



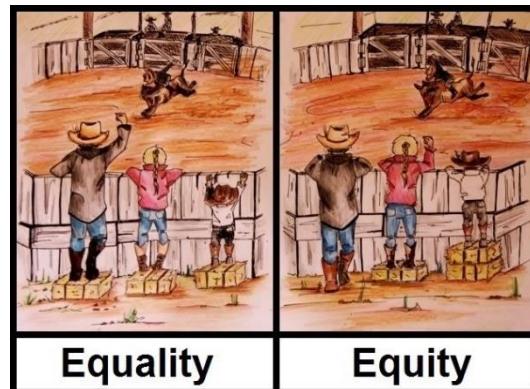
Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

MEDIA RELEASE

21 December 2021

ICPA Message as Important as Ever



For 50 years, ICPA has advocated for equitable educational opportunities for rural and remote students. Following the release of the 2021 NAPLAN data, it is clear this advocacy is more important than ever.

The 2021 NAPLAN results paint a clear picture that for those children educated in regional and remote areas of Australia, educational outcomes are not equivalent to their urban counterparts. It is concerning that between 2016 and 2021, the data shows significant gaps between the results of regional, remote and very remote students compared to metropolitan students. Clearly, more needs to be done by all levels of government to address and rectify this trend.

ICPA Federal President Alana Moller said “It should not be a given that if parents live and work in regional and remote areas of Australia that their children will receive a lesser education. It is imperative that families are attracted to and retained in remote Australia and that can only be achieved by the assurance of equitable education for their children. ICPA Australia and ICPA State Councils will not rest until geographically isolated children are recognised as a unique disadvantage group who require specialised support and assistance to level the playing field between them and their urban counterparts.”

ICPA Australia will continue to work with the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and all levels of government and education to advocate for the unique needs of geographically isolated students. While NAPLAN results are only one diagnostic tool, they are indicative of the disparity in educational outcomes for children from regional and remote Australia and clearly demonstrate more needs to be done to support their access to an equitable education.

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