



2025 Boarding/Hostels/Second Home November Report

Amber Driver

Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program (CRSP) – Pilot

Following the 2025 Federal Conference in Adelaide, another letter was sent to the Prime Minister to express ICPA members' desire for the CRSP pilot to be extended, expanded, and made ongoing.

To date, we have not received a clear response.

In October 2025, we received correspondence from the Department of Education, as this issue falls within the responsibilities of the Hon Jason Clare, Minister for Education:

"...As you are aware, the CRSP is a six-year pilot running from 2024 to 2029. A more comprehensive review of program outcomes is planned toward the end of the pilot when a broader dataset on student outcomes and experiences will be available. This evaluation will help inform advice to the Minister for Education on the future of the program, as well as on other initiatives supporting students in regional areas. ICPA and other stakeholders will again be invited to contribute input as part of this review process..."

As the correspondence states, it appears that the CRSP pilot will remain as such until its conclusion, 2029. At which point the 'comprehensive review' will begin.

AIC Basic Boarding – Timing of Term 4 Payments

ICPA Australia continues to meet regularly with the Department of Social Services, Services Australia and Directors and Assistant Directors responsible for AIC, ABSTUDY, student payments and related areas. During our face-to-face delegation in Canberra at the start of November, we were advised that it now appears more likely that the 4th AIC BBA payment will be brought forward to earlier in Term 4 rather than moving to a three-payment cycle.

This is a positive step, and we encourage members to share their thoughts on this proposal to help guide the direction of the change.

The Long Road to Learning: The Hidden Price of Distance

An article published in [School News Australia](#) by Sarah Davison on 12 November 2025 highlights several key issues impacting rural and remote families, including Fringe Benefits Tax, access to secondary schooling, and the financial pressures of boarding. It's an excellent read and well worth sharing with your networks.

The article also reinforces the importance of members continuing to share their stories with Federal Council. Real, current lived experiences help us ensure journalists and stakeholders understand the true challenges faced by families across the bush.