



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (Inc) FEDERAL COUNCIL

"Advocating for equitable access to education for students in rural and remote Australia"

COMMUNICATIONS

It is recommended that this Policy be read in conjunction with the Education Allowances Policy, other individual Portfolio Policies and associated ICPA Aust documents

POLICY

ICPA seeks to ensure, as the minimum standard of communications for rural and remote residents, services at a level at least equivalent to that available to the majority of urban Australian residents.

OBJECTIVES

1. Quality communication services, comparable to those available in urban areas and demonstrating similar reliability, economy, features, voice quality and data rate, are available at no greater cost to people residing in rural and remote Australia.
2. That the Universal Service Obligation includes internet services.
3. Fast, reliable and affordable two-way voice and data communication be available for all students.
4. Appropriate communication services and resources be available for rural and remote students to access, participate in and complete remote learning across all levels of education.
5. Appropriate, suitable, independent information and advice be easily accessible for rural, regional and remote residents to assist with the set up and maintenance of any communication service, software and hardware required and/or utilised.
6. Mobile phone service coverage be increased throughout rural and remote Australia.
7. Communication services installation, fault reporting and repairs be prioritised for rural and remote students.
8. The uniform price objective of the Universal Service Obligation (Postal) be retained to protect the economy of services in rural and remote areas.
9. The Federal Government ensures Australia Post uphold their Customer Service Guarantee to provide a twice weekly mail delivery service, where requested, to the resident's nominated point of access.
10. The Universal Service Obligation (Postal) includes parcel delivery for rural and remote residents.
11. The Federal Government retains the Remote Air Service Subsidy (RASS) Scheme and ensures it provides a free regular mail service, where required, and a regular and affordable passenger and freight service to isolated remote families and communities where there is no reliable alternative.
12. Residents in rural and remote Australia have access to at least one free-to-air commercial television channel.

Updated November 2021