

MINUTES
SA ICPA Annual State Conference
2021 South Australia Isolated Children's Parents' Association Inc.

Central Oval, Port Augusta
Friday, 12 March 2021
Hosted by the Marree Air Branch

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Table of Contents

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE	5
<i>ICPA Members.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Guests.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>CONFERENCE APOLOGIES.....</i>	<i>7</i>
Presidents Welcome	8
State Conference Motions	11
<i>DISTANCE EDUCATION</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>COMMUNICATIONS.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>ADMINISTRATION.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Supplementary Motion.....</i>	<i>24</i>
SA ICPA 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	27
SA ICPA Presidents Report	28
SA ICPA Treasurers Report.....	31
BRANCH REPORTS.....	33
<i>MARREE AIR BRANCH.....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>NORTH WEST BRANCH</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>MARLA/OODNADATTA BRANCH</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>EYRE BRANCH</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>NORTH EAST BRANCH</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>LONE MEMBERS</i>	<i>38</i>
PORTFOLIO REPORTS	38
<i>BOARDING SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TERMS HOSTELS</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>COMMUNICATIONS.....</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>DISTANCE EDUCATION</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>RURAL SCHOOLS AND TRAVEL.....</i>	<i>44</i>

<i>SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS</i>	45
<i>TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS</i>	46
<i>PUBLICITY REPORT</i>	47
<i>MAILCHIMP</i>	47
<i>THE PIPELINE</i>	48
<i>REVISE</i>	48
<i>OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE GOVERNING COUNCIL</i>	49
<i>SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT</i>	49
Guest Speakers	50
<i>Opening Speaker - Dr Ellen Litchfield</i>	50
<i>Guest Speaker - Pauly Daniel, Daniel-Tessari Horse Reflections</i>	51
2020 Financial Statements AUDITED	56
2021 Interim Financial Statement UNAUDITED	61
ALLOWANCES	62

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

ICPA Members

STATE COUNCIL

President	Jill Greenfield
Vice President	Kate Greenfield
Secretary	Edwina Bowie
Treasurer	Michelle Hilder
Publicity Officer	Petie Rankin
Immediate Past President	Kerry Williams

LIFE MEMBERS

Glennis Crawford	State Life Member
Jane Gloster	State Life Member and Federal Life Member

BRANCH DELEGATES

North West	Petie Rankin	Lynly Kerin
North East	Katie Robinson	Penny Rasheed
Flinders Ranges	Lisa Slade	Belinda Hatcher
Marree Air	Lucy Morphett	Jess Bell
Port Augusta	Katrina Morris	Stefanie Roeske

BRANCH OBSERVERS

North West	Joanna Gibson Col Greenfield	Pamela Cuffe
North East	Roslyn Breeding	Melanie Lewis
Flinders Ranges	Sonya Fels Jane McIntosh	
Port Augusta	Michelle Lord	Rachel Smart
Marree Air	Ellen Litchfield Lyn Litchfield	Anne Morphett Blake Ward
Convening Committee	Jess Bell Anne Morphett Lyn Litchfield David Bell	Lisa Edwards Lucy Morphett Ellen Litchfield Blake Ward

Guests

Andrew Junge	Westminster School
Bill McIntosh	Outback Communities Authority
Cassandra Norton	nbn Country Ambassador
Cherie Gerlach	SA Arid Lands NRM Board
Chris Fulton	SA Arid Lands NRM Board
Claire Harris	Stock Journal
Daren O'Neill	Hawker Area School
Di Knauerhase	Special Event Broadcasters
Ellen Litchfield	The Sustainable Sausage, Opening Speaker
Georgy Ewing	REVISE
Hon. Dan Van Holst Pellekaan	Member for Stuart
Jack Pointon	Headspace Port Augusta
Jenice Zerna	S.A. Association of School Parent Communities
Jodie Gregg-smith	SA Arid Lands NRM Board
John Dawkins	President of the Legislative Council
Julie Taylor	OAC
Lai Kuan Lim	SOTA Head of Campus
Lisa Slade	ICPA (Aust), Federal Treasurer
Lucas Forbes	Media, ABC
Lucy Morphet	NRM SA Arid Lands
Mandy Smallacombe	Royal Flying Doctor Service
Margie Arnold	Meg's bookshop
Mark Bolton	Regional General Manager, Telstra
Matthew Humphrey	National Drought & Flood Agency
Melinda Channon	Telstra
Naomi Read	nbn Local Manager SA/NT
Nichii Mardon	Director of Catholic Education, Port Pirie Diocese
Nigel Huxtable	Department for Education
Paul Erkelenz	Rural Business Support
Paula Osborne	Regional Development Australia Far North
Pauly Daniels	Daniel Tessari Horse Reflections, Guest Speaker
Rob Harkin	Department for Education
Rowan Ramsey MP	Federal Member for Grey
Sally Sullivan	Federal Vice President
Sheila Dawkins	Lone Member
Simon Shepherd	Westminster School
Suzanne Wilson	Federal Secretary
Trish Ellin	REVISE Manager
Verity Timms	SA Health. The Women's and Children's Health Network
Vic Knauerhase	Special Event Broadcasters

CONFERENCE APOLOGIES

Alana Moller	Federal President, ICPA (Aust)
Alys McKeough	State Conference Convenor WA ICPA
Anna Brown	Indulkaninna Foundation
Annabel Axford	Emerging Minds
Anne Millard	Executive Director, Partnerships, Schools & Pre Schools
Blair Boyer MP	Shadow Minister for Education
Brooke Yates	Sandy's Memorial Trust
Caroline Croser- Barlow	Project Director Year 7 to High School
Carolyn Grantsklans	CEO Association of Independent Schools of SA
Claire Butler	President NSW ICPA
Damien Brown	Indulkaninna Foundation
David Ensor	Director, External Relations, Department for Education
Deb Castle	Secretary NSW ICPA
Di Thomas	Eyre Branch, State Council
Helen Williams	Marla Oodnadatta Branch, State Council
Hollie Williams	Assistant Secretary, State Council
Hon David Basham MP	Minister for Regional Development
Hon John Gardner MP	Minister for Education
Jess Barry	North West Branch, State Council
Jessica Hacket	Executive Officer, Connellan Airways Trust
Jodie Keogh	Lone Member, State Council
Kate Thompson	Federal Assistant Secretary, ICPA (Aust)
Kelly Ostwald	Secretary QLD ICPA
Leisa Breeding	North East Branch, State Council
Louise Martin	President QLD ICPA
Lynn Nagel	SA Life Member
Mija Reynolds	Flinders Ranges Branch, State Council
Mrs Roslyn Schumann	CWA SA President
Peter Malinauskas MP	Leader of Opposition
Peter Treloar MP	Deputy Speaker, Member for Flinders
Premier Steven Marshall	Premier SA
Richard Stokes	CEO, Australian Boarding Schools Association
Rick Persse	CEO Department for Education
Rob Kerin	Chair Primary Producers SA
Rosie Broderick	Head of Boarding, Wilderness School
Sarah Cook	President NT ICPA
Sharon Nutt	SA Life Member
Thomas Dunsmore	General Manager, Australian Boarding Schools Association

Presidents Welcome

Jill Greenfield

Good morning everyone, for those of you that don't know me, I'm Jill Greenfield, the current South Australian ICPA President. On behalf of the SA ICPA State Council, I would like to welcome you to Port Augusta for the 2021 South Australian State Conference, kindly hosted by the Marree Air Branch.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we are meeting upon today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country. We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people from other areas of South Australia present today.

I would like to acknowledge Federal member for Grey, Mr Rowan Ramsey, Member for Stuart, Mr Dan Van Holst Pellekaan and the Hon John Dawkins and Mrs Dawkins. Thank you all for your ongoing support of our community.

I have great pleasure in welcoming Federal and State life member, Mrs Jane Gloster, State Life Member, Mrs Glennis Crawford, Federal Councillors Lisa, Suzanne and Sally, ICPA members, guests and visitors.

"Helping Young Minds Grow" is the theme for the 2021 state conference. We as parents, educators, health professionals and the wider community help our young minds grow in so many ways. This is a central theme when advocating for improved educational and social outcomes for our rural, remote and isolated children.

Thank you to all who are in attendance today, your presence is appreciated as it shows your ongoing support for SA ICPA. We warmly welcome our guests, please feel free to comment and share your knowledge and expertise when motions are being presented.

Each branch will present their Presidents Report in PowerPoint format, in addition there is a full report to read in your conference program. Portfolio reports can also be found in the booklet. This year we have some portfolio PowerPoint presentations prior to the relevant motions being presented, to showcase the issues State Council have been working towards.

We have some exciting speakers today, first up is our opening speaker, Ellen Litchfield, who is from Wilpoorinna Station. Ellen is a pastoralist, Nuffield Scholar, veterinarian, and founder of The Sustainable Sausage.

Our guest speaker today is Pauly Daniel. He was born and raised on a cattle property in the Flinders Ranges and his affinity with horses is lifelong.

We are excited to once again have a panel of speakers, aptly called "Intervention for learning success". This panel enables us to learn a little more about each speaker plus the opportunity to ask questions.

All of our speakers today are Helping Young Minds Grow.

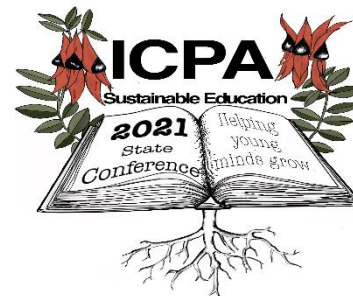
The AGM is at the end of the conference proceedings, non-members are welcome to stay for the AGM.

Sharon Nutt has kindly offered to compile the Conference Minutes from the recording.

We thank all of the sponsors and please take the time to look at the stall holders who have travelled to be here today.

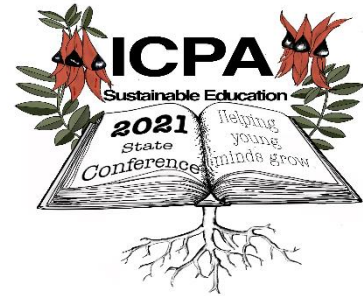
I wish you all an enjoyable day and I hope that you are strengthened by the motions, inspirational speakers and presentations.

SA ICPA 2021 Conference Program



8:15	Registration Central Oval, Port Augusta	
9:00	Conference Commences National Anthem President's Welcome Conference Convenor- Housekeeping Introduction of Guests	Jill Greenfield Lisa Edwards Edwina Bowie
	Official Opening of Conference	Ellen Litchfield
	State ICPA President's Report	Jill Greenfield
	Agenda Motions	
10:30	Morning Tea	
10:50	Marree Air President's Report/Presentation Agenda Motions	
11:15	Guest Speaker and Q&A <i>Daniel-Tessari Horse Reflections</i>	Pauly Daniel
11:50	Agenda Motions Flinders Ranges President's Report/ Presentation ICPA Federal Council Report/ Presentation	Sally Sullivan

SA ICPA 2021 Conference Program



12:30	Lunch	
1:30	Port Augusta President's Report/ Presentation Agenda Motions	
2:00	<i>"Intervention for learning success"</i> RFDS / SPELD / Headspace Session and Q & A Panel	Tiarne Saunders Kerry Williams Jack Pointon
2:45	Eyre President's Report/ Presentation Agenda Motions North West President's Report/ Presentation	
3:00	Afternoon Tea	
3:20	Marla/Oodnadatta President's Report/ Presentation New look ICPA Website North East President's Report/ Presentation	Jodie Keogh
3:35	AGM	
4:15	Close of Conference	

State Conference Motions

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Motion 1 North West Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Petie Rankin

Seconded: Lynly Kerin

“That SA ICPA work with Federal Council and relevant bodies to advocate for a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) to help with the ongoing cost to families, businesses and industry”.

Explanation: COVID-19 put many families into a spin last year. Some city, rural and regional families had to ‘home school’ their children. We heard of issues arising from this; with parents having to work AND teach their children and the problem of who is going to stay home and teach the child.

Our Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison said, “For those who have been working at home, and sort of overseeing their kids’ learning at home, I think that’s been a real problem. That’s been hard on parents and I don’t think it’s best for the kids’ education.”

The cost is often not only to the family but also to our industry, as families either split so that one parent takes the children to school during term time, or families leave the bush and find employment closer to a face-to-face school

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council I just want to reassure the SA members that Federal Council is always working on this and that we appreciate the support of your motion and support of council and look forward to furthering this in the future. One day we will have a win.

Motion 2 Marla Oodnadatta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Penny Rasheed, North East Branch on behalf of Marla Oodnadatta Branch

Seconded: Petie Rankin, North West Branch on behalf of Marla Oodnadatta Branch

“That SA ICPA request the Department for Education to enable School of the Air (SOTA) students completing Year 7 to remain eligible to enrol through Port Augusta SOTA beyond the current exemption period.”

Explanation: As of 2022, it is required that Year 7 be included as high school across South Australia. SOTA was granted an exemption for 2022 - 2024 along with some other ‘eligible schools’ whose country primary schools are located more than 20km from their local area or high school. As it currently stands, after the cessation of the exemption period for the Year 7 transition, SOTA will only cater for students from Reception to Year 6.

