



2025 Boarding Portfolio

August Report Amber Driver

Post ICPA Federal Conference – Boarding Motion Update



9 Motions and 3 Supplementary were presented and carried during the 2025 Federal Conference in Adelaide. Moving forwards, these motions and their explanations will be drafted into letters and directed to various Ministers, Senators and other stakeholders. Rest assured that The ICPA Federal Councillors will continue to advocate for all past and present motions in the boarding portfolio that remain unresolved. If you have information that could assist or underpin the motion topics, please reach out to me directly.

2025 Boarding Motion - Summary of Topics.

Continue and Expand the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program that was initiated in 2023. (A1, A2)

Establish a 'Rural Hardship Education Fund' that is linked to the families who are eligible for the AIC to meet educational costs during times of unforeseen and unprecedented natural disasters. (A3)

Removal of Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) on Boarding facilities who provide on-site accommodation for essential boarding staff by:

- 1) Requiring the Commonwealth's Recurrent school funding model includes a provision for the removal of FBT on boarding schools who provide on-site accommodation for boarding staff where the boarding school has Students attending the boarding school from remote and very remote areas, as defined by the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) Score.
- 2) Advocating to Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) to continue this advocacy. (A4, A5)

Removal of Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) for Businesses who would like to provide financial assistance to employees residing in geographically isolated areas, to enable their children to attend boarding school. (A6)

An increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance (BBA) and:

- 1) explore how to address the inequity of assistance provided to Geographically Isolated students in the AIC criteria.
- 2) Advocate to all levels of Government for increased and sustainable funding to ensure the viability and accessibility of boarding facilities for students from rural and remote areas.
- 3) Request that AIC payments are made by the start of Term 4, for yr.12 students. (A7, A9, s1 s3)

A review to the Additional Boarding Allowance (ABA) under the Geographically Isolated (GI) category of the AIC to request that the ABA is determined on the basis of boarding costs incurred as a family. (A8)

Request that **processing times for Abstudy are reduced.** (s2)