for 2024. Thanks to you all for your contributions and the support you give to the branch throughout the year.

The Branch had only held one fundraising event for the year. A big thank you to Sonya Fels and Sharon McInnis for taking the lead on organising the BBQ and Cheese Platter Stall which was held at the Annual Hawker Races on Saturday, 25th May 2024. Also, thanks to anyone who may have contributed in any way with helping on the day, providing food and making donations.

The 2024 SA ICPA State Conference, "Making Tracks on Education", was held in the Town Hall at Quorn, on Friday, 22nd March 2024 which was hosted by the Marla Oodnadatta Branch. We were represented by members of the Branch, Belinda Hatcher, SA ICPA President, Mija Reynolds and Lisa Slade (delegates), Sonya Fels, Michelle Hilder and Bek Rasheed. 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 final result was amazing.

Belinda Hatcher was re-elected as State President at the AGM. Our Branch representatives on State Council for the 2024 year were Mija Reynolds and myself. Mija Reynolds continued her stellar job as the Pipeline editor and publisher for the year, compiling an informative magazine for members exceptionally well. Lisa Slade continued to carry out her role as State Webmaster (an off-Council position) for the 2024 year. This has kept Lisa very busy ensuring that the website was updated regularly with all SA ICPA happenings. It is pleasing to see our branch continues to be well represented at a state level.

Federal Conference was held in Sydney on the 24th and 25th July 2024. We were lucky enough to have our branch represented by Mija Reynolds and Tracey Dewell who attended as our delegates.

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

President – Michelle Hilder

Secretary – Not filled

Treasurer – Rachael Hilder

Publicity Officer – Jo Ridsdale

State Council Delegates: Mija Reynolds and Michelle Hilder

Thanks to Sonya Fels for keeping our members in touch with the goings on of ICPA and to Rachael Hilder for keeping our finances in order.

Thanks also to Jo Ridsdale for her work in sending information through to be published in The Pipeline newsletter, Pedals magazine and promoting the branches activities and events. To Mija Reynolds as one of our State Council representatives, who attends State Council meetings regularly and reports anything back to the Branch as required.

Finally, a big thanks to the branch members who help out and attend our meetings when required. We cannot operate efficiently without your input.

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.

Our Branch has been busy throughout the year in preparation for hosting the Conference today.

I have enjoyed working as a Co-Convenor with Lisa Slade and want to thank her for her tireless dedication, time and effort put towards organising today. We thank you all for attending and for your support given to our rural and remote children and families.

May 2025 be a very wet, productive and enjoyable year for all of us.

NORTH WEST BRANCH

President: Edwina Bowie

For all the SAICPA members and die-hard readers of *The Pipeline*, I'm sure some of you are rolling your eyes, hoping this won't turn into a 10-page epic. And for the rest, be prepared for a scintillating read! I'll do my best to stick to the important stuff in this, my first, North West President's Report.

So, surprise, surprise - I've made it to the top job! I'm now the President of the North West branch, and I hope I can do as well as those who have come before me. I'll certainly try my hardest, but I might be a little late from time to time!

At the end of 2024, North West members and their families, along with some of the Marla-Oodnadatta branch families, came together for our annual Christmas tree event held this year at Mabel Creek Station, generously hosted by the lovely Dani and Corey Chapman. A huge thanks to Dani and Corey for organising and hosting this fantastic event. During the event, we held our AGM, and the following people were elected to these positions:

President: Edwina Bowie

Secretary: Petie Rankin

Treasurer: Candice Brown

Publicity Officer: Bobbi-Lou Martin

State Council Delegates: Edwina Bowie and Petie Rankin

Life Members: Joanna Gibson, Jill Greenfield, and Lorraine Greenfield

A special thanks goes to Candice Brown for her time as our president. We know Candice is always juggling many balls, and we want to send her our very best for her six years of service as a State Council delegate and for her time as president. Thanks so much Candice, we're also grateful for you stepping into the role of treasurer.

And to our outgoing magnificent treasurer, Megan Henderson of Mt Vivian Station, thank you so much. Megan was elected as Treasurer at Bon Bon Station on 27th November 2010. Her incredible decade-plus span of punching numbers and tireless dedication to the North West books has been greatly appreciated. Megan, you are the absolute essence of what makes the North West so special and what helps to make us feel connected, despite the vast distances between us. Thanks so very, very much, Megan.

I also want to slip in here a special thanks to Joanna Gibson of Yudnapinna Station. Jo is such a wonderful member of our branch, and we are so lucky to always have her on hand to edit anything and everything. Without you, Jo, this booklet wouldn't read as fluently or grammatically, your keen eye and attention to detail are truly appreciated.

In July 2024, Jill Greenfield and I attended the ICPA Federal Conference in Sydney, where the North West branch presented three motions. The first addressed Youth Allowance and the long wait times for Services Australia assistance. The other two motions focused on tertiary education: one called for the Minister to investigate the true costs associated with remote students completing compulsory placements during their degrees, while the other sought to fast-track Commonwealth Prac Payments. All three motions were carried, which marks a positive step forward for these important issues.

A special congratulations goes to Jill Greenfield, who was nominated and accepted a federal position while in Sydney!

The North West branch is embracing all stages of education, with members' children spanning from babies to SOTA kids, boarding school students, and those pursuing further education and tertiary study.

There has been much joy in the North West with the arrival of several new babies in 2024. Megan and David Henderson welcomed their second grandchild, while Jill and Col Greenfield celebrated the arrival of their very first. Shona Amos and Toby Crowell also welcomed their second daughter, Keely, in January this current year.

Our members' children are growing so fast, with many now attending boarding school in Adelaide. Currently with children away are the Willis family of Arcoona Station, the Rankin family of The Twins Station, and my own Matheson brood of Wilgena Station. We wish them all the best this year, all being so very far away from home.

Congratulations are in order for Anna Greenfield of Billa Kalina Station, who successfully completed a Master of Learning and Teaching (Primary) online through the University of Southern Queensland and Charlie Gibson from Yudnapinna Station, who completed his Certificate III in Mobile Plant Technology while working FIFO at a mine in Queensland. And I'm proud to announce that my eldest son, Max, completed Year 12 in 2024.

The Glendambo Gymkhana, held in October, was once again a great success with more than 350 attendees. A huge effort from the North West branch and everyone involved made it a fun-filled, family-friendly weekend. A special thanks to our branch secretary, Petie Rankin, who was the MC extraordinaire and always does such a fantastic job. It's such a joy to see the community come together at this event, albeit a bit dusty and sometimes prickly.

This year, the North West branch's fundraising efforts will take the form of catering for the Variety Club SA event, which Petie is very kindly hosting at The Twins Station.

We are all hoping for some rain in the North West; it's been quite dry these past 12 months. I have my fingers and toes crossed that once our sheds have clipped the last of the wool, we'll see the skies open up and the rain pour down.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Flinders Ranges branch for hosting the 2025 SA ICPA State Conference.

PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH

President: Katrina Morris

Despite the dry conditions across most of our branch, we've had a busy year representing ICPA.

We've been fortunate to experience both the charm of our country towns and the vibrancy of city life. Starting with last year's inspiring conference in Quorn, the warm hospitality and strong sense of community, created the perfect setting for discussions on the unique challenges and triumphs of rural education. Thank you to the Marla Oodnadatta branch for such a great conference. This was followed by an equally rewarding Federal ICPA conference in Sydney, where we explored the bustling city landscape. The contrast between these two locations highlighted the diverse environments in which our children learn and grow.

