



2026 Boarding/Hostels/Second Home Portfolio

August Report

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Post ICPA Federal Conference – Boarding Motion Update



ICPA (Aust) would like to share with all members comments made by Federal Council (during debate) relating to Boarding Motions at the 2026 Federal Conference:

MOTION A1:

It is ICPA (Aust)'s understanding that Increases applied in 2026 to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance (BBA) are calculated using [Australia's CPI](#) data from the 2024/2025 financial year.

In 2026, average boarding school fees, as reported by the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) increased by 5.8%. Yet the AIC BBA only increased by 2.1%. Aligning the BBA to the Education Sub Index would have seen it (BBA) increase by 5.6%.

In addition, the AIC BBA only covered 34.6% of the average cost of boarding. This is over 20% less than its intended value.

MOTION A2:

The original intent of the AIC BBA when it was introduced in 1973 was to provide financial assistance to rural, remote and Geographically Isolated (GI) families who were not able to access local secondary educational facilities.

Over the decades, the [AIC scheme](#) has been expanded to provide [these allowances](#):

1. Basic Boarding Allowance (BBA)
2. Additional Boarding Allowance (ABA)
3. Second Home Allowance
4. Distance Education Allowance
5. Pensioner Education Supplement

In reality, and as an example:

A child living in a metropolitan area such as the Gold Coast, can become eligible to receive one of these 5 Assistance for Isolated Children allowances as outlined above.

ICPA Australia's core business is to advocate for "Equity of Access to Education for Rural, Remote and Geographically Isolated Children".

MOTION A11:

Our ICPA (Aust) President historically and currently represents you, our membership, on the Australian Boarding Standards working group.

Public comment for the review of the [Australian Boarding Standards](#) will be accessible in mid to late August.

Additionally, the National Boarding Standard was implemented in 2015 with input from ICPA (Aust), [Australian Boarding Schools Association](#) (ABSA), Independent Boarding Schools, Catholic Boarding Schools and more.

Richard Stokes, Director of ABSA, is in attendance, and I encourage members to reach out to him directly should they seek clarity in the consultation process for Australian Boarding Standards as mentioned in the motion.