



LOUISE MARTIN

ICPA Federal president

Dear Members, Stakeholders and ICPA supporters,

Welcome to the January edition of Pedals.

A massive shout out to the Federal Council team for the mammoth number of tasks we have completed and outcomes achieved since conference. With a team of many newcomers and many nearly newcomers, I have really valued the input of our more experienced team members: Julia, Nikki, Anna and Ali, all of whom have contributed ably to keep us all on track - thank you. The enthusiasm of the new team members knows no bounds, so exciting times ahead.

To name a few of the completed tasks, we have updated all policies, updated the portfolio briefing documents, written all our letters to the ministers and other stakeholders, determined the current key issues, and provided that information in preparation for the October delegations.

October delegations were successful as always. We had many meetings with politicians, and it was a privilege to meet with the Minister for Education the Hon Jason Clare MP and the Assistant Minister for Education, Senator Anthony Chisholm. Disappointingly, the Shadow Minister for Education, Senator Sarah Henderson failed to

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keep her appointment with us for the third consecutive visit to Canberra. We thank the Department of Education, Social Services and Services Australia for meeting with Federal Council to discuss ongoing operational issues. This October, we also took the opportunity to meet with the National Farmers Federation, seeking their support for ICPA and our current issues.

As stated previously, there are many new and nearly new members of the Federal Council team, so we committed to undertaking a governance workshop on the roles and responsibilities of a not-for-profit board. ICPA(Aust) Federal Council is a board and, as such, must meet the ongoing and increasing compliance standards of any other board. The workshop was delivered by Kerryn Newton of Directors Australia, in person at the Canberra delegations, and it has been a worthwhile undertaking. A second component will be undertaken online in the near future.

Federal Council worked closely with C7even to build our campaign for the inaugural Rural and Remote Education (RREd) Day. The day was launched on the 9th of October to coincide with Federal Council's delegation day at Parliament House. Many thanks must go to our ICPA family, stakeholders, and friends for embracing the day. The exposure the day received in the media was excellent and Federal Council hopes to build on that going forward. It has been proposed that the next RREd day will be held on the 15th of October 2025, and it will be bigger and better so watch this space.

Work continues to implement the operational plan that has evolved from the strategic plan which was developed to support the work of ICPA's processes and procedures to ensure the ongoing longevity of the organisation. As we reflect on the last 12 months, we have achieved so much in ticking off the one-year operational plan goals:

- Successfully reintroduced the second VP role, which is already yielding positive results.
- Commenced updating councillor role descriptions.
- We are drafting a decision matrix, which will be invaluable as it will provide clear guidelines for all of council to understand who is responsible for council decision making and in what capacity.

The biggest change that we have recently undertaken is moving the Federal Council communication system from Dropbox to Teams. This will increase efficiencies and enable Federal Council to outsource tech support from an external provider decreasing the necessity to have a councillor responsible for this. It will take some time to adjust to the new system, so we are doing a couple of training sessions to ensure a smooth transition.

Whilst we acknowledge there has been a heavy focus on the current key issues, the ongoing AIC campaign, pay parity for early childhood teachers and the removal of Fringe Benefits Tax from essential staff accommodation at boarding schools, Federal Council continues to work behind the scenes to progress the remaining issues that we are faced with. Many letters have been written to stakeholders and many positive replies have been received. In addition, a number of submissions have been put forward from various portfolios.

Thank you to all of council for committing your time and effort over the last few months in actioning all the motions from conference, attending a variety of meetings and travelling to represent ICPA in several forums, it is much appreciated.

Happy new year, I hope 2025 brings a fantastic wet season for us all.

Until next time, **Louise**



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2026 SCHOLARSHIPS