Ian and I also had the opportunity to attend delegation in Adelaide, with our mascot, Bonnie, in tow. It was a great chance to ensure ICPA remains on the agenda and to remind decision-makers that we're still here, working hard to educate our kids.

Our branch has been well represented across all areas of the ICPA community. From families with newborns to those navigating university, vocational training, second homes, primary and high school education, and the challenges of boarding school. Our members' experiences reflect the many stages of a child's educational journey.

As I often say, our branch—like many others—is actively involved in various committees, with members working tirelessly to fundraise for our community. The latest event, the Winter Wonderland Ball, was a testament to this dedication. In true outback fashion, we held it on a sweltering 40°C day! It was heartwarming to see the kids so involved in the setup—hanging snowflakes, cleaning chairs, and even taking on waitressing duties, all while belting out Let It Go and pretending, they were in the movie. Watching them work together was a beautiful reminder of how these events strengthen our community bonds.

Even our “big kids” returned, and now that they're old enough, they finally got to experience the ball themselves. I love that we can continue hosting events that bring us together, not just to celebrate, but to connect and keep our community spirit alive. Whether it's a ball, a gymkhana, a cricket match, or a conference, these gatherings remind us of the importance of staying connected. It makes my heart especially happy during the dry times at home.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Federal Conference in Adelaide in July, there are some wonderful things planned.

MARLA OODNADATTA BRANCH

President: Kirsty Williams

2024 saw a somewhat hit-and-miss season with rainfall being fairly patchy. We can only hope that with the hot weather the rain is building up and on its way! It feels the weeks are getting busier and the years are getting shorter as we all try and fit so many things in throughout the year, be it gymkhanas, bronco brandings, campdrafts, cricket matches, school events, workshops, conferences, Christmas parties and the list goes on.

In our area, we had a new baby with a huge congratulations going to the Fennell family of Wintinna on their newest addition, Mary-May. No doubt Honey-May, Beau and Loretta-May are the perfect adoring older siblings.

This year on the schooling front, we had a few big changes for families with a number of kids ending their primary years with SOTA and heading off to boarding school. Magenta Williams (Nilpinna Station)

is Private Boarding and attending Orroroo Area School, PJ Vermeulen (Todmorden Station) is at Burra Area School, Lucy Williams (The Peake Station) is at Seymour College and Aaron Hayes (Arckaringa Station) is at Prince Alfred College. This year will be the last year for George Williams (The Peake) in Year 6 on School of the Air before he too embarks on his secondary school journey. Joining her 2 siblings in the schoolroom is Loretta-May Fennell (Wintinna Station) who has started kindly through RICE.

Convening the 2024 State Conference saw the majority of our (female) members in attendance and I cannot thank such a great group of people to help pull the day together. It was well-attended and the feedback was amazing. The cricket match after conference meant more men enjoyed the festivities also.

Federal Conference in Sydney was attended by Hollie Williams on behalf of State Council. Both Hollie and Kirsty Williams are on the convening committee for this years' federal Conference being held in Adelaide, which we hope many of our branch members will attend.

This month, our Branch had a face-to-face meeting in Oodnadatta prior to the local 20/20 cricket match, with the option to log in via zoom being available. At this meeting, the following were elected:

President: Kirsty Williams

Secretary: Frankie Fennell

Treasurer: Helen Williams

Publicity Officer: Chantelle Williams

State Council Delegates: Hollie Williams and Louise Kohler

2024 saw an influx of members for our branch now with 15 member families. It was a big year with convening State Conference, launching our Branch Cookbook and catering for a large Sh*tbox Rally. 2025 does not look like it is going to be a lot different with another Rally on the horizon to cater for 500 people. A lot of work but such a valuable fundraiser. The cookbook has been a huge success selling over 500 copies already and having them stocked at the William Creek pub, Marla and Cadney roadhouses, Wadlata and at The Big Winch in Coober Pedy. A huge thank you must go to Chantelle for pulling this together and to our branch for believing in the idea and getting on board.

Lastly, a huge thank you to Hollie Williams who has worked tirelessly in the role of State Secretary for the past 4 years. She is incredibly thorough and has given countless hours to ICPA ensuring documents are succinct and done in a timely fashion. We wish Dani Chapman, another MO Branch Member all the best in the role, with big shoes to fill.

EYRE BRANCH

President: Di Thomas

Hello everyone and welcome to 2025.

It has been a particularly dry year for us out on Eyre, and we've faced some challenges. The conditions have been tough, with lots of dust and very little moisture, which has even kept the flies away. We're hoping for a better season ahead, with fingers crossed for some much-needed rain.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, Jessica and Angus Gunn, as well as Ainsley Kloeden and Tyron Fox. Both Ainsley and Tyron bring experience with dusty buses, long trips, and rural schools, which will be a great asset to our group.

At our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM), all positions were re-elected, with the same team continuing in their roles from last year. John Duncan remains as President, and I will continue my dual role as Secretary/Treasurer along with State Council Delegate.

After a lengthy and complicated process, we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with our internet banking setup. Special thanks to Sondra Kessell for making the trip to Ceduna to complete

her ID as the second bank signatory. Once that was done, I took the necessary paperwork to the Ceduna branch, only to find the bank closed due to a staff shortage. On a return visit, I was informed that I had been given the wrong paperwork, but I was able to secure an appointment with the Bank Manager that same day. After spending an hour with the manager, we finally sorted out the correct forms. We are now hopeful that we can soon begin using internet banking.

This time last year, I had the privilege of attending the annual State Conference in Quorn, which took place in the beautiful, historic Town Hall. The conference was highly productive, with all motions passing after valuable discussions. The issues addressed that were directly relevant to our branch and included:

The employment of bus drivers and the bureaucratic challenges involved in obtaining and maintaining a bus license in rural areas.

The ongoing maintenance of rural roads.

Student airfares.

In May, I had the opportunity to attend a two-day face-to-face meeting and workshop in Clare. It was an excellent chance to further develop my advocacy skills for equality of education for rural and remote children. The workshop, which was held in the scenic and chilly Clare Valley, provided a great environment to connect with the wonderful ladies on the State Council and strengthen our friendships. This workshop was made possible by Beach Energy and Nutrien, for which we are very grateful.

Looking ahead, I will be attending the 2025 conference solo again this year. I am pleased to share that I will be presenting two motions, which were prepared by one of our newer members, Emma Whillas. I would like to thank Emma for her hard work and dedication in putting these motions together, as well as our State President and Secretary for their ongoing support.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Flinders Rangers Branch for hosting this year's State Conference. I would also like to wish everyone all the best for the year ahead. Here's hoping the rain tumbles down soon, bringing relief and renewal to our land.

NORTH EAST BRANCH

President: Leisa Breeding

Another year has quickly passed and, as I look back at the last 12 months, our branch kids are starting to grow up quickly.

Ella Crawford graduated from Broken Hill SOTA. She received the Darren Zander Memorial Award and started Year 8 as a Boarder at Westminster School. Charlotte Drennan started at Clare High school in Year 8 and Micah Beard is studying Year 8 through Open Access. Congratulations to Micah for receiving the Principals Award at Port Augusta SOTA.