There are a number of negative implications for the families utilising SOTA in making this change. It places a huge stress on families with children having to go to boarding school in Year 7 (some students will only be eleven years old), or alternatively enrolling them through Open Access College for one year before then changing schools again to attend boarding school. If students were able to remain part of the SOTA Port Augusta campus, it would allow them to attend face-to-face events providing invaluable social interactions, greater continuity and a better-quality

foundation for life at boarding school when the time comes. The 'snowball' effect of diminishing enrolments will also be felt given the already small nature of the school. The option for Year 7's to remain at SOTA would also ease the financial pressure put on families who are faced with additional years of boarding school costs.

Comment: Petie Rankin, North West Branch I have four children and know of other families with four children, financially this could mean having to potentially find another \$160,000. Even with only one or two children it is a lot of money to find for an extra year. To send your child away at 11 is a really young age. We are lucky enough to have the Open Access College but means transitioning to two schools and that is quite a bit to take on emotionally for kids at that age.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member A question – are you looking for this to going at infinitum?

Comment: Petie Rankin, North West Branch Yes, we have an exemption to 2024, yes absolutely if it could go on that would be amazing. It would be security for these children and their families to know they don't have to leave home at 11. If it could be that would be amazing.

Comment: Lisa Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch I'd like to support this motion, when our kids go to boarding school, they are not used to the small things other kids are used to. Taking a school bag, school lockers, where to go in a huge new school, where do they go for lunch, who do they talk to what do they do after school. For an 11–12-year-old coming to terms with that change in situation and all that, they may not be ready for it. So, to have that choice, to have that exemption, is really worthwhile for our families.

Comment: Lisa Edwards, Marree Air Branch (against) I do support this but my question is, there will be a cut off at some point, when will that be? Someone somewhere is going to have to send their child at age 11. If the state has made Year 7 high school, are our kids just going to end up the weird kids that don't go to high school in Year 7?

Comment: Anne Morphett, Marree Air Branch (against) We sent four boys to boarding school, they all went in Year 7. Our boys benefited from that as they all started high school with their peer groups. You really do need to have a cut off.

Comment: Belinda Hatcher, Flinders Ranges Branch The point of this is that it is giving our families a choice. If you would like to choose to send you child away in Year 7 but because it is very difficult if the child is not ready emotionally, socially or physically this allows for a bit more of a choice.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member I, like Anne & Lisa, would like to speak against this motion. I don't think SOTA parents can put these children in a position where they are going to be different. The first year of boarding school is really hard, don't make it when everyone else is finding it easy. I also believe you are underestimating your children's resilience, yes, it is hard and nobody is saying it isn't, but if you look at all the people in Far West NSW where people have been sending their children down for eons, they are all fairly well socially adapted and they have managed. Yes, it is hard, it is an extra expense. I don't think SOTA can ask to out of step forever, you have an exemption for a couple of years but I couldn't support that to go on at infinitum.

Comment: Simon Shepherd, Westminster School Addressing the fees, at Westminster we do a six for five deal, so if you are coming down a year early, you get one for free. This is in place because there is a great deal of empathy. This is a national journey; SA is the only state now with high school starting Year 8. Every other state starts in Year 7, we need to push for national

consistency for the sake of every child. When they hit Year 7 as part of high school, they have exposure to specialists. They have a maths teacher who is a dedicated maths teacher, an English teacher who is a dedicated English teacher. So, when you are worried about numeracy and literacy, they have access to learning support teachers who will be in class. The start point with your peers is important, it is a journey for life. It is tough and challenging for parents in regional areas because the cost is enormous. Schools do acknowledge that and we will always try and work with our boarding families to try and help and support.

Comment: Rob Harkin, Department for Education This motion should be directed to the Minister as this is government policy we are enacting not department policy.

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council The Northern Territory went through this a while ago. Is there an opportunity to dual enrol between the OAC and the SOTA so they can remain in their SOTA community but receive some of their tuition from the OAC?

Comment: Julie Taylor, Open Access College The enrolments of the SOTA students are actually OAC enrolments, so we are absolutely able to do that. We currently have a student who is doing some learning through SOTA and accessing higher level maths and science through the OAC. We are able to support families who weren't ready to go to boarding school to continue education through the OAC but continue to access face to face events through SOTA and keep that connection. That is the flexibility we have; the enrolments are one.

Motion 3 North East Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Katie Robinson

Seconded: Penny Rasheed

"That SA ICPA State Council continue to work with Federal Council towards having the AIC extended to 4-year-olds doing Kindergarten by distance education."

Explanation: Currently, 4-year-old students studying Kindergarten via distance education are ineligible to receive the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance. If families received this allowance, it would alleviate the cost of providing an educational experience for their children. The majority of children who are enrolled in a distance education Kindergarten program are found to have better educational outcomes in later years, by forming these important foundations early in their educational journey.

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council Again, a great motion and Federal Council is working on this as well. In some states the children can be three in the year before their compulsory schooling so the Federal lobby is for 3 and 4 year-olds.

Motion 4 Flinders Ranges Branch

DEEMED COVERED BY MOTON

1

Belinda Hatcher: request Conferences permission to deem Motion 4 covered by Motion 1

"That SA ICPA State Council support ICPA Federal Council in seeking the establishment of a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA), to recognise the ongoing out of pocket expenses families incur to educate their children via distance education."

Explanation: The role of the distance education tutor is vital to the education of young remote children studying via School of the Air, who have no other option than to attend school via distance education.

The role of tutor often falls to the mother, who is required to manage this along with an already busy schedule, with no recompense. The hours are generally the same as paid teaching staff, yet with little to no recognition. This is a double edge sword that also means the mother must forego any income that could have been earned while fulfilling this role.

Some families employ a Distance Education Tutor, again this vital role comes at a cost to the family. The Distance Education Tutor Allowance would go some way towards recognising the important role the tutor plays and compensates the family in a small way for the high cost of educating their children.

Motion 5 Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Rachel Smart

Seconded: Katrina Morris

“That SA ICPA lobbies the Department for Education to provide an allowance for geographically isolated Distance Education (DE) supervisors whose students are in receipt of Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC).”

Explanation: Currently there are less than 50 families that would be eligible under this criteria.

Gross Regional Product per capita for the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) region in which the geographically isolated DE AIC recipients reside is \$417,000. This compares to the Gross State Product of \$62,100 per capita highlighting the fact that inhabitants of the OCA area contribute well above the state average towards the finances of the state.

Unemployment for the OCA region is lower than both state or federal levels. This highlights that there is not a lot of scope for taking on the extra workload involved in supervising. Often families seek an additional employee to supervise schooling. However, without financial support the reality is that many families cannot afford this option and the family must absorb the added workload and responsibility themselves. This continues as a huge contributing factor to many families leaving the bush.

The COVID-19 lockdown has highlighted the difficulty that employed parents supervising their own children’s education brings.

(source: Outback Communities Authority Region Economic Growth & Investment Strategy, Revised Report, January 2019)

Comment: Penny Rasheed, North East Branch When I first moved to our sheep station, I left a teaching job in the city. Last year I started our SOTA journey with our 5-year-old in the school room. We were also heading into our fourth year of drought. With an already heightened level of emotion in our household, to then try and teach was difficult. There is no extra money to help take the pressure off me and my family in the school room. We have now moved closer to a town where my children can attend a school face-to-face and my daughter has said it is quite nice not having an angry mum in the classroom all the time. I am now doing TRT, so I feel I’m contributing to the family again. The fact that there is no financial amount attached to this role really makes it seem that it is not valued and appreciated at all.

SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Motion 6 State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Kate Greenfield

Seconded: Penny Rasheed

“That SA ICPA State Council requests that the Minister for Education support teachers in rural, regional, and remote areas to implement high-quality, evidence-based literacy programs in schools, to ensure all students have the best chance of success.”

Explanation: While the Department for Education’s Literacy Guarantee Unit have promoted evidence-based approaches in schools, there are still many schools that have done little to improve the way they teach reading and spelling, leaving their students at a disadvantage. In rural, regional, and remote areas, with limited access to intervention services, too many students continue to slip through the cracks and are faced with attending high school not having mastered basic literacy skills. For geographically isolated students with no daily access to a face-to-face school, it is even more crucial that families are provided with adequate resources and guidance for teaching reading and spelling. With such clear evidence supporting the effective teaching of reading and spelling, it is no longer acceptable to allow students to continue to be at risk of literacy failure. It is time the Department for Education ensured that all students have access to high quality programs, including appropriate, evidence-based interventions when required.

Comment: Rob Harkin, Department for Education Interested to talk to/know where this motion originated. For the last three years we have been focusing on improving the outcomes, particularly literacy, in our portfolio. We take a common measure which is the phonic screening checklist, a test applied to Year 1 students, our portfolio has seen an improvement of 30%, which is the second highest improvement across the state. I’m not sure about this, the Literacy Guarantee Unit is a passion of our Minister, and I pay him a lot of homage in terms of his work as an outstanding Minister of Education. I have two coordinators who work on this area across the portfolio and I’d be very interested in more detail and be very willing to speak to members of the State Council about the origin of the context of this.

Comment: Kerry Williams, State Council The Literacy Guarantee Unit has obviously done some excellent work and there has been some really good improvements in literacy across the state. The training and the resourcing is still problematic, a lot of teachers out there still don’t have adequate training in how to teach reading in a really good quality way. A lot of new teachers have insufficient training in the good quality teaching of reading. Resourcing is another issue. A lot of schools now know in the early years they need access to decodable readers for their students but what they have available is their old PM ?? readers which they know now is not an evidence way to teach reading. Another issue is that the Department is still asking schools to report on levelled readers, we know that levelled readers are not a good indicator of where a

child is at with their reading. Even though they are promoting decodable readers they are still asking schools to report on levelled readers.

Comment: Rob Harkin, Department for Education I think this could be a whole afternoon of debate and I would like to chat with you. I agree, sadly, that our universities do not prepare the people who come and work in our system. Principals I work with spend a lot of time teaching graduates how to teach and do it very well. We will have an interesting conversation. I absolutely understand decodable readers, par for the course right across this portfolio. Yes, the Department does still require running record data to be presented once a year, that is under review and the Executive Director of Curriculum and Learning is a very strong advocate for us not doing it anymore. This will be an interesting decision to be made, probably, in the next year.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member I worked as an SSO at Roxby Downs, I've done Mini Lit and Read Writing training. Roxby school has implemented Read Writing, and Roxby is a big school from Foundation to Year 6 and it has been incredibly successful. I would think a lot of the Far North rave has come from Roxby. These programs are available and your lobbying is going to have to be slightly more focused than the motion. These programs are out there, schools can buy them but are incredibly expensive. It needs a commitment from a school, to put that money into a program and stick with it for 4-5 years, to buy all the resources, to get the training. There is a lot of really good training available, lots of really good programs available. Running records couldn't be done at home but Mini Lit could be done by a parent. Read writing could be done by a parent or they could be delivered over the air. This needs to be a little more tightly focused, your explanation is better than the motion. The motion is too broad, there are a lot of rural and remote schools that are doing quite well, but it is a really expensive business.

Comment: Simon Shepherd, Westminster School This is not a unique issue in SA or the nation. The literacy levels of kids are of grave concern in every field of education. Most states education departments and independent schools are working to the same accord, trying to improve literacy levels. The things we can call out on are the entry levels of young teachers, the skills they have to pass as they are graduating as teachers. What are their literacy levels and maths levels like? Are they really qualified and capable of delivering this, because you don't know what you don't know. As Pauly said, teachers should be the highest paid workers, but they are not so the people who are attracted to the field may not necessarily be who you would want in the first place. That doesn't mean that they won't grow to be that person, but that can take time and investment to train those people. It takes a village to raise a child, education is about creating humanity, if we are to drive forward on this a step that can be taken is literacy at home, how much role modelling are children getting on reading? I ask kids what they are reading and I ask their dad's what they are reading. There is a marked difference in the literacy levels of boys and girls. There are a lot of different mechanisms we can use and it starts with all of us, and all work to improve the literacy levels of kids. If kids are seeing role modelled reading and role modelled literacy then their reading will improve.

BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS

Motion 7 State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Petie Rankin

“That SA ICPA State Council work with Federal Council and other states and territories to advocate for a nationally consistent and long-term approach to border restrictions and guidelines for those students who board interstate.”

Explanation: As the 2021 school year is well underway across Australia and complications continue to arise from the COVID-19 pandemic, ICPA (Aust) is sending a message of appeal to all levels of government asking decision makers to ensure rural and remote students have access to education institutions, regardless of where they live in our vast nation.

ICPA is hopeful that a nationwide, workable solution will be established as a matter of urgency to ensure the concerns which arose in the 2020 school year are not repeated.

Comment: Petie Rankin, North West Branch Education is not considered an essential service. With students attending schools in other states, the border closures made it impossible to attend school functions.

