

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PORTFOLIO CONFERENCE REPORT – June 2022

In 2022, the financial burdens of educating geographically isolated children continue to be a challenge. School fees and travel costs have again risen.

The LAFHAS funding has increased 4.9% this year, in line with CPI. This was welcomed after no increase in LAFHAS the year prior. (LAFHAS is tied to CPI and in 2021 CPI did not rise) ICPA continue to lobby Government and the Education department for additional increases above the CPI amount at every opportunity. The critical role incentives such as LAFHAS play to keep families out in rural and remote areas, has been conveyed to the relevant authorities.

At last conference there was a motion carried requesting a user-friendly platform be established as a one stop place that enabled access to all the educational related financial assistance and agency support. ICPA State Council presented and discussed this motion at our delegations in March of this year with the Department of Education. The Department has agreed to consult with other stakeholders around the possibility and design of such a project. Feedback from the Department was positive and ICPA will continue to pursue the establishment of this.

A letter outlining the need for a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA). has been sent to the Minister for Education. ICPA has highlighted the need to financially support Home Tutors to the Minister. This aligns with Federal ICPA's approach to the Federal Government.

I would like to thank all branch's that put motions forward last conference. You can be assured that we take these with great importance and advocate strongly for them. Financial assistance for students that are Geographically isolated is a priority for ICPA Qld and we endeavour to seek positive outcomes for our members.

**Rob McArthur**  
**Financial Assistance Portfolio Leader**  
[councillor5@icpaqld.com.au](mailto:councillor5@icpaqld.com.au)