We have students studying at both Broken Hill and Port Augusta School of the Air, two day students in Adelaide and two day students in Burra. It is also great to see the Goyder Boarding House in Burra with six students this year.

The Yunta Gymkhana and Motorkhana was again a popular, successful event in 2024, along with the wool show at Yunta, the Olary Christmas Party and the Burra Christmas Fair to wrap 2024 up.

It would be nice if we could get some consistent rains this year across the state, good rains do lift everything in the bush.

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 Flinders Ranges Branch for hosting the 2025 SA ICPA State Conference.

SA LONE MEMBER BRANCH

Hollie Williams

The Lones membership consists of people/families that do not belong to a specific local branch but still wish to support SA ICPA and geographically isolated family's education. We encourage all SA members to mention becoming a SA ICPA Lone Member to anyone you think would be interested and benefit from joining the Lones.

SA Lone Members are continuing to receive regular communication on any relevant ICPA news as it comes in. In 2024, Lones had 12 member families and our members are based in the Wheatbelt Region WA, South West Corner QLD, Gammon Ranges, Carrieton, Fowlers Bay, Marion Bay, Limestone Coast Region and Adelaide. Amongst the Lones Members are 6 boarding school students, 2 Distance Ed students and 1 Preschool student.

At the ICPA State Conference in Quorn last year the Lone Members Branch presented a motion to lobby the South Australian Department for Education to provide a subsidy to assist with having a supervisor for children studying via Distance Education (DE). State Council advised that the education minister indicated the need to supervise students studying DE and the burden that this places on families and that he welcomed SA ICPA to meet with the department to discuss this issue further. A motion in the AGM saw the Lones membership fee increased from \$45 to \$50, to allow an even split of \$25 going to state and federal councils.

I would like to thank the Lone members that continue to help in whatever capacity they can. From contributing to Pipeline / Pedals content, to a reply from an email or volunteering to be a delegate at conference. Special thanks to Georgie Ewing who continues to support SA ICPA with her off council position as Revise Representative and Anna Nunn for compiling the 2024 and 2025 digital report.

Lone Member Jodie Keogh will hang up her boots at the 2025 AGM from two years as State Treasurer along with many years as a state councillor. Jodie has been a great asset to the SA ICPA State Council and executive team, she will be greatly missed for her valued insights and her diligent, speedy and wise contributions. It will also end her 9-year consecutive term as a State Councillor; we are thankful that Jodie and her family will continue to be Lone Members.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

BOARDING SCHOOLS, SCHOOL TERM HOSTELS & SECOND HOME

Hollie Williams and Ellen Litchfield

SA ICPA members have 39 children studying secondary education, either away from their families at boarding school (32) or in a second home (7). Access to secondary education is a legal necessity however for most of our children, they also need to leave their remote home for a large country town or the city. This means going to boarding school or splitting the family into a second home are the only options. These options impact on our families' mental wellbeing because of the emotional and financial toll they take.

SA ICPA would like to thank all SA boarding and Agriculture Schools who are in attendance today and who continue to be a supporter of SA ICPA. Along with the schools we acknowledge Richard Stokes from ABSA for his ongoing commitment to ICPA and welcome Amanda from Boarding Schools Expo for the first time.

Four motions were presented at last year's state conference relating to the Boarding Schools, Hostels and Second Home Portfolio. State Council took action on all these motions with letters, providing supporting documents and discussing issues at delegation meetings. There was ongoing correspondence throughout the year to advocate for these matters.

The State Education Allowance (SEA) continues to be at the forefront due to the ever rapidly increasing boarding fees coupled with the cost of living crisis. State Council tabulated the SEA payments per term and per year from 2019 - 2024, documenting the increase with CPI per year. However, boarding costs for all options from private, state government school or renting a house has increased at a much faster rate. Adelaide boarding school fees have risen \$2694.40 (boarding component only) from 2021 to 2024 but SEA has only increased \$763.02. It is important that we keep advocating for the SEA to better reflect the cost of boarding schools.

Concerns were raised with SA boarding schools and ABSA regarding access and availability of boarding for year 7 students who are geographically isolated and a proposed designated ICPA bursary at each school/college. Correspondence received showed that they now have a better understanding of the challenges that come with schooling ICPA children. All SA Boarding schools were invited to become SA ICPA Lone Members so they can be kept abreast of challenges/impacts our families face, along with stories and achievements. To date, we haven't had any new boarding schools become members but Prince Alfred College continues to be a member.

Fourteen motions were presented and passed at Federal Conference in Sydney. Federal council have collated boarding/hostels/second home member information to use in their advocacy. In ICPA Australia's pre-budget submission there was a call on the Federal Government to commit funds to increase the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding and Second Home Allowances.

SA ICPA supports Federal Council with their efforts to have the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) increased. Disparity between the boarding allowance and the cost of sending a child to boarding school continues to grow. This exacerbates the financial strain many of our members are facing to afford compulsory secondary education for their children. In 2025 the following increases will apply Basic Boarding Allowance has increased by 3.79% to \$10,338; the Additional Boarding Allowance has increased by 3.81% to \$2,965. Amber Driver is the federal council lead and is dedicated to this issue, SA ICPA will continue working with her and helping Federal Council where we can.

I would like to conclude this report by urging you to research boarding schools (if this is your child's path) years in advance. The internet is a marvellous place and a great way to investigate potential boarding schools, a good first step in deciding if they are the right fit for your family. These webpages give you a good sense of the school and you can find things such as a virtual tour, scholarship and bursary information, academic and sporting opportunities, fees as well as boarding information. Whilst you are here make sure to speak with the many boarding schools who have sent staff to our state conference this year.

Alternatively, if you have any questions in the field of Boarding Schools, Hostels or Second Homes please reach out, the SA ICPA State Council are happy to help you in any of these fields.

COMMUNICATIONS

Pamela Cuffe and Dani Chapman

Over the past 12 months, the communications portfolio has remained relatively quiet, with minimal issues reported. This year, Dani Chapman joined as a seconder, providing valuable support in what is now my third year leading this portfolio.

Starlink continues to establish itself as a key internet provider across much of South Australia, addressing communication challenges effectively. Over the past six months, the company has introduced additional data packages, as well as a new mini hardware setup that can be used in transit. This has been a significant advancement for remote contractors, transport companies, and station owners, allowing them to stay connected while working away from homesteads. Current Starlink pricing includes a roaming option with 50GB of data for \$80 per month, an unlimited roaming option for \$195 per month, and an unlimited residential plan for \$139 per month, with a one-time hardware cost of \$549.

Telstra remains a vital service for regional and remote Australians, particularly for those relying on mobile networks. However, Telstra has recommended that remote students prioritize fixed internet connections such as those provided by NBN or Starlink. This approach not only reduces reliance on the mobile network during planned outages but also alleviates data congestion, ensuring better connectivity for all users. The Isolated Children's and Parents' Association (ICPA) continue to work closely with Telstra to address connectivity challenges affecting remote families, particularly those relying on telecommunications for distance education.