Comment: Simon Shepherd, Westminster School the pain was felt everywhere. Boarding schools were considered the “ocean liners” on land, with the worry that the passenger would disembark and take whatever virus was in the air from the urban area to the rural area. We worked extensively to seek clarity on this with AISSA to force the governments hand but at all times we were operating under the guidelines of SA Health. Schools were left to their own devices

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council ICPA has been working closely with the Minister for Decentralisation for regional education to try and find ways to resolve this issue of inconsistent guidelines in relation to boarding schools. A motion at the 2020 Federal Conference, asking us to advocate for the establishment of a formal isolated children’s pandemic group, made up of State and Federal Education Ministers, relevant authorities and the Australian Boarding Schools Association as well as ICPA. We are actioning that and continue to work on it. I would like to acknowledge the work of ABSA and their support of ICPA and trying to find a way around the issue.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member I think ICPA, and other organisations, need to work on reclassifying education as an essential industry. It beggars’ belief that bottle shops are an essential industry and education is not.

Comment: Lyn Litchfield, Marree Air Branch With a daughter overseas and a child in boarding school, this is a worldwide problem.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

Motion 8 North West Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Petie Rankin

Seconded: Lynly Kerin

“That SA ICPA continue to liaise with Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing about the need to conduct health checks on all remote and isolated children in SA to ensure any learning disabilities, eyesight, speech and hearing issues are picked up and recognised in their early years.”

Explanation: We all know that recognising and diagnosing learning disabilities early on in a child's life is extremely important. It gives them a greater chance to get professional help and enable them the best start to their learning journey. Many issues are being undiagnosed due to the tyranny of distance. If learning difficulties are being picked up, then it is often hard to seek help as professionals are often hundreds of kilometres away. Once a child enters the school system there is often a long wait before professional help is able to be accessed. There is strong concern for the stable development of children most at risk, those children being the ones that fly under the radar, which with the lack of CaFHS involvement will fly more under the radar than ever before. A systematic checking system is essential to maintain a level of early detection of children most at developmental risk. If issues can be diagnosed and treated early the outcome is often better.

Comments from members read by Lynly Kerin: A few words from one of our branch members that couldn't make it today...

"I have had to make all contact with CAFHS to push for or organise health checks. We had one when he was a few weeks old and then another recently at 16 months old only due to me making the phone call and asking for an appointment just for my own piece of mind to know that all the health boxes were ticked for him with his weight/growth.

There also needs to a check included for the mother to make sure she is going well and coping ok. It is far too easy to get lost in the current system. The system needs to work to be beneficial for remote families.

After a personal emotional and traumatic year for myself and family 2 years ago, this motion really needs to be heard".

A second member of our branch states...

"I have been living in the north west region for over 12 months now and have not seen or heard anything from CaFHS in my area or what I have access too for my children from their service. I have two children with one almost school age. I have had multiple visits from RFDS for my young daughter and not once have they expressed to me what I have access to for my children living remote. I would like to see CaFHS and RFDS work together to address family's needs"

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council Last week we had very similar motions to your motions 8-10 at the Northern Territory State Conference. One of the ideas for the NT Health Service, that an understaffed and underfunded allied health organisation in central Australia suggested that parents might do their own ASQ, which is an ages and stages questionnaire developmental assessment on their six month to five-and-a-half-year-olds, and they can use that assessment to refer themselves to the NDIS if they can see developmental delays might be an issue. NT health services can email the assessment questionnaire to parents on request.

Comment: Verity Timms, Country North Manager, CaFHS the staff her in Port Augusta, and myself, have been working quite closely with RFDS to look at our gaps and how we can move forward. One of the concerns for us has been communication and some lack of services around our communication officer with CaFHS, which we now have recruited to so hopefully, in the future there will be more communication with all families in SA about CaFHS. We have been going through a change to the model of care over the last few years and are at that stage where we are implementing an model of care, hopefully more families get more of what they need in this area of development. The ASQ is something we do with families. I think we are working in

the right direction but it is slow and that our partnership is really positive and promising, especially our work with the RFDS. I'd like to make a comment about early parenting groups as well. During COVID we have been encouraged to work more in that virtual way, we haven't had a great IT platform in SA Health and that is something that has come forward and doing early parenting groups where we can reach anyone across the state has been really promising as well.

Comment: Lyn Litchfield, Marree Air Branch A friend, living 2 ½ hours from Marree came to Marree for her babies 6-week CaFHS check-up. She and internet group for remote first baby support, a bit like the old correspondence from CaFHS when we had children.

Motion 9 Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Lisa Slade

“That SA ICPA continue to work with the Department for Education to ensure there is early identification and intervention along with adequate and sufficient support for children with learning difficulties, and their Distance Education Supervisor, studying via Distance Education.”

Explanation: Issues that arise for a child, and their family, when they have a learning disability are only exacerbated when that child studies via Distance Education. Families currently feel they have no choice but to relocate, leaving their homes in rural and remote South Australia, so that their children can access the support required to fulfil their potential. We need to do better for these families; the students deserve equitable education and support wherever they may live in South Australia.

Comment: Kate Greenfield, State Council I speak in favour of this motion, it is critical that we get the early diagnosis and intervention. Every week, month, year that is lost at the front end has to be found at the tail end but the problem with that is that the kids keep getting pushed through school and as they rise through the grades it makes it more difficult and the fall further and further behind. If we can find a way to make this work in the coming months rather than years it would be wonderful.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member I think you should be using motions 8 and 9 together. I don't think, from personal experience, that there is a lot of point having a great early childhood system for early intervention if then it is not acted upon when they go to school. You need the intervention and diagnosis that will hopefully stem from motion 8 to be your starting point for motion 9, you are losing even more time if you have to go through the whole thing all over again. Inter-agency communication, networking and support will improve things, particularly in a small state like SA.

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council It is the same in the Territory, we have been trying to get health and education to speak and work together. When I spoke to the health people the other day about another issue she said, “I wouldn't have a clue what happens in education” Exactly why they need to work together.

Motion 10 North East Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Penny Rasheed

Seconded: Katie Robinson

“That SA ICPA continues to work with Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) to ensure children living in the North East of South Australia and serviced by Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) South Eastern Section are included in CaFHS services and communication.”

Explanation: Families along the Barrier Highway north of Burra are serviced by RFDS South Eastern Section and not Central Operations. While some families have had contact from a CaFHS nurse, to ensure age-appropriate health checks are being carried out and developmental milestones are met, other families have not received any CaFHS communication and are missing out on vital child and maternal health care.

Comment: Verity Timms, Country North Manager, CaFHS We have staff all over the state, and like I said previously, our communication needs to be strengthened and working together with RFDS. An issue we have is the Communications Officer for the whole state and we are working on that. Certainly, our staff in the Clare Office, who work in that area, are aware of the families and are really trying hard to connect with them. One of the barriers we have is that our services are voluntary, people don't have to opt in to our service and sometimes it is difficult to know where people birth, if we don't get them information at the birthing hospital sometimes there is a gap for us to know where people are and when they have had their babies. We are strengthening that with all the birthing hospitals, stakeholders and other people that we communicate with in the state. So, hopefully we get there but we are really aware of it and try extremely hard. One other thing, we do struggle to recruit the right type of people to our service with the right experience. Encouraging our people to work in some of our areas across the state is bit of a barrier for us as well.

Motion 11 North West Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Petie Rankin

Seconded: Lynly Kerin

“That SA ICPA liaise with Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) to allow geographically isolated members to feel that their family's needs are being met.”

Explanation: Our concern is that there are still a number of families with infants and pre-schoolers requiring child health and developmental checks that are not easily able to access CaFHS clinics due to distance and a lack of engagement from CaFHS to provide the holistic care these families require. It was a detrimental loss to our families when the Child Health Nurse funding to RICE was lost in 2018 and RICE could no longer support families with home visits. It is not acceptable that a government funded entity such as CaFHS cannot provide equitable care to assist families living in remote regions of the state.

Comment from member, Amy Cooper read by Lynly Kerin

My name is Amy Cooper, I apologise I am unable to attend today but I would like to share my personal account of services for children remote Australia.

I am a mum to 3 children aged 8, 6 and 17 months, I live at Millers Creek Station, but now due to lack of services and support we have made the hard decision to split our family and move to Jamestown.

I have used CaFHS with my eldest when they are involved with RICE and it was a great service then with support for our children and for wellbeing checks for parents. They were a great support when I also had my second baby with the problems I had after birth, including feeding, weight problems, hip dysplasia and it was also a great help to have the nurse to come out and visit as I had PND. This service helped with my wellbeing and advice for me on caring for my children with the issues I was having.

I have now had my 3rd baby with the change of CaFHS service and how it is offered, I was having to go to Port Augusta for my appointments for the development and weight and growth checks. I had issues with feeding and weight gain and growth these were having to be discussed on the phone or the internet and it was a stressful time. The connection with the CaFHS nurse was not the same and I did not feel it was supportive enough for remote families. We were told that they can make a flight out with the RFDS to visit if there is a need, I was never comfortable in asking for that flight or that need for a personal visit as it may not have been urgent enough. I would like to see the service link up with the RFDS and make more personal visits to the families as they should not need to feel like it is too hard or an inconvenience to ask for a visit.

Both my 2 older children have additional needs for their learning and development, I was having to travel to Port Augusta for Paediatrician visits. My daughter was seeing speech therapy in Coober Pedy until she turned school age and then was left without a service. She was not able to access community speech unless we have NDIS and as she only has one learning problem, she is not eligible for financial assistance for this service. Once she reached School the Department of education was meant to be helping her, but they will not work online and will only see them when they are in town or at school. This has not worked or helped us, and my children are falling through the gaps of the lack of services available to our children.

Due to these failings and lack of support we have had to make a very hard decision and split our family up. My husband is at the property working while I have moved to Jamestown with my 3 children so they can all get the support and access to services that are not available or are extremely expensive privately.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my story and my concerns with the services that are available and provided for our families and children in remote locations. I am very happy that RFDS now offer OT services to families it is a great start to helping and I look forward to see this grow and offer more services.

Comment: Verity Timms, Country North Manager, CaFHS Thank you for the feedback, one of the issues we have is that sometimes we don't hear the stories. We think it is really important to share that feedback and I will be sharing this with my colleagues as well. Family stories are really what we want to hear to try and improve our services. Thank you.

Comment: Sally Sullivan, Federal Council In the Territory a recent development has been organising the health people to do child health and development checks, even for children younger than school age, to tie in at school weeks. Getting those allied health and health professionals to be available to do those checks for people's children. Where there is still a lack of mobile early childhood services it is still difficult to capture that cohort of "first child" prior to the education system

Comment: Simon Shepherd, Westminster School I know Jamestown well, I grew up there and my dad was instrumental in setting up a medical program there. It is a sad indictment with rural depopulation that services have crumbled. Population has moved to the urban areas and so have the services. If ICPA sees COVID as an opportunity to campaign very hard on this something can probably be achieved. COVID 19 has shown the perils of urban concentration and it has actually led to a high degree of counter urbanisation in the eastern states. There is an opportunity here to promote rural areas again. Unfortunately, what will happen is bigger rural areas will attract

counter urbanisation and the smaller will remain marginal. But if bigger areas keep attracting people, as population increases services will too. So, it is definitely an opportunity to make the most of the Covid opportunity in front of you. You have Members of Parliament here, who I'm sure are doing that and treating COVID as an opportunity. The last three motions have been about health provision to provide early intervention to help kids, we are all in the business of helping kids, so let's hope it can be achieved.

Comment: Julie Taylor, Open Access College I totally agree about the whole set of these motions and the comment earlier about health and education needing to work together so it is more seamless. We often see a breakdown with young children seen in the health system then not a good flow of information when they start school. We often have to start again getting assessments done which is problematic, I see my colleague here from Hawker Area School nodding. It is a problem and it needs to be across departments within our state, so I greatly support that, Jill.

Comment: Dan Van Holst Pellekaan There is no doubt what has been proposed in four motions in a row now is incredibly important, and the gentleman from Westminster School expressed a sentiment that certainly I share and I know Rowan would be exactly the same. I'm taking lots of notes and very happy to see whatever I can do to support this.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member It seems to me that Simon is exactly right but when there was a Child and Family Health nurse at RICE this problem didn't arise. So, there is a really simple solution and it is to simply to put that position back in place at RICE which covers all the state. Never mind about Flying Doctor here or Flying Doctor there and not being able to recruit. She was there and she had an incredibly close network and relationship with families and it seems to me that we weren't talking about these motions a few years ago because the position was there and she got around.

Comment: from Mandy Smallacombe RFDS, read by Kate Greenfield, State Council In regard to the RFDS and the CaFHS collaborative work we are still committed to working together to assist remote families and their children 0-5 years. We are committed to this transmission and we will endeavour to assist CaFHS with this process.

Comment: Lynly Kerin, North West Branch We go back to the same RICE issue in that these motions an issue then so there is clearly a big piece of the puzzle missing here. I think it is also important for State Council to work with government and assist government with the knowledge of what is the best service for these families and how it was the best service. I think that would be a great assistance to government departments, knowing what worked should help them to decide where contracts are to be awarded.

