



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

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 that an appropriate and affordable range of early childhood programs and childcare be available to support children and families who live in rural and remote areas.

OBJECTIVES

1. Early childhood programs with optional enrolment be available for two years prior to the commencement of school for rural and remote children.
2. Provision of recognised early childhood distance education programs where there is no reasonable daily access to an education centre.
3. Opportunities for face-to-face social activities be available for rural and remote children participating in early childhood programs.
4. Appropriate learning resources be available for rural and remote children participating in early childhood programs.
5. Appropriate technology and equipment be available for access to distance education early childhood programs.
6. A commitment to establishing and maintaining support networks and ongoing professional development for early childhood professionals and parents in rural and remote areas.
7. Provision of funds for travel and accommodation to assist early childhood professionals from rural and remote areas to access professional development.
8. Flexibility in the funding and provision of early childhood education and care services for service models, funding models, legislation and regulation and training opportunities to address the unique needs of rural and remote families.
9. Employment incentives and training opportunities are available to support rural and remote early childhood education services.
10. That geographically isolated families have access to an affordable in-home childcare program that meets their unique needs
11. An ongoing commitment by the Federal Government to implement and deliver a wide range of children's services to families who live in rural and remote areas.



The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (Inc)

12. Childcare services in the rural and remote homes be affordable and accessible.
13. Rural and remote families to have access to respite childcare.
14. Financial assistance be available for all pre-compulsory school students enrolled in a recognised early childhood distance education program
15. Implementation of a national working with children check that ensures consistency and efficiency in child protection across all States.
16. All four-year trained teachers working in rural and remote areas have salary parity – ie Early childhood teachers have parity of salary with primary and secondary teachers