The growing presence of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) internet services is providing significant advantages for rural and remote communities, particularly in the education sector. One of the most notable benefits is the ability to support low-latency videoconferencing, which is becoming increasingly important for distance learning. While global providers are beginning to offer LEO internet plans in Australia, many do not yet provide adequate local support. NBN Co is currently exploring opportunities to integrate these services under the NBN banner, and ICPA believes it is crucial for NBN Co to take a proactive approach in shaping the future of LEO internet rather than allowing private companies to dictate its availability and structure in Australia. The NBN Co Ltd Statement of Expectations 2022 highlights the importance of forward-thinking network planning, particularly regarding the transition of satellite services and the adoption of emerging technologies. It emphasizes that NBN Co should play an active role in supporting the security and resilience of Australia's telecommunications sector. As international companies enter the market, it is essential that data security and service reliability remain a priority, ensuring that Australians have access to dependable and high-quality internet services.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our federal counterparts for their continued advocacy and dedication in supporting connectivity solutions for remote and geographically isolated communities. Their efforts remain invaluable in ensuring that all Australians, regardless of location, have access to reliable communication services.

DISTANCE EDUCATION (DE)

Kirsty Williams

At last year's conference, seven motions were brought to the table. Three were carried, two were deemed covered and one was withdrawn. A floor motion was presented and carried. Issues raised included

- Adding Geographically Isolated remote families to PATS Guidelines

- Distance Education Home Supervisor Subsidy (3 Motions)
- Need to provide SSO in remote classrooms
- An increase in travel amount per km provided to SOTA families
- Inclusion of RICE in the new RFDS Building (along with SOTA)

The idea of Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) has been discussed in length by Federal Council over the past year due to the little traction it has gained over recent years, despite constant focus. Given that many DE school policies state that their programs are not designed for students to teach themselves and must be supervised, it is worth the continued advocacy but looking from a different angle such as the below outline is being investigated by Federal Council;

1) That the Commonwealth government recognises Geographically Isolated students as a priority cohort and adds a 5th student-based loading to the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), i.e. Geographically Isolated student loading.

There are currently 4 student- based loadings in the SRS: student with disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, socio-educational disadvantage loading, low-English proficiency loading.

2) If the 5th student-based loading is added, the request is that the Department calculates the GI loading for each school, every year, based on the actual geographical location of where the student resides and is being educated. The GI loading then directs more funds to the state and to the school that student is enrolled at.

3) The student's DE school receives the funding, calculated on the GI student-based loading, based on their actual geographical location. The student's DE school directs that funding to employing (or paying an allowance to) the GI student's supervisor (this could be a paid supervisor or the Mum) to deliver the course of study set by their DE school teacher.

We thank our very own SA member Jill Greenfield for all her time and efforts in this space and for flying the flag at a Federal Level for SA ICPA.

In School of the Air (SOTA) news, this year there are 32 enrolled students at SOTA in R-6. We welcome Rachael Russel into the Head of Campus role and a new Year 1/2 teacher. SOTA is without a full-time Student Support Officer (SSO) based on campus in Port Augusta after a number of unsuccessful recruitment attempts.

The SOTA year started with Induction week held in Week 2 in Port Augusta. 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 Canberra Year 5/6 Camp (Term 2, April 28 - May 2), School Camp in the Adelaide Hills at Woodhouse (Term 2, 30th June - 4 July), Mini Schools at Coober Pedy (Term 3, 22 - 26 September) and Get-Together in Port Augusta (Term 4, 4-6 December).

The new SOTA building (incorporated into the new RFDS building) has begun to take shape with the hope that SOTA will move early next year. Thank you to Julie Taylor for supporting this idea and seeing it through the way she has.

Mid-year intake at Kindy and Reception levels have continued to roll out putting additional pressures on DE schools and families in regard to staffing and supervision. We encourage families to put forward a case study on the costs associated with regard to the extra terms of schooling/kindy and the expenses incurred.

We thank ICPA Australia for their continued work in the DE realm and congratulations on the creation of RRED day, let's hope it continues to grow and grow ensuring further recognition and exposure over the years to come. For those wanting further details on the great work that ICPA has done in the Distance Education arena, the ICPA website has information on current issues that Federal Council have been pursuing.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Edwina Bowie

As I sit down to write this report, I can't help but feel like the White Rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland* - running late, out of breath, and just managing to keep on top of everything. This perfectly reflects the whirlwind of my work commitments and the reality of being a mother to a 2-and-a-half-year-old, alongside older children in boarding school and out of school, while living in remote and isolated conditions with limited access to services.

This portfolio details the vital importance of early childhood education and care - the critical years between birth and five - and how, in situations like mine, this responsibility often rests squarely on the shoulders of mothers. It is so important that we continue to ensure that, despite the challenges, remote and isolated children and families receive the same opportunities, services, and support as those in urban areas.

The early childhood sector is experiencing exciting developments, and while these advancements are surging ahead, we must ensure that rural and isolated children are not left behind. Without equal access to quality education and care, we risk further deepening the divide between our city and regional counterparts, leaving our children potentially disconnected when they enter mainstream schooling systems.

The past year in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) has been one of both progress and challenge, with dedicated efforts at both the federal and state levels to improve access, funding, and recognition for early childhood education services, particularly in rural and remote areas.

At the Federal Conference, 14 motions addressed major ECEC concerns, including AIC for pre-compulsory education, In-Home Care challenges, ECEC staff pay parity, and universal access to early education. The need for rural and remote funding, mobile early learning services, and improvements to the Working Holiday Maker Visa program to ease workforce shortages were also prioritised.

Last year there were discussions with the Minister for ECEC's office which focused on extending the AIC Distance Education Allowance and ongoing In-Home Care issues. Collaboration with the National Farmers Federation (NFF) further strengthened advocacy for regional childcare solutions. A pre-budget submission called for federal funding to support mobile early learning services and extend the AIC Distance Education Allowance to 3–4-year-olds in approved distance education programs, aiming to improve access for remote families.

The Australian Government recently passed a Bill to amend the Activity Test, ensuring children are eligible for at least three days a week of subsidised early learning and care, regardless of their parents' work or study circumstances. Known as the "Three Day Guarantee," this amendment is designed to assist families, particularly those in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, in accessing subsidised early childhood services, including 3-year-old preschool in long day care settings. This change stems from a recommendation in the recent Productivity Commission review and has received strong support from stakeholders across the sector, including South Australia.

The 2024-25 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) made permanent the exemption for In-Home Care (IHC) educator qualifications in remote and very remote areas, provided they receive provider support and comply with the IHC Quality and Safety Framework. To address workforce shortages in remote areas, Minister for Early Childhood Education Dr Anne Aly has approved a permanent exemption to the Certificate III in ECEC qualification requirement for eligible IHC educators, effective 1 January 2025.

Providers may seek approval to engage unqualified educators if they:

- Work under a qualified educator at least 20% of the time, or
- Have 15+ years of continuous ECEC experience in a remote area.

Educators must complete an induction program and ACECQA's IHC quality and safety training. Updated IHC National Guidelines and application details are available on the Department of Education's website.

Meanwhile, in South Australia, throughout 2024 I participated in the Minister's Early Childhood Advisory Forum (MECAF) meetings, contributing to discussions on key issues and strategies to improve early childhood education and development in remote areas.

A significant development over the past 12 months has been the launch of the Preschool Infrastructure Strategy, initiated by the newly appointed Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD). This strategy supports the rollout of 3-year-old preschool from 2026, with full implementation by 2032, ensuring all South Australian children have access to two years of preschool. Stakeholders, including SAICPA and Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE), were consulted to evaluate service capacity, identify barriers to infrastructure expansion, and determine demand for additional places.