Comment: Kate Greenfield, State Council RICE utilised the bush telegraph really well and they knew where the babies were popping up all the time, they didn't have to wait for a communication manager to be appointed to find that out.

COMMUNICATIONS

Motion 12 Marree Air Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Lucy Morphett

Seconded: Jess Bell

“That SA ICPA continue to work with Telstra to install small cell towers at properties to provide better access to communications which are vital for distance education”

Explanation: As distance education moves forward through the internet, the infrastructure to provide that internet needs to move forward as well. A reliable, fast service is vital to keeping our children up-to-date with their education. It is also vital for our businesses to keep up as the world moves online or we will be left behind. As more and more people travel and work in the outback, the safety of these people is paramount. Having reliable communication to the outside world, including emergency services is necessary to avoid the burden falling on station personnel. Having fast reliable communication will also provide better living conditions for those educating their children in the bush and this will hopefully entice more people to live and work in the outback.

Motion 13 State Council

CARRIED

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

“That SA ICPA State Council work with Telstra to provide satellite small cell networks at properties where they have no mobile service.”

Explanation: The majority of properties throughout remote and isolated SA currently do not have any mobile network coverage, their only phone access being a frequently unreliable landline and the only source of internet the National Broadband Network (NBN) satellite. Whilst the NBN has improved immensely there are still outages, hardware issues and technical difficulties. Last year the NBN satellite was hit by space matter resulting in an internet outage which negatively impacted schooling, health services and businesses for a number of days. Distance Education (DE) is delivered entirely online and families are restricted by poor internet packages and the limited services available. The 2020 COVID-19 lockdown saw many of the nation’s families experience the difficulties that remote and isolated families face on a daily basis, home-schooling their children on limited download packages. We would like to see that remote and isolated families have options for data packages and internet and phone services, equal to those of our city counterparts.

Comment: Jane Gloster, State Life Member Don’t ask for equal, I live near the city and the internet is rubbish. Ask for what your children need and what your business needs but don’t ask for equal.

Comment: Lisa Edwards, Marree Air Branch There are so many services that provide a text message help, particularly with mental health and postnatal depression. Access to this type of support day or night needs a reliable phone service. This could add weight to your argument.

Comment: Katrina Morris, Port Augusta Branch It would be great to see some sort of package made available. There is an expectation with the visitors, family and friends that the internet will be available. We still need it for schooling, business and they don’t realise how much it costs.

ADMINISTRATION

Motion 14 Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Michelle Lord
Seconded: Katrina Morris

“That the Port Augusta Branch host the 2022 SA ICPA state conference.”

Supplementary Motion

Motion S1 Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

Moved: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Lisa Slade

“That SA ICPA request the Department for Education ensure that families in rural South Australia have a voice in choosing a school that best supports their children’s educational and emotional needs and in doing so be provided with assurance that their children will have access to a permanent bus seat and financial support for travel, regardless of distance or preferred school zone.”

Explanation: Currently in rural SA, if you are in an area of multiple schools and their bus runs, students are expected to attend their 'nearest' local school.

Whilst these schools are not technically ‘zoned’ if you wish to attend another school in your area you must annually apply for an exemption to bypass. This process must be signed by the parents, the Principals of both schools involved and the regional education director.

If an exemption is granted, that won’t give you eligibility to catch the school bus to the school of choice, and in turn makes it very difficult for families to choose where they educate their children. While you may catch a school bus, even if ineligible, you are not guaranteed a seat and should the bus reach capacity of ‘eligible students’ you would lose your seat altogether.

Further, you will be unable to receive any travel allowance, either to the bus stop, or to school should you no longer be able to utilise the bus.

Interestingly, if there is a bus nearer to your home, yet not your nearest school, you are expected to be catching that bus, even though to do so you would have to attend a school other than your nearest school and so would need to apply for an exemption, annually!

And further, in such instance, to catch the bus to your nearest school, of which you would supposedly be eligible to utilise the bus you would be unable to receive any travel assistance as there is a nearer bus! Or would you in fact be ineligible as you should be catching the nearest bus?

The requirement to apply annually for an exemption to bypass a school is also a cause of unnecessary angst to students and parents, who should feel that their enrolment at any school is stable and ongoing, until such time as their schooling journey closes.

ICPA SA champion themselves on helping families in rural and remote areas to gain equality in education, yet families in rural SA are sorely disadvantaged in this area, and largely underrepresented. The distances to our nearest towns and schools can be as isolated as many children attending distance education, some families are travelling up to 1000km a week to educate their children, that's just on education, yet feel they have no support available to them. It's disheartening to families, a massive financial burden and has an impact on the emotional well-being of our children and parents, in a time that is still so uncertain for many with drought ever-present and the unknown that is COVID19.

Access to schools of choice, bus routes and financial assistance, regardless of your location should be a given for all families in regional and rural areas. We should be encouraging families, now more than ever, to choose the education that is right for their children, and represent all families in rural areas, regardless of their geographical location. If families have to get in their cars to meet a bus run, they need understanding, support and assistance to do so. After all, don't they too deserve equitable education and support wherever they may live in SA?

Comment: Glennis Crawford, State Life Member could you give an example to clarify the explanation?

Comment: Belinda Hatcher, Flinders Ranges Branch This family has access to 3 government schools. Their children currently attend school A, which is their preferred choice. Daily they drive past the bus route of the further school B to meet the bus route for the closer school A. Currently their children are on the bus to the school of their choice. They chose school A as it is closer, for mental health reasons, peer and emotional support and they could get their children on to this bus and get them to school. At the end of this year that bus to school A will be at capacity for students who are eligible to attend school A. This means this family will no longer be able to access this bus to travel to this school. It will be over 40km, by car, to the school.

Comment: Katie Robinson, North East Branch A friend living in Burra has a son with special needs. Due to various issues, she has chosen to send her son to school in Clare (40kms away). She has had to get special permission from the Principals from Clare and Burra to say the boy was eligible to go to school in Clare. She wanted him to be able to catch the school bus into Clare but had to wait for the Principals to ok it all, then make sure there was room for him on the bus. Eligible students have priority. She now only drives him 20 km to meet the bus rather than 40km into Clare. If there wasn't room for him on the bus then she would be driving the 80km round trip twice a day.

Comment: Lisa Edwards, Marree Air Branch In a nutshell – basically if you live near multiple schools, you want to be able to pick which school your child goes to and you get a bus seat regardless? If I lived in Jamestown and wanted my child to go to school in Clare, I enrol my child, pay the fees and he gets on the bus, doesn't matter where he lives. Is this what we are trying to achieve?

Comment: Lisa Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch It is not asking for that exemption for everyone it is just asking in specific cases what is best for the child. It would still have to be signed off; I assume. If you have started a school and are going to that school and all of a sudden you can't go because the bus route has changed. This is not ideal, or sustainable mentally, to have to change school just for that reason.

Comment: Rob Harkin, Department for Education I don't think that example is in my patch but there is a bus and transport policy around that. There is a counter balance about protecting local

communities and schools in communities ensuring their sustainability. The example I have is working with Andamooka and Roxby Downs. Andamooka is a school where students go to Year 6, after that they go to Roxby Downs Area School. The bus runs from Andamooka to Roxby Downs but only Year 7-12 go on that bus. That is about protecting Andamooka's own school and the viability of that. If parents choose not to use the local school, they make that decision, they transport their children to the local Catholic school in Roxby Downs or to Roxby Downs Area School. That is a decision the principal there makes about accepting the enrolment or not. That is the agreement between principals and is also signed off by the Education Director. There is a policy in place and if there is need, then that is looked at. Obviously, this is an issue of conflict which hasn't been resolved, there is a process to go through, to go to the executive to make that appeal. I'm not sure that changing a policy is the answer here.

Comment: Jill Greenfield, State President Do you think the motion is asking for policy change or just the exemptions so they are more ongoing?

Comment: Belinda Hatcher, Flinders Ranges Branch I don't think it is about changing to policy. They have already gone down the route of getting exemption, that is not the problem. It is more about the fact of the bus seat availability. If this family were to be "re-zoned" to this school, then the school would be able to access a bus with more capacity and more students could go on that bus without any problems. If families are granted exemptions to attend their preferred school then a permanent bus seat should be made available so they can attend the school they have already been going to for a number of years.

SA ICPA 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGM Motion 1 CARRIED

“That the minutes of the 2020 conference be accepted”

MOVED: Edwina Bowie SECONDED: Kate Greenfield

AGM Motion 2 CARRIED

“That the SA ICPA State Affiliation fee remains at \$22”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

AGM Motion 3 CARRIED

“That SA ICPA Lone Member Subs be \$45”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

AGM Motion 4 CARRIED

“That the SA ICPA financial records be audited by Mid North Accounting Services.”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

AGM Motion 5 CARRIED

“That the Financial Report be accepted”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder SECONDED: Edwina Bowie

ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2021-2022

President: Jill Greenfield Nominated: Joanna Gibson
Seconded: Glennis Crawford

Vice-President: Lisa Slade Nominated: Belinda Hatcher
Seconded: Sonya Fels

Secretary: No Nomination

Assistant Secretary: Hollie Williams Nominated: Joanna Gibson
Seconded: Edwina Bowie

Treasurer: Michelle Hilder Nominated: Sonya Fels
Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

Publicity Officer: Katrina Morris Nominated: Petie Rankin
Seconded: Col Greenfield

Immediate Past President: Kerry Williams

APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch:	Di Thomas
Flinders Ranges Branch:	Belinda Hatcher, Emilee Warnest
Marla Oodnadatta Branch:	Hollie Williams, Paulaine Vermeulen
Marree Air Branch:	No appointment
North East Branch:	Penny Rasheed, Melanie Lewis
North West Branch:	Candice Brown, Jess Barry
Port Augusta Branch:	Katrina Morris,

SA ICPA Presidents Report

Jill Greenfield

Members and guests of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association, it is with pleasure that I present my second Presidents' Report at this the 2021 SA State Conference.

When I stood here last year, nearly to the day, who would have believed what was unfolding while we were in conference. I was meant to be travelling home the next day, but instead I made a dash to Adelaide as I had three girls, one in year 12 and two in tertiary education (one in Victoria) requiring guidance with the situation that was unfolding due to COVID 19. I learnt that children are never too old to need their Mum! My story is one of many that unfolded throughout the year and still continues for many.

The highlight of the 2020 State Conference was hearing the exciting news that the State Education Allowance (SEA) was doubled as of that day. We thank Minister Gardiner for this increase, financial assistance is a lifeline for rural and remote families. I would also like to thank all of the past State Councillors that have advocated for our remote and isolated children, my journey on state council is only a small portion of this.

Motions presented at the 2020 State Conference have been advocated for on your behalf throughout the past year by the State Council. Ongoing correspondence and administration have kept the Council busy, with much focus on working with the Department for Education regarding the Distance Education motions. We have been liaising with CaFHS to ensure ongoing support for our remote and isolated families with younger children and those starting kindy.

We were unable to hold a delegation in 2020 due to COVID 19, but we have continued our work with departments and organisations through email, online meetings and letters. The majority of State Council meetings are now via video conference. We have Zoomed our way through 2020, literally. We look forward to returning to normality and attending face-to-face events this year.

Meetings, Media and Projects we have worked on:

- Parent Engagement Project with the Department for Education
- Year 7 to High School with the Department for Education
- ACCAN / nbn local SA and NT Roundtable “No South Australian or Territorian Left Offline”
- Boarder/border Round table meeting with Minster Gee, Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education
- Broadband Access Guarantee
- Emerging Minds podcasts released in July
- Telstra Roundtable Meeting
- Joint Council Meetings
- Boarding House letter (on website)
- Portfolio Meetings
- Telstra Mobile Blackspot proposal
- CaFHS / RFDS / ICPA joint meeting
- Telstra Small Cell tower project
- Telstra “SA Far North communications upgrade”

Thank you to those councillors who have been able to attend meetings.

SA ICPA State Council wrote a submission for the Review of Regional Schooling Resource Standards Loadings in November. We based our submission on the point that rural and remote schools are more costly to resource. They need to be resourced in a unique way, so that students do not miss out on vital learning opportunities.

ICPA Aust and all states and territories contributed to a submission looking at a National Framework for boarding students who are boarding interstate. The problem arises when the border of one state or territory is closed due to COVID. At this stage ‘education’ is not an essential service so many students were unable to attend school. This issue has been devastating for many families. We are working with Minster Gee, Minister for Regional Education, on a National Framework so that families have stability moving forward in these uncertain times.

A new ICPA website has been created and thank you to Jodie Keogh for her hard work uploading and filling the SA page with exciting content. It has been a learning curve for Jodie and one that she has tackled head on. Jodie will be presenting the new website to us later on in the day.

