

Branch Functions

To support members in attending
Federal / State Conferences

Provide financial support to the Federal / State Councils

Identify local education issues and bring motions to
Federal / State Conferences

Raise relevant issues to Federal Council as they arise

Collate relevant case studies to support
Federal Council advocacy

Work with local stakeholders to enhance educational
opportunities and highlight inequities

Advocate to your local Federal / State politicians
on current inequities

Support advocacy for ICPA by contributing to Branch,
State and Federal publicity publications (eg: Pedals)
and campaigns

Grow Branch membership by connecting with local
education providers, community groups and families through
meaningful engagement and awareness campaigns.

Host events for local families such as sporting camps and
workshops to increase membership

Strengthen community connection by working together as a
Branch to participate in and support local events



Contact

info@icpaaust.org.au
www.icpa.com.au



Branch Guide to ICPA Australia Functions and Advocacy

United in Our Advocacy:

Supporting Rural and Remote Education

This document is intended to inform Branches
and members about the work of ICPA Australia
and help determine whether a local issue falls
under State or Federal jurisdiction.





Portfolios

Federal Advocacy

Like ICPA State Councils, ICPA (Aust) holds an annual conference attended by State Councils, Branch delegates, and educational stakeholders. Delegates present, debate, and vote on motions, which then form ICPA (Aust) policy. Attending the Federal Conference is equally important for raising Branch issues that relate to Commonwealth matters. ICPA (Aust) addresses issues governed by the Commonwealth where Commonwealth legislation, national frameworks and funding arrangements directly impact our members.

ICPA Australia works in partnership with each State Council to support and enhance their efforts. Each State and Territory faces unique educational issues, and their respective State Councils advocate on behalf of members to address these challenges. In addition, State Councils keep Branch members informed with information relevant to their specific State.

Boarding/Hostels/ Second Homes

Support for families whose children need to live away from home to attend secondary education in a boarding environment or second home situation. Advocates for the eligibility and increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance and Additional Boarding Allowance (means tested component) for geographically isolated families to assist with the cost of sending children to boarding school when there is a lack of appropriate schooling due to distance. Advocates to ensure that the care of boarding students is of a high standard.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Social Services for increased funding of the AIC
- Services Australia for other non-financial issues - eg online AIC application forms, criteria and eligibility
- Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA)

Communications

Access to affordable, high-quality internet and phone services to support learning in rural and remote areas, including Distance Education and rural schools.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Communications
- Telstra
- nbn Co
- Stakeholder groups including:
 - ACCAN
 - RRRCC
 - ACMA
 - TIO

Curriculum

A national curriculum and testing framework that meets the needs of all rural and remote students. The Commonwealth Government sets out the National Curriculum which States adopt to varying degrees. The National Curriculum is developed and reviewed by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), an independent statutory authority who also manages NAPLAN and the My Schools website.

Who We Deal With:

- ACARA National Parent Committee
- Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA)

Distance Education (DE)

A Distance Education service for early childhood education to Year 12 for rural and remote students.

ICPA (Aust) advocates for:

Financial remuneration for individuals undertaking the role of supervising students in geographically isolated learning environments through a DE school. Increases to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC-DE) allowance to better assist families with children enrolled in DE schools. Support for volunteer educator programs, including BushED, AHVISE and REVISE.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Education
- Federal Department of Education
- Regional Commissioner for Education
- Federal Minister for Social Services for increased funding of the AIC - DE
- Services Australia for other non-financial issues

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

Services to meet the unique needs of rural and remote children through In-Home Care, early childhood education centres in remote towns, mobile early learning and AIC Allowance for children participating in pre-approved preschool distance education programs.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Care
- Federal Minister for Education
- Federal Department of Education
- The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)
- The Parenthood
- Thrive by Five project by The Minderoo Foundation

Rural Schools

Advocates for funding to ensure small rural schools stay open, viable and effective, increased teacher attraction and retention incentives and amendments to the school resourcing standard to better support rural and remote education.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Education
- Federal Department of Education

Student Travel

Student travel assistance to help with access and the costs of getting to school and specialist services.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Education
- Federal Minister for Transport
- Regional airlines eg Qantas, Rex and Qantas Link

Specific Education Needs

Equitable access to services for children with specific education needs.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Health
- Federal Minister for Education
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS)

Tertiary

Fair and affordable access to university, TAFE and other higher education.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Social Services for issues around funding of the dependent and independent Youth Allowance
- Services Australia for other non-financial issues. e.g. application forms, criteria, and eligibility

Training

Adequate financial and non-financial support for students who embark on Vocational Education and Training (VET) and apprenticeship pathways.

Who We Deal With:

- Federal Minister for Workplace and Training
- Commonwealth Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) administers the Australian Apprenticeships Incentive System, which provides financial assistance, including the Commonwealth Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA)
- Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
- Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA)
- Apprentice Connect Australia Providers (ACAPs)

The ICPA (Aust) Advocacy Functions

The Federal Council:

- Corresponds with relevant Ministers, Senators and department personnel to forward motions carried at conference
- Attends at least two Canberra delegations per year to raise member issues with MPs, Senators and Commonwealth Government officials
- Represents the organisation on behalf of members with key national stakeholders to forward advocacy
- Prepares submissions for reviews of Federal legislation
- Raises issues with the media and via online platforms to raise awareness of the need for educational equity for rural and remote students
- Reports to Branches and State Councils on the progress of motions carried at the Federal Conference

The ICPA (Aust) Other Functions

In addition to advocating for portfolio motions passed during voting at the annual conference, ICPA (Aust) Federal Council undertakes a range of roles and responsibilities within its remit.

These include:

- Managing the national member database.
- Ensuring ICPA (Aust) complies with legal and regulatory obligations as an incorporated association and registered charity
- Setting the strategic plan of ICPA (Aust) and implementing the operational plan to maximise benefits for members
- Collaborate with the conference convening committee to organise the annual Federal Conference
- Overseeing the ICPA (Aust) Constitution, By-Laws, portfolio and governance policy documents to ensure they remain current and aligned with best practices