Engagement included a meeting between Tania George (then RICE Kindergarten Teacher), Stacy Martin (RICE Director), and me with Kim Little, Chief Executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development, to discuss RICE's role in the rollout, its alignment with strategy goals, and the importance of recognising and addressing the unique needs of our remote communities. We advocated for solutions that would directly benefit children in our areas, ensuring they receive equitable access to early childhood education. A priority of the OECD is the early identification and intervention of learning needs, and this is reflected in the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) receiving funding for a \$13.3 million expansion of child health and development checks. Service provision will remain in key agencies (CaFHS will remain within the Women's and Children's Health Network, and preschool oversight within the existing Department for Education structure).

In June 2024, I attended a national virtual event hosted by Thrive by Five. Leaders such as Jay Weatherill, Catherine Liddle, and Peter Hurley joined community members to champion the idea that universal access to early education is not just beneficial but a fundamental right. Listening to the discussions reminded me of the significant inequities faced by children in all rural areas and reinforced the importance of our ongoing advocacy efforts.

At the end of February 2025, the OECD launched the Flying Start workforce and infrastructure grants to support the expansion of 3-year-old preschool delivery. These initiatives are paving the way for significant changes in early childhood education across South Australia and will provide RICE with the necessary funding to implement these changes. It is hoped that being categorised under "residual services" will not negatively impact its funding model.

There has been steady enrolment in RICE Kindergarten's midyear and January intakes. In the second midyear intake (July 2024), three children were enrolled, bringing the total to five for the start of January 2025.

At the end of Term 4, 2024, the preschool teacher did not renew their contract. Term 1 has been covered by temporary relief teachers (TRTs), but inconsistent availability has led to sporadic scheduling and some days without a teacher. RICE aims to inform families of the following week's program and teacher availability by Thursday each week to allow for adequate lesson preparation. However, securing a teacher for the year has been challenging due to limited applications, and the temporary nature of the position has made attracting suitable candidates difficult.

In Week 2, all five children participated in Kindy Experience Week, with a focus on belonging and relationship-building with peers, teachers, and educators. By the second day, the children had gained confidence in their environment, culminating their sessions with a morning swim at the pool. The next Kindy Experience is scheduled for Week 8 in Term 1.

The Orroroo and Hawker crèches continue to maintain stable attendance, with baby and toddler positions currently at capacity based on staffing ratios. There are two children on the waiting list in Orroroo. In Term 3 of last year, RICE introduced a second crèche day in Orroroo, allowing families to access care two days per week.

In 2024, one family accessed Outback Childcare twice and provided highly positive feedback. They have rebooked for this year. Efforts are ongoing to raise awareness of this service through social media posts and an upcoming survey to RICE members, as many families remain unaware of its availability and how it operates. I know I, for one, will be looking to book this service in the coming year.

A dedicated Play Day team is now in place, actively planning multiple events. This term, visits have included Wilgena, Yunta, and Depot Springs, with upcoming stops at Wilmington, Mt Sarah, and Willow Springs. Attendance has been low, and families are encouraged to express interest in booking Play Days. Online Play Days, an interactive educational program featuring singing, counting, reading, and crafts, continues to be offered. Families receive activity packs for the term and can participate in live or recorded sessions. Willa and I look forward to each week's session.

In 2024, RICE attended 22 Activity Days. Bookings for 2025 are already filling up, with the first Activity Day scheduled in Penong on 8 March.

As RICE continues to adapt and strengthen its services, leadership has also seen change. Chloe Hunter has stepped down as Director, with Stacy Martin stepping into the role.

Currently, financial support is available for early childhood education studies, ensuring those pursuing a career in the sector, particularly in regional areas, have the necessary support to address workforce shortages. The QualifySA in Early Childhood funding program for 2025 provides financial assistance to students enrolled in eligible Birth to 5 (B-5) early childhood qualifications, helping to alleviate the financial burden of study.

Funding Available:

- B-5 Bachelor Degree: Up to \$25,000
- B-5 Master Degree: Up to \$17,000
- B-5 Graduate Diploma: Up to \$14,500
- Early Childhood Diploma: Up to \$7,000

Additionally, the Grow Your Own (GYO) Allowance offers up to \$10,000 for regional and remote students. This initiative, available alongside QualifySA funding, aims to build a sustainable workforce by supporting students committed to teaching in their local communities.

TAFE's diploma courses continue to be delivered online each month, incorporating practical components. Universities such as CDU, ECU, Wollongong, and Uni SA offer fully online B-5 degree programs, with a minimum 0.5 study load requirement. South Australian residency is a prerequisite for these university courses, ensuring targeted support for local students.

As the Federal Election drew closer, Maddy Butler from *The Parenthood* reached out to SAICPA members to hear about their childcare experiences. With a particular focus on the electorate of Grey, often referred to as the "childcare desert", *The Parenthood* is committed to ensuring that the challenges faced by regional, rural, and remote families remain firmly on the national agenda.

This provided a valuable opportunity for our members to share their stories and influence childcare policies at a federal level. It was also particularly relevant to a motion presented at the 2024 State Conference by the Flinders Ranges branch, which requested an exploration of what an alternative implementation approach could look like. By bringing real experiences to the forefront, we can push for meaningful changes that improve accessibility, parental leave, and family-friendly policies for those living outside urban centres. For those who would like to share their experiences or get involved in our advocacy efforts, please reach out to: Maddy Butler, Campaign Director, The Parenthood, Mobile: 0430 204 261 Email: maddy@theparenthood.org.au Website: www.theparenthood.org.au

The 2024 State Conference saw motions raised regarding ongoing issues with CaFHS services. Amanda Smallacombe Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) addressed the conference, reporting that due to recruitment challenges within CaFHS, the RFDS had taken the initiative to employ its own Child Family Health Nurse. This was implemented in May 2024 and has been highly successful, with nurse Tarnya Eggleston flying to remote areas and clinics.

While RFDS remains open to partnering with CaFHS if needed, concerns remain about a specific category of remote families who fall outside the reach of RFDS clinics and visits yet are also unable to access face-to-face support from a CaFHS nurse in their homes. Currently, the absence of direct, in-person support for new mothers in this situation makes it difficult to identify concerns early and provide timely intervention. Expanding and improving CaFHS services will be critical in ensuring these families receive the necessary care and do not fall through the cracks.

Reflecting on the past year, while significant progress has been made, there is still much work to be done. The need for improved access to early learning, access to early identification and intervention, better financial support for families and educators, and continued advocacy for rural and remote communities remains as strong as ever.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

Belinda Hatcher and Di Thomas

At the 2024 State Conference in Quorn there were four motions presented under the banner of Rural Schools and School Travel. They were in relation to upkeep of roads in remote areas of the state, the creation of subsidised / capped airfares for students travelling to secondary school from regional and remote areas of the state, incentives for the attraction and retention of SSO's in rural schools and the streamlining of employment conditions for bus drivers, particularly those being employed part time or in a relief capacity.