SA ICPA have been extremely fortunate to have received two wonderful donations, from the Indulkaninna Foundation and Sandys Memorial Trust. State Council have put together bursary applications so that member families can benefit from these very generous donations. The categories in which members could apply were:

- Primary Schooling SPELD SA Literacy Intervention
- Kindergarten Bursary
- Primary Schooling Bursary
- Secondary Schooling Bursary
- Tertiary Education/Trade Bursary
- Creative Arts Bursary

I would like to personally thank the Indulkaninna Foundation and Sandys Memorial Trust for entrusting your donation to SA ICPA. These bursaries have made vast differences to many of our remote and isolated children. Thank you to Jess Barry for working on this project. She has put together a PowerPoint presentation with the recipients of the bursary winners.

SA ICPA have a new Membership form: <https://form.jotform.com/202696771063056> This form will give State council vital information to help us advocate on your behalf. The form is able to be completed when members either renew their membership or join up for the first time.

A letter from SA ICPA was sent to all boarding schools in South Australia outlining the need for our children to be caringly nurtured particularly through a difficult time of drought. Many children return to boarding school, or maybe for the first time, with a great weight of guilt for not being at home to help or knowing that there is a financial burden placed on their family. We thank the SA boarding schools for their continued work with our ICPA families and students.

The face-to-face Federal ICPA Conference was unfortunately cancelled. I was looking forward to venturing to Tasmania for a few days in their winter. Luckily, Federal council were able to pull off a great two-day online conference held on the 5th and 6th of August. It didn't go without its hiccups, the satellite through which the majority of our families receive their internet was hit and many families were left without internet for days. However, in true ICPA fashion the show did go on! SA State Council presented one motion at Federal Conference. "That ICPA (Aust) requests that the relevant ministers increase the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) for students travel to Canberra to enhance their learning in civics and citizenship education." We have recently had positive news that there has been a 50% increase in the PACER rebate for students. ICPA (AUST) have said that they will keep the pressure on for a more practical approach to regional zoning. Thank you ICPA (Aust) for your continuous hard work and persistence with our motion, and all the motions that were presented at conference. The Federal Conference for 2021 is to be held in Longreach, Queensland on the 28th and 29th of July.

Communications continues to be at the forefront of ICPA. We have been fortunate to be invited and involved in many exciting ventures and meetings. Candice Brown attended a meeting with Telstra and the other ICPA states and territories. The purpose of this meeting was to connect and discuss key topics of interest to ICPA. We were able to ask questions prior to the meeting. Following are the questions and answers:

- When is 3g being phased out and how quickly will it be replaced and with what? *The 3g network will be closing in 2024.*
- When are landlines (radio phones) going to be updated to a better quality? *The reliance on aging technologies is one of the reasons why we are continuing to advocate to government on a refreshed USO that delivers the most appropriate technology to end users.*

I attended the ACCAN /nbn local SA and NT roundtable "No South Australian or Territorian Left Offline" roundtable meeting. SA ICPA and Telstra are currently working on the capacity to deliver small cell towers to remote properties. This is a very exciting venture so watch this space.

SA ICPA were invited to be involved in a Parent Engagement Project with the Department for Education. This was an interesting project as it included a variety of schools from all over SA. The Department for Education wanted to explore how they can better support and encourage parents to engage in their children's learning. SA ICPA's main focus was that many of our remote schools are unique, especially School of the Air, so this brings its own challenges.

We were fortunate to be involved in the creation of the "Talking about Drought" series of podcasts. Annabel Axford and Drew Radford joined us last year at conference and were able to hear stories and firsthand accounts from families who were living in drought with their family. There were eight Podcasts in total with topics ranging from 'Looking after yourself', 'Supporting your child's social connections' and 'Focussing on the positive future'. I personally enjoyed working with Annabel and seeing the idea of a podcast develop from an idea to become a useful

tool for parents as they navigate hurdles. We were able to share these podcasts with our networks and they were listened to far and wide.

We have held three face-to-face meetings since last conference, which are a much better way of communicating and working on members issues.

On Saturday 6 March, Edwina and I attended an online meeting with all the State, Territory and Federal Presidents and Secretaries. These meetings are a fantastic way of sharing information between us. Each State and Territory gives an update on the important issues that they are facing followed by lengthy discussion and information sharing. Some points of discussion that are pertinent to SA: What year levels do other State and Territory Distance Education schools cover? How to build on the Geographically Isolated Day (GID) in 2021. Rebuilding connections after very little face to face events within the community and with Industry and Government bodies. Online membership, Paypal and the new website.

We have continued to share information with members through our e-newsletter. We send out a MailChimp approximately every six weeks which keeps our members up to date with conference information, applications for bursaries and news from State Council. Thank you to Penny who collates these editions and is always striving for members to open them with a catchy heading or photo.

The Pipeline magazine continues to go from strength to strength. Lynly Kerin is great at sourcing stories, podcast ideas, kids work, recipes, book reviews and up to date information for members to read. Whilst Mija Reynolds is stepping off State Council, she will continue to do the layout of the magazine. Thank you to both of you for your tireless effort in creating this excellent magazine.

I would like to sincerely thank State Council for all of your tireless work. The Executive team has consisted of: Edwina Bowie as Secretary, Michelle Hilder as Treasurer, Petie Rankin as Publicity Officer, Kate Greenfield as Vice President and Kerry Williams as Immediate Past President. We welcomed Hollie Williams to the exec as Assistant Secretary and she has stepped into this role with enthusiasm. Thank you all for your support and passion for ICPA.

Thank you to the conference convenors from the Marree Air branch, Lisa Edwards and Jess Bell. I have been to events that these two very capable ladies have organised so I knew that organising State Conference would be no problem. Thanks for all of your hard work in pulling off a great conference.

Finally, a thank you to those State Councillors that are stepping off of State Council. Your volunteer time is much appreciated. A special thank you to Kate Greenfield who joined State Council in 2007 and has been a committed councillor over many years. I'm sure Kate won't be far away when I need a "brains trust" moment...which is sometimes often! We say farewell to Edwina as secretary, I would like to thank Edwina for her hard work and dedication. There have been many late-night emails and early morning messages to keep the show running smoothly.

Thank you for attending conference and we hope that you continue your support of ICPA so that we can continue to help young minds grow.

SA ICPA Treasurers Report

Michelle Hilder

Madam President, fellow ICPA members, guests and visitors:

I am pleased to present my second Treasurers Report for SA ICPA. As for everyone, the COVID-19 pandemic has made a huge impact on the 2020 year. I would like to thank anyone who has helped me throughout the year.

My report includes the audited Financial Statement for the year 2020 and the unaudited Interim Report from the 01/01/2021 to the 28/02/2021. Please note there is a significant Net (Loss) amount showing on the Profit and Loss (Cash) Interim Report 1/01/2021 – 28/02/2021. This is due to the fact that the SPELD SA Tax Invoice and other bursaries were not paid out until February 2021. The money for these payments was deposited into the bank account in the 2020 year; hence the money is not showing up as an Income amount received for the 2021 year. SA ICPA made a profit of \$15,868.88 for the 2020 year. At the end of 2020 we had a healthy balance of \$60,438.54.

SA ICPA received a grant from the Department for Education (Delivery of Services for ICPA) for \$10,000 for the 2020/2021 year. This grant has allowed us to support State Council to attend some face-to-face meetings and offset every day running expenses e.g. insurance, printing and “The Pipeline” Newsletter. In previous years we have also used this money to cover costs to attend Face to Face SA ICPA meetings, Federal Conference and Delegations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this has not been possible. Our President and Secretary were able to attend the Joint Councils Face to Face Meeting in Melbourne with their counterparts in January 2020.

The SA ICPA held the 49th Annual State Conference (hosted by the ICPA North East Branch) at the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn, Port Augusta on Friday, 13th March 2020. This was organised and well attended by all concerned.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Conference, which was to be held in Hobart, Tasmania had to be postponed. A decision was made to hold the 2020 Federal Conference online on the 5th and 6th August.

SA ICPA was very grateful to receive two generous donations this year:

The Indulkaninna Foundation gave a donation of \$10,000. A joint decision was made with the Indulkaninna Foundation representatives and SA ICPA to offer a variety of Bursaries, to SA ICPA member families. SPELD provided five students with a Sound-Write Literacy Clinic Bursary. SA ICPA provided a Tertiary Education/Trade Bursary for four students, a Secondary Schooling Bursary for four students and a Creative Arts Bursary for two primary and two secondary students. Already, we have received many, many positive comments from the recipients who received these bursaries. This extremely positive feedback has been relayed back to The Indulkaninna Foundation representatives.

The Sandy’s Memorial Trust gave a donation of \$10,000.00. This donation is for education initiatives to support disadvantaged students in rural and remote SA. SPELD SA will provide eight students with a bursary, which will consist of twenty weekly subsidised sessions online with membership to SPELD SA included. The cheque for this donation was banked on the 31st December 2020 and is included in the balance amount of the 2020 year.

In September, State Council decided to purchase an annual subscription to the web-based video conferencing tool Zoom. Zoom is a web-based video conferencing platform with a local, desktop client and a mobile app that allows users to meet online, with or without video. Zoom users can choose to record sessions, collaborate on projects and share or annotate on one another’s screens. This has proven to be a great way to hold our Council meetings.

“Cashflow Manager” (accounting software) has been the book keeping tool I have used for SA ICPA finances for 2020. It is very user friendly.

This year has seen many more SA ICPA members using the online method (PayPal) to pay their memberships. There were issues with having to “Confirm our Identity” to PayPal which caused many hours of angst, trying to get help and support to solve this problem.

For the 2020 membership year SA ICPA had 100 member families renewed. The Far West Branch has not had any members renewed for the 2020 year. We have four Corporate Members and eight School Corporate Members for the 2020 year. This enables these members to receive all State and Territory Publications.

BRANCH REPORTS

MARREE AIR BRANCH

President: Jessica Bell

2020, What a year!

As you all know we are hosting the state conference in Port Augusta in 2021.

Lisa and I have been busy organising, we’ve had a few confusing moments, but I think we have most of it under control.

Our wonderful logo was kindly designed by Sarah Litchfield and we have received many compliments for it already! Our opening speaker is Ellen Litchfield and this year we have decided to trial a closing uplifting meditation session with Zoe from ‘The Zen Room’. State Council has asked Pauly Daniel from Daniel-Tessari Horse Reflections to be the guest speaker.

Thanks to Lyn and Ellen Litchfield for hosting the Rotary club of Regency Park, who kindly donated \$6000 towards our conference. This has given us an amazing kick start!

We have also had five other major sponsors come on board; Leed Construction and Engineering, Telstra, OCA, Nutrien Ag Solutions and ABSA. We have also had sponsorship from Perry’s Fuel, the Hon. Dan Van Holst Pellekaan, the Hon. Rowan Ramsay, Rabobank, Dunn’s Earthmoving, D&G Tyres and Sonny’s Succulents. We thank them all very much for their generous sponsorship. We are still chasing a few more sponsors.

We’ve kindly been donated all the centre pieces for the tables from “Sonny’s Succulents” in Roxby Downs and have been told to raffle or gift the plants at the end of the day.

As for other business, you will see that Lucy Morphett has joined our branch! Welcome Luc!

I will also be emailing Maria and Kathleen at Cowarie and am hoping to contact the lady working in the Innamincka office to see if we can get a few more people on the branch!

As you will see in the AGM we still have a number of positions that need to be filled!

It has once again been a quiet year for the branch but hopefully with a few more young members in our area some passion may be ignited!

FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH

President: Belinda Hatcher

My report from last year started off saying that the year had been a quiet one due to the drought! I do not think that any of us could have predicted what was to come three months

later and just how different things would pan out to be in 2020. The drought continued to roll on at the beginning of the year and while most of our region saw good rainfalls at the back half of 2020, the effects of the drought are still being felt and will continue to do until we see a return to wetter weather patterns and some good autumn rainfall totals. Chuck in COVID-19 and the splintering effect it has on everyone's way of life it is safe to say I, along with many others, will be glad to see the back end of 2020. It was, however heartening to see the flocks of domestic tourists spending their money on travel and goods within our regions which has gone a long way to putting the smiles back on many of our members faces. Our membership has again remained static this year with the addition of a new family. Welcome to John, Keziah and Elsie Henery. As always it has been wonderful to see those new and old members continue their support of our branch. Next year I hope that things will be a little kinder to us all and that we will be able to find the time to meet face to face for a couple of meetings and share friendship and fun as a branch.

Our committee this year saw Michelle Hilder put her hand up to be Vice-President and Sonya Fels step into the role of Publicity Officer. Mija Reynolds, Rachael Hilder and myself continued in our roles as Secretary, Treasurer and President. Mija and I were also elected as the two State Council reps. Our committee consisted of all of us above as well as Sally Henery, Lisa Slade, Emilee Warnest and Matt Reynolds. Many thanks to our outgoing Publicity Officer Emilee Warnest - she did a wonderful job with our social media pages and really tried awfully hard to coerce us all into contributing things to the FB page and The Pipeline. We were only able to hold one general meeting this year, in part due to COVID-19 and a few other factors that went against us when we tried to schedule a second meeting. Let us hope we can all find the time to get together and make a couple more dates work next year so we can continue to support our branch and its members. It is always so lovely to catch up with everyone face to face.

We were unable to hold any fundraising at all during 2020 and it is very fair to say that COVID-19 was the reason for that. Everyone should get their thinking caps on ready to help the branch facilitate some much-needed fundraising for our branch next year and beyond.

The 2020 State Conference was held on the 13th of March at the Standpipe Motel in Port Augusta. State Council managed to just sneak it in before the state was shut down due to COVID-19. It was hosted by the North East Branch and was a well-run and well attended day. For me, the highlight of the day was when Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP announced that the State Education Allowance was being doubled. This has made a big impact financially for those who are in receipt of it and the announcement was welcomed by all who attended. The evening meal and activities capped off a fun couple of days. It is always inspiring and uplifting to spend time with passionate people who are dedicated to fighting for and achieving all they can for rural and remote families and children.

This year Federal Conference was just another victim of COVID-19, but all was not lost as Federal Council worked tirelessly to pull together a digital conference which was held on the 5th and 6th of August. Despite a few technical hiccups, from what I have read it was well attended and there was a variety of valuable motions discussed and passed during the 2 days. There is no doubt that everyone missed the comradery of a face-to-face event but to be able to have it at all was a fantastic outcome for ICPA and all it stands for.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the new arrivals, graduations, milestones reached and positive outcomes that our families have achieved this year and I wish for more positive news for everyone next year. Here's hoping that 2021 blesses us with rain, smiles, less stress and all that we need to succeed in whatever we hope to achieve next year.

NORTH WEST BRANCH

President: Lynly Kerin

ICPA Members, friends and guests.

A quite unique and remarkable 2020 meant that business within our North West Branch was quite 'unremarkable' – like many branches across the state I imagine. Fundraising opportunities are often a face-to-face style of event, which meant we had no real opportunities to continue our main source of fundraising being catering. We are still trying to think outside the square in relation to income streams in a changing world with limited events, but I am sure we will come up with something! Having said this, our costs were relatively low considering Federal Conference and many School events were cancelled meaning our funds remained steady.

We managed a mid-year meeting and gathering held within our district, which turned out to be one of our only real chances to socialise before COVID-19 and again later in the year once SA rules were relaxed, we were able to hold our end of year AGM, General Meeting and Christmas function at Woomera. A hassle-free lovely family afternoon/evening proudly supported by Oz Minerals. We would like to sincerely thank Oz Minerals for their generous support, assisting our members and community immensely in a difficult year. There was no change to the Executives of the branch at our AGM.

President – Lynly Kerin

Secretary – Petie Rankin

Treasurer – Megan Henderson

Publicity Officer – Jess Barry

Branch Delegates to State Council – Jess Barry and Candice Browne

Life Members – Joanna Gibson, Jill Greenfield

And a pleasure to note that our SA ICPA President, Secretary and Publicity Officer for the previous two years are North West Members. Well done Jill, Edwina and Petie.

Federal Conference – possibly the first ever to be impacted by a worldwide pandemic? Luckily, there was no better an audience to participate than the tech savvy folk of isolated Australia who are all over the complexities of listening and learning from home. Although I was not able to attend, I have heard that Federal Council did an excellent job under exceedingly difficult circumstances. Our branch had planned their attendance together making the most of it by incorporating a SOTA day with an itinerant teacher present, but COVID-19 reared its difficulties once again and we were unable to go ahead with plans. Many branch members tuned in from their own homes and kept our branch up to date with the conference happenings.

At the time of this report, we have 10 families in our branch, 2 Pre-School children, 10 Primary School Students, 2 Secondary/Boarding Students, 5 Tertiary/other students undertaking post-secondary studies.

Many of our branch families were successful in gaining Bursaries with the Indulkaninna Foundation. Their applications ranged from requests for assistance with uniforms, school fees, extracurricular music and arts programs, university costs and self-education. Thank you to the Indulkaninna Foundation for supporting ICPA families, it would be wonderful to see more families seek and receive their support.

PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH

President: Ian Morris

Although a much-disrupted year for many, due to the COVID-19 debacle, one of the many benefits of isolated living was that we have been predominantly unaffected by most of its affects. One affect that was noticed however, was the return from boarding school of some of our kids, to return to 'home schooling' / 'Station work', which was not necessarily a bad thing.

Congratulations goes to Lachlan Anderson and Madison Morris for completing their year 12 studies at the end of 2020. They are both heading off into the rural sector, with further studies to come, and we wish them all the very best for their future endeavours. Congratulations to Nick Greenfield who has recently completed his RA Pilots License and continues to further his studies. Congratulations also to John Greenfield for receiving an award at Scotch College for his Electro technology. Well done, as well, to Cody Morris who received the 'most improved boarder' award at PAC for the year. It was a great effort also from Mareike Best, Kondoolka Station, who won 3rd place in the 'SA Young Writers Award', in the poetry section, for her poem 'Just A Dream'.

The Port Augusta branch was fortunate enough to receive funding recently from FRRR in support of our 'Bush Kids Honey' project. This is a project that will see twelve 'Flow Hives' stationed at separate properties within our branch, where the kids will raise the bees and manage the hives. They will then harvest the honey which will be sold online, as well as at various country events, as a fundraiser for our branch. We are hoping that this will not only be an enjoyable exercise for the kids, but also provide valuable education in the importance of bees in our ecosystem, as well as providing experience in marketing and sales. Many thanks to FRRR for bringing this much anticipated project to life.

We were lucky enough to be able to squeeze in our AGM at the end of the year, shortly after the second lock down. We held it in conjunction with the 'Gawler Ranges Progress Association' AGM at Thurlga Station, with a great attendance of members and visitors. As we hadn't had a public event in our area since the Nonning Ball in February, it was a great relief to enjoy each other's company once again. At the meeting we welcomed our new members, the Smart family from Wilkatana Station, as well as thanking Kate Greenfield, who stepped down as Secretary, for her many years as an exemplary office bearer for our branch. Michelle Lord was elected as our new Secretary.

So, everything considered, we managed to salvage a reasonable year out of 2020, and with the improved seasonal conditions in most of our branch region in recent times, we look forward to an even better one this year.

MARLA/OODNADATTA BRANCH

President: Kirsty Williams

The Marla Oodnadatta Branch remains a small branch in numbers but thankfully the members we do have are 'doers' which makes progress achievable. In 2020, it was quiet on the fundraising front. This was a result of COVID-19 impacting on the opportunities to fundraise with nearly all community events being cancelled. This year, we have been asked to cater for a Variety Club 4WD bash in late March which will give opportunity to put some money in the kitty again.

Last year we farewelled Harvey Williams of Nilpinna Station who headed off to attend Orroroo Area School. It seems they grow up overnight when they pack those bags and head to secondary school. The younger crew are always happy to see Harvey return for a weekend/holidays.

In 2020, Lisma Vermeulen of Todmorden Station started her SOTA journey. 2021 will see Honey-Mae Fennell of Wintinna Station and Jack Williams of The Peake Station begin their official educational journey completing kindy through RICE.

We have recently had some new babies arrive in the area with Jake and Frankie Fennell at Wintinna Station welcoming their third child, Loretta Mae in December. Already Loretta has a new cousin with Billy Fennell (formally of Lambina) and Erika Syvertson welcoming their second daughter, Dolcie Rae in January of this year.

Lastly, in May we farewelled Tim, Leone and Rodney from The Peake who returned closer to their original haunts of NSW. This move allowed Cameron, myself and the 4 kids to have a change in scenery shifting from Mt Sarah to The Peake. We welcome Trent Colman and Louise Kohler along with Emmett and Asher to the area who have now made Mt Sarah their home.

Last year Hollie, Paulaine and myself attended the SA State Conference in Port Augusta which was a great day. It is always great discussion and a fantastic catch up with others from around the State.

Recently we held our branch AGM via Zoom and the following were elected;

President: Kirsty Williams

Secretary: Hollie Williams

Treasurer: Helen Williams

Publicity Officer: Hollie Williams

Delegates: Paulaine Vermeulen & Hollie Williams

On behalf of the Marla-Oodnadatta branch we would like to congratulate the Marree Air branch on hosting the 2021 conference - Thank You.

EYRE BRANCH

Di Thomas

Madam President invited guests and fellow ICPA members. For those who don't know me, my name is Di Thomas, and although I am not the President of Eyre Branch, I do hold all the other positions in our branch.

Well, what a year we have had. Who would have thought what was ahead for 2020 at last conference? One thing I am sure of is that there are many parents out there that after a taste of home schooling would only have admiration for the few that school their children this way year in and year out.

Eyre Branch has been its usual quiet self with very little to report.

Our membership seems to have dropped a little this year but we are still viable. For how much longer I do not know. We need to have a face-to-face discussion to work out our future. Everyone's lives seem to be getting busy and it feels like the same ones are doing it all.

Best wishes to all the ICPA members for the year ahead in these trying times.

NORTH EAST BRANCH

Roslyn Breeding

Dear ICPA members and friends,

Immediately after the North East Branch convened the 2020 State Conference, life turned topsy-turvy. But our resilient outback families were perhaps the least impacted by the pandemic. Boarding students returned home to study and didn't object to being put to work outdoors.

Some might say that the pandemic brought actual benefits; - less visitors arriving on our doorsteps and fewer community events to organise!

But the drought persisted and ICPA matters remained at the back of our minds as we battled worsening drought conditions.

Our plight was eased with generous donations of hay delivered for our pastoral properties. And then in September, the rain came - unleashing abundant green pastures and broad smiles.

The Yunta School continues as a campus of the Peterborough Primary School with five students enrolled. We remain committed to seeing the School remain viable for the predicted future students. St Joseph's R-7 Catholic School at Peterborough will enrol Year 8 and 9 students from 2022.

Our 2020 Branch meetings were held by phone with a December face-to-face AGM and then a January 2021 meeting where retiring-Secretary Jane Gloster was acknowledged for her continued active involvement in the Branch.

The Branch executive has seen some exciting changes with Leisa Breeding and Penny Rasheed taking on the roles of President and Secretary respectively. Our 2021 State Council Branch representatives are Penny Rasheed and Melanie Lewis.

It is a delight to have new member families involved in our Branch, particularly as we embark on some necessary fundraising activities this year.

Thank you to Marree Air Branch for hosting the 2021 SA ICPA State Conference.

~Ros Breeding

North East Branch, Immediate Past President

LONE MEMBERS

Jodie Keogh

We had 15 SA ICPA Lone Members for the membership year of 2020. To date we have 9 SA ICPA Lone Members for the 2021 membership year.

Early this year reminders were sent out to existing SA ICPA Lone Members reminding them to renew and thanking those that had already renewed for the 2021 membership year.

A letter from Federal President Alana Moller was emailed, along with the SA ICPA membership information form to gather statistical information on children so that we can accurately advocate.

I look forward to increasing the amount of information that is being circulated to SA Lone Members and updating them with any relevant news.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

BOARDING SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TERMS HOSTELS

Hollie Williams

What a year 2020 was!! For me personally, joining the ICPA State Council has been a huge eye opener (in a good way) and I have learnt a great deal and enjoyed doing my bit to help out others.

My eldest son Harvey left home at the beginning of last year to attend Orroroo Area School as a private boarder in Year 8. It is tough not having him at home, but I have loved seeing him enjoying competitive sport, socialising regularly with friends and growing as a person within himself.

The Boarding/Hostels/Second Home Portfolio topped most ICPA State agendas during 2020 due to COVID-19. There was so much unpredictability and variances from one boarding school/hostel to another, especially across states. It was a stressful time for many simply getting children to and from boarding school, especially those tackling interstate travel with quarantine times and strict boarding house protocols. ICPA as a whole came together and wrote a submission for a nationally consistent approach and solution guide. This is to aid all families with boarding children that are dealing with travel to and from their properties in order to attend school during the global pandemic. From this, we hope to have a more consistent approach and outcome if, god forbid, 2021 sees another wave hit.