A response from the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Tom Koutsantonis was received in July in regard to the maintenance of remote roads. He indicated that the South Australian government is committed to improving the reliability of travel through remote and regional areas and told us that the State Government, in partnership with the Federal Government are delivering a \$241.5 million program of road upgrade initiatives. He invited us to contact the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) to contact community reps in our areas, which we did. We were then directed to the Roads Advisory Group where we were advised that the OCA was convening the newly formed Outback Roads Consultative Forum, in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. They explained that ICPA's advocacy in this area was one of the reasons behind the creation of the forum.

For any road maintenance matters that require immediate attention please contact the Department's 24-hour Traffic Management Centre on 1800 018 313. Enquiries of a general nature should be emailed directly to the Department's email address - dit.north@sa.gov.au

The matter of a subsidised / capped airfare program was actioned by State Council in the latter part of 2024. It was decided that the first port of call would be to contact REX Airlines, as they were considered the carrier who operated out of areas where most SA ICPA members had best access. Also REX were already facilitating a program in QLD called 'Bush to Boarding' that helped QLD ICPA members access capped airfares from certain routes across the state. Unfortunately, due to REX Airlines current state of voluntary receivership, REX indicated that they were not able to initiate any incentives of such nature until the outcome of the airline's future is known. SA ICPA State Council will revisit this issue when it is deemed appropriate.

In relation to the motion around bus driver employment conditions, SA ICPA State Council discussed this matter with the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Mr Blair Boyer at their delegation meeting in December 2024. Mr Boyer explained that he was aware of bus driver shortages across the state and the factors that could hinder the employment of relief drivers. He stated that the government is currently considering a few measures that will be designed to encourage individuals to seek employment as school bus drivers, as well as assist schools with recruitment and retention of staff. SA ICPA will continue to ask for updates in regard to this matter over the course of this year.

At the same delegation meeting and via a response letter, Minister Boyer addressed the motion regarding incentives for SSO's in country schools, stating that the Department recognises the valuable contributions of SSOs to the public education system in isolated regions and that each school is unique,

shaped by its community and tailored to meet specific needs. They are working towards empowering schools to attract and retain high quality ancillary staff. They are welcoming collaboration with site leaders to develop and offer attraction and retention allowances aimed to secure and maintain skilled employees. He brought to our attention that in the most recent Enterprise Agreement, ancillary staff will receive an additional 13 percent on their base salary by May 2026.

Last year, after Federal Conference, Federal Council decided, that due to the fact they had a full council, that they would split the Rural Schools / School travel portfolio into two. This means that there is now a Rural and Remote Schools portfolio and a School Travel Portfolio, each having a separate portfolio leader and team. An innovative way to share the load amongst councillors, whilst still achieving the same outcome.

The Rural and Remote Schools portfolio leader for 2024/2025 is Nikki Mahony and the portfolio team consists of Louise Martin, Sally Brindal, Julia Broad, Kelly Ostwald and Anna McCorkle. The School Travel portfolio leader for 2024/2025 is Jennifer Ruska and the portfolio team consists of Louise Martin, Sally Brindal, Julia Broad, Kelly Ostwald and Nikki Mahony.

At the 2024 Federal Conference in Sydney there was one motion presented under the Rural and Remote Schools portfolio and two motions presented under the School Travel portfolio. They were about:

- Incentives to attract and retain experienced teachers being employed into regional and remote schools.
- A request to look into using similar frameworks that are applied to Abstudy in regard to geographically isolated student travel, being applied to the framework for AIC.
- Priority repair schedules for roads that are used as school bus routes.

SA ICPA would like to thank Federal Council, the portfolio leaders and teams for all their hard work in continuing to advocate for members on their behalf.

The Federal Conference reports for both the Rural and Remote Schools and School Travel portfolios can be found here:

<https://icpa.com.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/2024%20Rural%20Schools%20Portfolio%20Conference%20Report.pdf>

https://icpa.com.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/2024%20School%20Travel%20Portfolio%20Conference%20Report_0.pdf

SA ICPA look forward to working with members over the coming year in supporting them with any issues or advocacy around Rural Schools and School Travel.

SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Hollie Williams

Children with specific education needs should have equal access to educational opportunities regardless of their location.

In 2024, no Specific Education Needs Motions were brought to the SA State Conference. However a motion relevant to this portfolio was presented, to lobby SA Health to add 'geographically remote families' as an additional eligibility criterion, in order to bypass a nearer specialist in the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATs) Guidelines. PATs assists regional and remote South Australians in accessing specialist medical services not available in local communities and can be required when raising a child with special education needs. We were advised that reforms to the scheme are ongoing.

Four Specific Education Motions were presented and passed at the Federal Conference. ICPA Australia has a comprehensive briefing paper highlighting concerns which can be found on the website. A recommendation from the motions was that geographically isolated children with Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Aphasia/Dysphasia, auditory processing disorder, language

processing disorder and visual processing disorders be permanently provided access to subsidised telehealth consultations with Allied Health professionals and medical specialists. This would support the specific educational needs that come with these disorders.

The wait time to see specialists including telehealth and allied health is a huge problem across rural and remote Australia. Allied health is a dynamic zone that plays an important role in the health and wellbeing of all rural and remote communities. Rural and remote Australia is characterised by small, widely dispersed populations with limited access to primary health care and allied health services. Motions at a state and federal level are focused on addressing this disadvantage.

The Indulkaninna Foundation and Sandy's Memorial Trust are willing to provide a bursary for students accessing the Specific Learning Difficulties SA (SPELD SA) Literacy Clinic online. Families receiving Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) payments who meet the geographical isolation rules are eligible and other applications are considered based on access to services and support. ICPA SA is promoting this bursary amongst our members to get greater uptake of this service in 2025 to ensure all children get the help they need.

SPELD SA will soon be launching a dedicated advisory line. This free service will be available for families and educators seeking advice about supporting students with learning difficulties and disabilities. Teachers with inclusive education backgrounds will be available to chat and recommend resources and services to assist.

If you have experienced inequality in accessing Specific Education needs, please share your experience with your state council member so they can advocate for you.

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Katrina Morris and Dani Chapman

As the Tertiary portfolio leaders for SA ICPA, we have been approached by several families requesting information on scholarships and bursaries to help with relocation, equipment and accommodation. Although there are a few scholarships available for rural and remote areas, there is still a huge gap in accessing and being able to accommodate rural and remote students, so they have an equal access to higher education.

Recently the state government announced the merger between The University of Adelaide and Uni SA. Adelaide University is due to open in 2026. The government press release stated "By 2034, Adelaide University is expected contribute an additional \$500 million annually to the State's economy and educate more than 70,000 students. To support the new university, the Government will establish two Government-owned investment funds - a \$200 million research fund and a \$120 million Student Support Fund to assist students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds and the regions access higher education."

We look forward to the Port Augusta Technical College, opening in 2025. The technical college will be co-located with Port Augusta Secondary School. Students in years 10,11 and 12 will be able to get a head start to a career in industry specialisations such as civil construction, health and social support, hospitality and tourism and a multi trades stream which will develop a range of sought-after skills and kickstart a career as a tradesperson. A positive development is that there will be short stay on-site accommodation available for 44 students with 24/7 staff support and supervision.

ICPA SA continues to advocate for vocational learning opportunities in the pastoral industry, so that high school students can gain valuable skills that can help them gain employment in the Agricultural industry post high school.