Other items on the radar and interest points in the Boarding/Hostels/Second Home Allowance portfolio have been:

- Assistance for Isolated Children Boarding Allowance (AIC) Boarding Allowance – Basic Boarding is \$8557. An additional \$2,454 is means tested and factors in other extenuating circumstances. You can apply and even get backdated for this extra amount if you qualify. Contact AIC on 13 23 18 for further details
- State Education Allowance (SEA) – A big increase from \$2250 to \$4299.96 was granted. It is available to geographically isolated parents who also get the AIC boarding allowance with children at a secondary school level who board away from home to attend school. The allowance is provided to assist with travel, boarding and other expenses associated with the education of geographically remote children. Four payments are made per year at the conclusion of each school term. You need to apply for this each year education.transportservices@sa.gov.au
- National Boarding Week – 16th to 22nd May 2021
- Template Letter - A letter has been generated to aid families in seeking support *re: drought and natural disasters assistance* from schools. This is available to ICPA members on the ICPA website.
- Headspace – An organisation providing mental health support and resources for boarding school aged children and older (12-25 years). Located in Port Augusta.
- Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) - launched a Podcast Series called 'On Duty' providing insights from a range of different people in the boarding arena through interviews, webinar highlights and boarding stories.
- Central Australia Podcast- episode featuring Sarah Cook (NT ICPA President) providing a great conversation into the reality of teaching your children through School of the Air (SOTA) and sending them away to complete their secondary education.
- Change of portfolio name - From Boarding Schools and School term hostels to Boarding/Hostels/Second Home

The following action took place regarding motions carried at the 2020 conference;

- Letter sent to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Transport regarding the SEA allowance thanking their office for the continued communication and furthermore, the SEA allowance increase
- As Boarding Schools run as a business, it could not be asked that schools provide any specific scholarships/bursaries to ease the financial strain facing many remote and rural families just to educate their children. In its place, the template letter mentioned previously was developed to aid families

The world of Boarding Schools, I have found, is huge. For our family, sending Harvey to private board in a country town worked and for others it has been/is boarding school in Adelaide, home schooling or setting up a second home. I now find myself applying for Boarding scholarships for

2022 for my second son Logan, as he has shown a keen interest in going to boarding school in Adelaide. What is right for one may not be right for another. It is really important that you work out what is right for each individual child as well as you and your family.

There are 12 Boarding Schools in Adelaide, 1 in Port Pirie, 1 in Port Lincoln and 3 Public Boarding Hostels across the state; Lucindale, Cleve and Burra. Faith Lutheran College in Tanunda and Trinity College in Gawler offer homestay programs.

Most Boarding School Scholarships for 2022 have now closed. If boarding school is on your radar, I strongly encourage you look into scholarships early and even place your child's name on a school's waiting list if you have a preference for one in particular.

As Boarding and living away from home fees rise each year, let's be thankful that each and every one of us have the support of ICPA and that they continue to ask the questions and get our voices heard. I hope everyone has a fantastic time at the conference and that you really enjoy the guest speaker. I look forward to hearing a wrap up after the conference!

Collation of Boarding School/Home Stay fees and Scholarships 2021.

All based on 7 days boarding besides Saint Marks.

Home stay programmes are approx. cost, and this can vary with different families.

Boarding School/School Home Stay	Average Day Fees Yr 8 - Yr 12	Average Boarding Fees Yr 8 - Yr 12	Annual Average Total	Extra Information
Westminster	\$23,333	\$22,957	\$46,290	Offer Scholarships plus X1 Boarding Scholarship annually for ICPA families
Immanuel	\$20,212	\$20,196	\$40,408	Boarding Scholarships 9-11
Scotch College	\$26,056	\$22,320	\$48,376	Offer Scholarships
Pembroke	\$26,628	\$25,680	\$52,308	Offer Scholarships and bursaries including Isolated Student Scholarships
Sacred Heart	\$9,472	\$20,550	\$30,022	Offer Bursaries
Walford	\$27,900	\$24,000	\$51,900	Offer Scholarships
Seymour	\$25,918	\$24,400	\$50,318	Offer Scholarships
Wilderness	\$27,001	\$23,799	\$50,800	Offer Scholarships
Loreto	\$17,674	\$21,000	\$38,674	Offer Scholarships
Saint Peters	\$27,022	\$24,750	\$51,772	Offer Scholarships
Prince Alfred	\$26,754	\$26,490	\$53,244	Offer Scholarships
Rostrevor	\$12,151	\$18,510	\$30,661	Currently no 8,9 boarders. Offer Boarding Bursaries
Saint Marks (Port Pirie)	\$4,776	\$10,704.00	\$15,480.20	5 day boarding only
Saint Josephs (Port Lincoln)	\$5,500	\$17,900.00	\$23,400.00	No Boarding Scholarships, cheaper sibling rates for school

				and boarding
Navigator (Port Lincoln)	\$5185	\$14,700	\$19,885	Host family Offers 5 day or 7 day. Schooling sibling discounts
Burra	\$450	\$8,600	\$9,050	Offers 5 day or 7 day
Cleve	\$450	\$7,400	\$7,850	Boarding 10-12 only
Lucindale	\$500	\$8000.00	\$8,500.00	Offers 5 day or 7 day
Trinity (Gawler)	\$6,105	\$9,400	\$15,505	Home Stay Programme Offers 5 day or 7 day
Faith (Barossa)	\$10,148	\$9,400	\$19,548	Home Stay Programme Offers 5 day or 7 day
Urrbrae	\$700	\$9,400	\$10,100	Home Stay programme

Please be aware that some schools charge extra for school camps and some subjects and you will need to factor in these costs to the overall fee.

COMMUNICATIONS

Candice Brown

There is never a dull moment in the world of Communications, more so now with the year that's been. COVID-19 is changing the way of everyday life which is fast becoming the new normal, hence making communications more valuable than ever. Zoom meetings and webinars are becoming increasingly important to our everyday life of which technology is awesome when it works and has been a challenge for remote areas for some time.

NBN

NBN had developed Sky Muster Plus which has been enhanced with a range of extra features including unmetered usage (with the exception of some video streaming) and Sky Muster Plus is also being pushed as a better option over the Education Port as it has an easier application process, more features and provides better value for money.

A \$150 million COVID-19 relief and assistance package was established to support residential and small to medium business customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. \$50 million of this was directed to helping internet providers to support low income householders with school age children who currently don't have NBN at home. NBN extended its Educational Assistance offers for unconnected low-income households with online schooling needs to the 15 January 2021.

NBN offered help for ICPA members to have 1:1 assistance to guide around the NBN network.

I attended the No Australian Left Offline - National webinar on the 9th December, which was in partnership with NBN Co. At the time half of Australia had been offline for 4 days. The webinar was to report back on key issues from all states based on the virtual roundtables that took place during 2020. They provided a unique opportunity for all involved to share and discuss some of the barriers that impact their communities. The webinar presentation was sent via a PowerPoint after the session with a lot of beneficial information and links were included. You can access the national webinar recording on YouTube *No Australian Left Offline: ACCAN & nbn National Webinar* (<https://accan.org.au/media-centre/hot-issues/1824-no-australian-left-offline-national-webinar>).

Innovate with NBN grants program has just been launched for businesses in regional Australia and is now open for applications. There are seven separate categories: health, ag, tourism, art, education, indigenous business and women in regional business with the opportunity to win a

share of \$95000 in funding to support the development of their innovative digitally led idea. The winner of each category will receive a \$10,000 grant. NBN has partnered with the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) to bring this program to life, they are focusing on supporting businesses that use the NBN network to develop products or solutions that improve productivity or social outcomes for regional and remote Australians. Applications close on the 30th November 2021, for more info go to

<https://www.nbnco.com.au/campaigns/innovate-with-nbn-grants-program>

TELSTRA

Telstra customers who have smartphones and rely on WiFi calling can now also send and receive SMS over WiFi, this has been a game changer for many remote families, now being able to access bank codes, the COVID app, medical apps, My Gov etc.

The Regional Advisory Network (RAN) has been launched. The program has been put together for regional, rural and remote customers to assist with mobile coverage issues, troubleshooting, equipment and information in their home or business.

Below is the attached website address to contact the RAN team:

<https://say.telstra.com.au/customer/general/forms/regional-advisory-network-contact-us>

A virtual roundtable meeting with Telstra CEO Andy Penn and other Telstra reps was held on the 29th Sep 2020 and all state ICPA presidents and communication portfolio holders were invited and urged to attend. Each state had the opportunity to ask any key questions as Telstra reps wanted to ensure an accurate and specific response during the meeting and also had 3-5 minutes to give a state update. Most questions were answered and the meeting proved to be very beneficial, positive and valuable.

Telstra (Mark Bolton) is putting together a proposal to take to Government funding bodies to enable the installation of Satellite Small Cells on pastoral stations/properties (4GX mobile phone range) at no cost to the landholder. The landholder would need to supply the power for the small cell and a tower/pole. Properties that already have mobile range are unable to have the small cell installed as it interferes with the current mobile system. Mark was keen to know if SA ICPA were keen to partner with Telstra and from the prompt replies it was a big YES!!! It is part of the Blackspot program Round 5a. This could be a huge game changer for many families.

All states have been asked for their Top 10 Educational sites that are being used so Telstra may review the un metering on their network.

It has been announced that 3G mobile network will be switched off in 2024 to free up spectrum to make way for 5G. Telstra will have to upgrade their 4G coverage to ensure regional customers do not lose network access.

The Regional Tech Hub is now up and running. ICPA has been lobbying for this for several years. BIRRR had advocated for a specialist regional troubleshooting team to help with the vast array of connectivity issues. You can receive free advice about telecommunication services for regional & remote Australians <https://regionalttechhub.org.au/> or the hotline number is 1300 081 029.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Petie Rankin

I am pleased to present the Distance Education Report for SA ICPA. 2020 was a strange year for the entire world, luckily for our geographically isolated, we managed these changes smoothly and without too many disruptions. I say 'too many' because I know the border closures caused huge headaches and heartaches for a lot of families, so I recognize it didn't all go down without

problems. On the school front, early 2020 saw the appointment of a new Head of Campus to Port Augusta School of the Air with Lai Kuan Lim taking on the position with gusto and enthusiasm. Her commitment to the role is her paramount concern so we are secure in the knowledge that Lai Kuan wants to be there and wants to bring about positive changes to the school. Parents were asked to give a 10-point checklist of things they want for the school and so far, ticking off this list is easier than it's ever been.

SOTA said goodbye to two of the Itinerant teachers (IT) at the end of 2020 and welcomed two fresh faces into these roles, ready to work alongside SOTA veteran, Michael Kerin, for 2021. The school has also appointed Millie Gehlken (previous IT) for the year 2/3's, Tennessee Coulthard for the year 4/5's, and saw the return of a previous SOTA teacher, Mel Clark, taking on the year 6/7 class. Tom Clayton is continuing his journey with SOTA and has the joy of new faces with the Reception and year 1 classes. We wish all the new staff members a wonderful year and hopefully one where they can remain seated at their desks and not trying to organize curriculums from home.

On that note, I will mention the dreaded, but oh so commonly heard now, COVID-19 and what it meant for SOTA in 2020 as a school. Annual camp, held at Arbury Park for 2020, scraped in by a whisker before heavy travel restrictions and supermarket brawls really made their mark. The week saw a lot of families with boarding age students questioning whether to grab their kids and run or play it safe and leave them in the secure grounds of their schooling environment. Post camp, the students only missed out on one face to face event due to restrictions and limitations so parents chose to postpone School Experience Week (SEW), cancel mini school, and reinstate SEW to a later date. Get-Together, the annual Christmas hoorah, was close to being cancelled but Lai Kuan worked around the clock to bring the one event parents told her 'do not change'. So, with a few rules and plans in place, it went off without a mere hiccup.

The Year 7 to High School transition has begun for most schools, with all SA schools due to fall into line with the rest of Australia by 2022. SA ICPA has been on discussion panels and forums regarding this but with School of the Air being so unique (also the only one in SA), it's all very new. This year a plan on how year 7 will look for SOTA up until 2024, when it will become a Reception – year 6 school, will be discussed. Currently, individual families can apply to the principal for an extension for their child to stay on as a year 7 primary school student for the interim period of our accepted exception.

Two rounds of the Indulkaninna Foundation Bursaries were offered in 2020, thanks to a very generous donation to SA ICPA, and were well received by families requesting financial help for the students. A SPELD bursary was also included in the donation, which saw five students able to begin a program to further their reading and writing skills.

While on the generosity of others, SA ICPA also received a substantial donation from Sandy's Memorial Trust, which will allow for the continuation and further development of the SPELD program, providing students with access to important tools to improve their literacy. SA ICPA members are extremely grateful for the opportunity to apply for these bursaries to ensure their kids receive the best education available to them.

As I sign off on what will be my last DE report due to me stepping off state council, I would like to personally thank all the wonderful and supportive members of ICPA who have gently pushed me into roles I normally would have shied away from. It has been an exciting journey for me and one I would like to continue with, once my own children are older and require less attention!

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Paulaine Vermeulen and Penny Rasheed

The Early Childhood Portfolio's current focus is on health services and keeping families informed about clinics, playdays and educational activities in their area. SA ICPA have approached CaFHS to discuss communication improvements with rural and remote families. Families living in isolated areas are often in more need of support, and yet there seems to be significant differences in the services delivered to city mothers compared with their country counterparts. Some families feel there has been a decline in communication along with services offered, and we are looking forward to working with CaFHS to continue to improve the care experienced by rural and remote families. If you need to get in touch with CaFHS call 1300 733 606.

RICE is planning for a great year of kindergarten, play days, child care and crèches. Hopefully a new Director will be joining the team soon and there is a positive energy surrounding future plans. There has been some difficulty in filling educator positions, which is impacting the services on offer, such as Outback Childcare. Hopefully as the year progresses advertised positions will attract more suitable applicants. If you would like to become a member or renew your RICE membership feel free to contact admin@rice.org.au.