The Federal Tertiary and Training portfolios briefing papers have recently been updated and the following summary of recommendations can be found at <https://icpa.com.au/au/federal-tertiary-education-briefing-paper> and <https://icpa.com.au/au/federal-training-briefing-paper>

ICPA (Aust) believes that the following issues need to be addressed to alleviate these barriers for rural and remote tertiary students and the recommendations seek to ensure rural and remote tertiary students have access to a high-quality tertiary education commensurate to their needs and aspirations:

1. Appropriate financial assistance for relocation and ongoing costs
2. Access to financial assistance
3. The implementation of tertiary measures and recommendations from reviews and election commitments.
4. Appropriate Training and Incentives for Rural and Remote Educators and Allied Health Professionals

Links for scholarships:

Uni SA - <https://i.unisa.edu.au/students/scholarships/regional/>

The University of Adelaide - <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships/>

Flinders University - <https://students.flinders.edu.au/finances-and-admin/support/scholarships>

Country Education Foundation <https://cef.org.au/student-support/search-for-scholarships/>

SA government links <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/scholarships>

The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a one-off, means-tested payment of up to \$5000 available for eligible school leavers from inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote areas who relocate more than 90 minutes by public transport from their family home to undertake a full-time, eligible higher level tertiary education course (Certificate IV or above) following year 12 or equivalent and whose parental income is below \$250 000.

Residential Colleges in Adelaide

St Ann's - <https://stannscollege.edu.au/portfolio-item/scholarships-awards-and-bursaries/>

Lincoln College - <https://lincoln.edu.au/scholarships-and-bursaries/>

St Marks - <https://stmarkscollege.com.au/apply/scholarships/>

Apprenticeships

Check out this website for available apprenticeships being offered at the moment.

<https://sgt.asn.au/apprenticeships-traineeship-job-lisittings>

PUBLICITY REPORT

Ellen Litchfield

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of being publicity officer for another year. Memberships for ICPA SA have increased and we are working on increasing our engagement with our membership base. Using a grant from The Department of Primary Industries and Regions, Thriving Communities Programme we worked with an external facilitator last summer to evaluate our member engagement. This involved interviews, questionnaires, and a member retreat to create a handbook for recruiting, engaging and retaining members that was published last year. It highlighted the themes that motivate ICPA of getting quality education for our rural kids but also noted that *'if we are not having fun, we are doing it wrong!'* A call for more face to face activities that build resilience through social

connections. This is something I hope we can grow in 2025 and a reason why our conference is so important. The camaraderie of the ICPA membership is something that should be cherished and we welcome you sharing this with your peers.

Once again our focus has been Facebook to connect with our members and we have seen an increase in followers and engagement. Working to bring regular content throughout 2025 will increase our visibility and is something we will work towards.

We maintain strong connections with the SA rural journalists and appreciate that they follow our social pages and are easily contacted. ABC and the local papers have also been very welcoming of the invitation to attend our conference this year and we appreciate their support in attendance.

In an ever increasingly digital world, The Pipeline magazine is a lovely respite and something we all look forward to. Thank you so much to our members that send in content, branch publicity officers for collating and writing such great updates and of course too Mija Reynolds for all her hard work creating it.

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 and Hollie Williams, State Secretary for your amazing ability to source and deliver a wide range of content to me. This is a big part of what makes our newsletter so diverse, yet personalised.

The Pipeline will continue to publish two editions per annum. One in summer and the other in winter. Over the last year we have printed our editions in full colour throughout and enjoyed brightening our front cover header to give the newsletter a modern aesthetic and “Graziher” vibe. We continue to utilise the Beach Energy grant which affords us the full colour throughout, and we remain grateful for their support.

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 Port Augusta, hosted by the Flinders Ranges Branch. Most importantly, don’t forget that the deadline for the next edition of The Pipeline is Sunday 1st June 2025.

Retired Educator Volunteers for Isolated Children’s Education (REVISE)

Georgy Ewing, REVISE Manager

REVISE has had another quiet year, with no station placements. We have, however, supported two families during visits to Adelaide. These experiences were very valuable for the students, as we were able to work in the library at the Open Access College. It gave the students the opportunity to see the library in action, and also to participate in Zoe’s Wednesday morning library sessions. Having instant access to resources was a treat, on several occasions Zoe overheard our conversations and produced a book on the topic under discussion.

As REVISE Manager, I have had the pleasure of attending several SOTA activities through the year – Induction Week, School Experience Weeks, camp at Nunyara, and get together at the end of the school year. The image of Lai Kuan (SOTA Head of Campus) waving to us from the school’s float in the Port Augusta Pageant is one many of us will remember for a long time! I’d like to express my thanks to Lai Kuan and the SOTA staff for including REVISE in school activities. It’s a great way to get to know the students, which is an advantage for our volunteers during placements. Over the year a total of 3178 kms was travelled.

Over the last year we have had two long standing volunteers, Judy Przbilla and Mary Hook, resign and move onto other pastimes. We thank them for their valuable contributions to outback students and their learning. We have a new volunteer, Toni Ford. She is a former SOTA teacher so is familiar with the challenges faced by isolated families. 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 (OAC) GOVERNING COUNCIL

Petie Rankin

It is with pleasure that I present my 2025 report as the ICPA representative on the OAC Governing Council. OAC and School of the Air (SOTA) work hard to deliver continuity and support to both campuses and strive for a high standard in educational outcomes and this is ever-present in Julie Taylor’s leadership.

SOTA CAMPUS

SOTA welcomed some new faces at the beginning of 2025, and they were quietly easing their way into new roles during induction week. We have been lucky enough to retain our 2 Itinerant teachers, Rhys Moyne and Megan Thoms and this year sees Rebecca Morley, Madlen Stringer and Navneet Kaur continue their wonderful work in the classrooms. Mel Clarke ended her SOTA career at the end of 2024 and we wish her all the very best in her endeavors. We welcomed Janine Andrews to tackle our year 1/2 class but for 12 months only, which is great for filling a spot but not for continuity for our students, which has long been a struggle at SOTA. Port Augusta based Jessica Barclay has taken over from Jonathan Altmann as our SSO and Angela Grindell stepped into Kristy Harding’s shoes at the front desk during 2024 and has taken the transition in her stride, with the experienced support of the staff around her. We are still lucky enough to have the very reliable Jordan Noble-Bush as our tech support and voice at the end of the line when Teams decides to have a day off and leaves us with no idea and Louise Kirkham continues to provide support to our staff.

This leads me to our biggest news; the sad farewell of Lai Kuan Lim and the joyous welcome of Rebecca Russel. After heading into my 12th (and 2nd last) year at SOTA, I have seen my fair share of Head of Campus rotations and absences but sitting on the panel for the position almost 5 years ago was a role I was confident I wouldn’t regret after our decision was made. Lai Kuan was passionate, dedicated, committed, respected and enthusiastic during her time with SOTA and managed to transform the school for the better in a short space of time. She will remain a HOC that really immersed herself and gave her position all she had, and I feel privileged to have been a part of that time. Rebecca Russel has taken on the mammoth task of leading our school and joins us from just south of Port Pirie, where she will commute from Monday to Friday to ensure SOTA doesn’t lose traction and our staff have a positive and skilled Head of Campus at the helm. We wish Rebecca all the very best for 2025 and hope she settles in to the wonderful community that makes up Port Augusta School of the Air.

We said goodbye to our year 6/7 class at the end of 2024, and we said goodbye to any future year 7 class as we now join the leagues of national primary schools that finish in year 6. It was a big cohort for a small school to lose so there were many memories in that farewell as we say hello to another change for SOTA.

Induction week was held in week 2 again this year, allowing new staff members and families time to settle in and returning staff and families time to prepare for another 12 months. This also allowed Rebecca time to familiarize herself with the school and the daunting task of meeting the very involved SOTA community!

Student Council continues this year, with 6 students being elected from our year 5/6 class. Lara Bell was voted in as the President for 2025 with George Williams as Vice. Eli and Lawson Rankin, Bonnie Morris and Jayden Beard are the remaining members, all with leadership positions.

This year SOTA recorded our highest participation in SAPSASA since 2020. Students participated in four SAPSASA events: basketball, netball, AFL and cricket. Notably, two students achieved the honour of being selected to represent the Northern Districts in the state cricket competition. Mr Moyne has done an amazing job at promoting the SAPSASA events, which is why our participation numbers have increased. Credit must also go to the dedicated parents for taking time out of their busy lives to make the journeys to various locations for their children to participate in the competitions.

Every year, SOTA CGC is given the opportunity to nominate someone for the Rowan Ramsey MP School Community Award and 2024 saw the award go to the very deserving Lai Kuan. I don't think it came as a surprise to her, but she modestly accepted the award along with a short speech, wrapping up her time with SOTA. Congratulations Lai Kuan.

New developments

The new SOTA building is set to open for the beginning of the 2026 year, with lots of construction happening on site as we speak. The building will be a part of the RFDS medical centre so SOTA will share the space but have its own private 'wing' for the staff and students, including an outdoor area and carparking.

Teachers completed the end-of-year DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) check-in at the end of 2024 to evaluate student reading growth for the year. Based on the initial results, all composite scores have improved with some students moving up a band. Although some students have shown growth in their reading, their growth rates do not yet meet the benchmark. Based on the results, learning support will be organised for them in 2025.

MARDEN CAMPUS

Marden Primary

During re-enrolment interviews, many students and parents/ carers have commented on the success of Rapid Recall this year and requested the classes again in 2025. SSOs reported a change in the disposition of students towards mathematics improving throughout the year. We are in the process of re-screening students in Literacy and Numeracy to ascertain growth over the year. Preliminary results show significant progress in Math, including those already achieving at or above level.

Senior Years

The RAW (Reading and Writing) program, designed for middle-year students, aimed to enhance literacy skills through targeted interventions and engaging learning activities. On average, students in the RAW program experienced a 34% growth in their NGRT (New Group Reading Test) scores, indicating an overall improvement in reading abilities and highlighting the program's effectiveness in enhancing reading skills and engagement. Engagement with the IXL platform (an online numeracy and literacy program) was positive and the average attendance rate for the program was 63%, reflecting a moderate level of consistent participation among the students.

SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT

Lisa Slade

This past year has been significantly easier as I have become more familiar with the website, don't get me wrong there is plenty I still don't know but it is less daunting! Many thanks and gratitude to Kym Ross for developing a Webmaster's Guidebook which has been a useful resource.

The 2025 SA ICPA Conference Registrations have moved to being 100 percent online this year so we are crossing fingers everything goes smoothly. We hope branches have been able to support those members who may have trouble registering via this platform.

Please remember to continue to send through images (high resolution) and articles to the sawebmastser@icpa.com.au email. It's nice to be able to keep the website fresh with new and relevant content for our members.

I have enjoyed my time tinkering with the website and wish the incoming Webmaster all the very best in this role.



MID NORTH ACCOUNTING

ICPA of SA

**Financial statements
For the year ended
31 December 2024**

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

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ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Committee's report **For the year ended 31 December 2024**

Your committee members submit the financial report of ICPA of SA for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

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
Mija Reynolds
Michelle Hilder
Dani Chapman
Josephine Drennan
Kristina Crawford
Candice Brown
Edwina Bowie
Katrina Morris
Pamela Cuffe
Di Thomas
Louise Kohler

Principal activities

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:

To help families in rural & remote South Australia to receive a better education for their children.

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 \$6,682.

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.

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Committee's report

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Reviewer's independence declaration

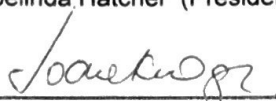
The reviewer's independence declaration in accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, for the year ended 31 December 2024 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

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



Belinda Hatcher (President)

Dated 24/02/2025



Jodie Keogh (Treasurer)

Dated 24/02/2025

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Income statement

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income		
Affiliation Fees	7,248.01	5,449.44
Donations	2,008.01	-
Grants	25,708.50	20,000.00
Interest Received	646.72	291.04
State Conference	6,333.98	19,180.72
	41,945.22	44,921.20
Expenses		
Advertising & Promotion	910.00	256.50
Affiliation Fees	4,376.00	2,576.09
Audit Fees	792.00	748.00
Bank Charges	107.43	12.42
Conferences & Meetings	20,168.82	20,400.95
Insurance	995.71	1,029.41
Newsletter Costs	2,630.22	750.74
Office Expenses	-	216.88
Printing & Stationery	487.98	215.00
Staff Training	-	275.00
Subscriptions	825.29	230.89
Travel Expenses	3,969.74	-
	35,263.19	26,711.88
Net profit	6,682.03	18,209.32
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	60,978.02	42,768.70
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	67,660.05	60,978.02

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

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Balance sheet

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	67,660.05	60,978.02
Total current assets		67,660.05	60,978.02
Total assets		67,660.05	60,978.02
Net assets		67,660.05	60,978.02
Members' funds			
Retained earnings		67,660.05	60,978.02
Total members' funds		67,660.05	60,978.02

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

ICPA of SA

ABN: 80 494 798 566

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

The financial statements cover ICPA of SA as an individual entity. ICPA of SA is a not-for-profit association incorporated in South Australia under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 ('the Act').

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was:

To help families in rural & remote South Australia to receive a better education for their children.

The functional and presentation currency of ICPA of SA is Australian dollars.

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 Material accounting policy information

Income tax

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

Revenue and other income

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

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.

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report of .

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

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 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 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 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
3 Cash and cash equivalents			
Bank SA Express Saver		62,650.90	46,629.35
Bank SA Society Cheque Account		5,009.15	14,348.67
		<u>67,660.05</u>	<u>60,978.02</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	60,978.02	42,768.70
Net profit	6,682.03	18,209.32
	<u>67,660.05</u>	<u>60,978.02</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

These notes should be read in conjunction with the attached compilation report of .

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 2024 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 24th February 2025

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 2024, 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 2024 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

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 Act 1985, 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 40 Irvine St Jamestown SA

14 February 2025

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2025 - 28/02/2025

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

Income	\$	\$
Braintree Transfers	1470.84	
Interest Received	116.43	
PayPal Transfers	862.80	
State Conference	2148.97	
Total Income		4599.04
Expenses	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	999.00	
Bank Charges	14.65	
Joint Council Expenses	1341.42	
Newsletter costs	1534.50	
State Conference Expenses	520.00	
Total Expenses		4409.57
Net Profit (Loss)		189.47

Please Note: This report may require adjustment for depreciation or 'accrual' items depending on your tax or accounting requirements.