RURAL SCHOOLS AND TRAVEL

Belinda Hatcher

It is with pleasure that I present my first Rural Schools and School Travel portfolio report to the 2021 SA ICPA State Conference. The last 12 months has been a quiet one for this portfolio in South Australia but Federal Council, as always has continued to advocate for access and equity in educational outcomes for families whose children attend rural schools and those with travel requirements for attending their places of education. Jo Camilleri stepped down as the leader of the Rural Schools and School Travel portfolio at the 2020 Federal Conference but has remained as a second to the new leader Nikki Mahony. Many thanks must go to Nikki and my state counterparts for supporting me in this role. My knowledge was limited but I have learnt a lot along the way and hope that continues in the future.

The 49th Annual ICPA Federal Conference, which was held digitally (another casualty of COVID-19!!) saw three motions presented under the banner of Rural Schools and School Travel. They were asking for:

- The continuance of the National School Chaplaincy Program past 2022.
- That students who are in receipt of the AIC be able to access corporate travel (airfare and associated costs) discounts when travelling to and from school.
- That the methodology of the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) ,that can be accessed by students travelling to Canberra in support to the civics and citizenship curriculum, be reconsidered and reviewed to better reflect the distances that students from remote and rural schools must travel. This motion was presented by the SA State Council in response to member feedback.

In December, Federal Council put together briefing papers that addressed the motions and member requests that came from Conference. As always Federal Council have done an amazing job summarising, explaining and putting forward recommendations that they think will best

address member's needs. The Rural Schools Briefing Paper and The School Travel Briefing Paper, along with Jo Camilleri's 2020 Rural Schools and School Travel portfolio report can be found on the ICPA Website <https://www.icpa.com.au>

One of the more recent issues for South Australian members is the review and retention of bus routes and student numbers on those buses. As it stands those schools that have had issues in the past, are maintaining the student numbers they need to retain their buses which is very encouraging for families who rely on them for their children to get to school.

I thought it would be interesting for all members to be aware that whilst the rate for conveying students to and from school (Student Travelling Allowance) does have a small rate increase every year in line with CPI, the base rate has only seen an increase of about 4 cents in the last 10 years and is very out of touch compared to the rates other states get for similar allowances. I am sure we would all agree that the cost of running a vehicle over the last 10 years has increased significantly and I dare say the rate is becoming more disproportionate to this cost each year. I believe this is something that needs to be looked at in the future.

Finally, I would like to encourage members who have anything to do with rural schools or school travel to reach out to the leader of this portfolio with any issue big or small they think shines a light on inequality their children are facing with their education. The drought had a huge effect on how families are educating their children in rural and remote areas and this is being reflected in the changing needs of members and the support they need. ICPA are doing all they can to guide students and their families at this time. Onwards and upwards is the path I can see for Rural Schools and School Travel.

SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Kerry Williams

SA ICPA continues to advocate for geographically isolated families that are supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities throughout their education journey. Students with learning difficulties and disabilities require extra support and intervention, as early as possible. Living in rural, regional and remote locations makes access to allied health professionals and other support services difficult or at worst, completely unattainable. For families with no daily access to a face-to-face school, learning difficulties and disabilities places significant additional stress in the classroom as parents and supervisors are required to provide greater levels of support.

While there were no specific education motions presented at State Conference in 2020, several parents spoke about their concerns accessing support for students with literacy difficulties. SAICPA was fortunate to receive a grant from the Indulkaninna Foundation, of which \$6000 provided a bursary for students of ICPA families to access the SPELD SA Literacy Clinic online. The program commenced at the beginning of Term 3 2020, for five students, providing six months of intervention in an evidence-based literacy program, with a parent co-contribution of \$25 per session. The feedback from the program at the end of the year was excellent, and in 2021 we have been able to further extend the bursary thanks to a generous donation from Sandy's Memorial Trust. This additional funding of \$10,000 will allow eight students to access 20 weekly support sessions in 2021. We are hopeful that the program will be able to continue for future

students requiring additional support with literacy. However, it remains crucial that families have access to early identification and intervention for learning difficulties and disabilities, to ensure that they have the best chance of educational success.

Federal Council

ICPA Federal Council published a Specific Education Needs Briefing Paper in December 2020, outlining six recommendations:

- Provision of Medicare Rebate for Telehealth Services
- Provision of travel and accommodation assistance for travel to face-to-face specialist services
- Improved staff training for teachers in rural and remote locations
- Workshops for rural and remote parents of gifted students
- Early identification and intervention for learning difficulties

The paper is available to download from the Specific Education Needs portfolio page on the ICPA website.

Two motions were presented at the 2020 Federal Conference, both relating to Medicare rebates for Allied Health services delivered via Telehealth, which were only made possible during the pandemic. The motions requested that these rebates be continued beyond the end date of 30th September 2020 and that rebated telehealth services are expanded to include all child-related services necessary for normal educational development of geographically isolated children.

Federal Council have taken several steps to raise awareness of the issue, including corresponding with ministers and including it in a submission to the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training “Inquiry into Education in Remote and Complex Environments - Home Learning and Teaching in COVID-19.”

Federal Council is represented on the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA), which have been strategic in providing feedback to the NBN about performance of Telehealth services during lockdowns. They also participated in the Delphi Study, which looked at ways to improve delivery of health services to children in diverse settings including rural and remote regions. Federal Council have early indications that there will soon be positive outcomes for ICPA members in these areas. Briony Sinclair is leading the portfolio for Federal Council, with Suzanne Wilson and Sally Sullivan.

TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Katrina Morris

While I’m new to the role of the tertiary portfolio it has been a very informative start especially as our eldest daughter approaches her start into university.

Our federal counterparts ran a very useful meeting to get everyone up to scratch at the end of the crazy year of 2020. There is a lot of information available for school leavers. Some of the points that may interest our South Australian members are:

- The school leavers document on the ICPA website has been updated. This contains many useful websites and resources for students to help plan their future whether that be at university, a VET course, apprenticeship or heading straight into the workforce. It is under the Tertiary / Training Portfolio tabs.
- YOUR CAREER WEBSITE – is a federal government website that provides information on work and education options such as university, vocational education and training (VET), apprenticeships, or working. <https://www.yourcareer.gov.au/school-leavers-support/>
- A Tertiary access payment is available to all school leavers who are from an outer-regional, remote or very remote area, who relocate for full-time higher-level tertiary education, Certificate IV or above qualification of at least one-year duration at an institution at least 90 minutes by

public transport from their home in the year immediately following year 12. The allowance is means tested with a parental income threshold of \$250,000.

- There were changes announced for gap year student earnings due to COVID-19 restrictions in place during 2020.
- Apprentices are eligible for Youth Allowance but those that are unable to get Youth Allowance can apply for the commonwealth Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA). This is not through Services Australia website but through Apprentices Australia. It is quite hard to find. Apprentices Australia have other incentives eg. Trade Loans.
- University Hubs are helping to deliver skills in rural communities. Uni Hub Spencer Gulf is a not-for-profit, community-owned and driven tertiary education facility that brings educational opportunities to people in the Spencer Gulf region. There are currently three Hubs open in Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Kadina. The hub has an independent board made up of regional leaders. University Hubs are helping to deliver skills in rural communities, they will help young people in years 11 and 12 with choosing courses etc. <http://www.unihubsg.org/>

Some of the residential colleges available for university students in Adelaide are listed below. This is the most you will pay, there are some less expensive options in Adelaide.

Boarding House	Average fees	Weekly	Extra Information
St Marks	\$21 040	\$526	Offers scholarships
St Ann's	\$18 200		Offers Scholarships
Aquinas	\$20 698		Offers Scholarships
Urbanest - Adelaide University		\$299 - \$499	
Flinders Living	\$16 676		

PUBLICITY REPORT

Petie Rankin

Well, as I prepare to stand down from state council and subsequently, Publicity Officer, I am pleased to report that I survived my 2 years on Facebook without being hacked, stalked (to my knowledge?) or having my boring identity stolen. 2020 saw an increase in posts going up on the SA ICPA page due to border closures, restrictions, quarantining for our boarders and Federal Conference updates and thankfully for me and my face for radio, less airtime. Our president bravely took to the ABC to report on the constant border concerns for our students and the isolation/quarantining issues that COVID-19 brought about.

Both Federal and State conference requires more social media time, and the post count goes up with save the dates, registrations and reminders which then follows up with photos, media releases and post conference announcements.

I am grateful that the next wonderfully capable Publicity Officer will understand my lack of emojis and abbreviations and be willing to rectify any typos I no doubt made.

THX and TTYL

MAILCHIMP

E-Newsletter Report – Penny Rasheed

Throughout the year State Council sends emails to all SA ICPA members to keep them informed of events and issues that are relevant to members. The Mailchimp platform enables pictures, videos and weblinks to be embedded and is a convenient way for information to be easily shared. Currently, around 60% of our members are engaging with these emails. If you have any photographs or information you would like to share in this way please contact Jill Greenfield: sapresident@icpa.com.au and if you have any issues accessing these emails contact Penny Rasheed: penelope.rasheed@gmail.com.

THE PIPELINE

Lynly Kerin - Editor

The Pipeline was circulated among 178 families, individuals and groups which include Government Ministers, education departments, schools, rural newspapers and ICPA State and Federal councillors in 2020. This is seven more than 2019's figures, many were not new members but potential members and organisations who contribute content to Pipeline. The 2021 financial member data was not yet available at the time of this report.

We continue to produce two editions per year, each being compiled after State and Federal conferences, which continues to work well for myself and Mija Reynolds. The job of sourcing content for Pipeline and our ability to produce a newsletter of great substance, keeping our members informed and sharing news from across the branches is becoming easier, with my confidence in asking for material growing! The increased content has caused us to continue mailing out in flat format instead of folding, which has increased postage costs slightly, but still within our financial reigns. We have had a great deal of positive feedback with this new format.

I believe The Pipeline will soon have a featured link on our SAICPA website, with current issues featured online for our members to view on the states ICPA webpage. Uploading of current issues will of course only be done once they have gone out in printed form but as digital media continues to advance and support ICPA as a way to better correspond with members, I think it is a valuable tool for our members to be able to share news with our supporters alike.

Thank you to all who submitted articles, branch updates photos and general interest pieces during the last twelve months. Branch Publicity Officers, some of you do a great job in helping me with content, so please continue to do so. Editing is just one part of producing The Pipeline. Layout, design and print format is what makes it go from an emailed folder of word documents and jpeg images to the hard copy received in your mailbag and letterboxes. For this I would like to thank Mija for her skills.

Pedals magazine is our Federal platform for news also, and editor Raelene Hall seeks content from all states for inclusion. Please assist the both of us in keeping our members and rural families in the spotlight by continuing to submit content.

REVISE

Penny Rasheed

Despite COVID-19 causing some disruption to travel last year, REVISE teachers completed a number of placements in 2020 and are ready to take bookings now for the remainder of 2021. REVISE is a free service placing retired volunteer teachers with SOTA families. If you are a teaching parent needing a bit of time-out of the schoolroom, or a family with a governess looking for some extra support, REVISE can help you. Contact REVISE Manager Trish Ellin for more information or to make a booking. REVISE asks for a contribution to travel costs (payable to the organisation, not the teacher directly). You can visit the website for more information: <https://revise.org.au/> or contact Trish via phone: 0437 168 796 or email: tellin44@bigpond.com

OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Petie Rankin

It is with pleasure that I present my report as the ICPA representative on the OAC Governing Council. OAC and SOTA continue their supportive relationship of all our students and their learning pathways. With Lai Kuan at the helm, our principal is confident in the SOTA campus being run smoothly and efficiently.

2020 saw the announcement that the SOTA community and staff can give input on how we spend the sum of money that was previously allocated to different budget lines so discussions on how this can help our school have begun through SOTA CGC.

The Year 7 – High School transition has been discussed at meetings and will continue to be in the spotlight by the reps and SOTA CGC as it needs to be firmly in place with a structure before the time comes around.

The SIP (School Improvement Plan) continues to show growth in most students across the board in all areas of learning with 2021 projections showing no predicted change.

SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT

Jodie Keogh

I must start my report by thanking Nikki Macqueen from Federal Council in assisting me in my role as State Webmaster. After taking on the role and with the impending new website Nikki has uploaded all documents and information that we request to the existing website since our State Council was elected in 2020.

I am very excited to report that by ICPA's first State Conference of the year the new website will be live and up and running. I have been busy working with Nikki Macqueen and Sue Shotton from Federal Council giving feedback on what the relaunched ICPA website will look like, what is required, ensuring it is easy to navigate and also looks fresh, modern and appealing. I have enjoyed seeing what other states envision for the website and after many discussions and emails ICPA have an excellent website with resources and up to date information. I am in the process of loading up to date SA State information on the website, along with updated portfolio posters which any member can download to let you know what State Council has achieved and are working towards.

I hope you enjoy the updated website.

Guest Speakers

Opening Speaker - Dr Ellen Litchfield

My name is Ellen Litchfield and I'm from Wilporinna Station in the Marree district. I would like to say a huge thank you for having me here today and I truly believe the work you are doing, and the motions you will get through today are so fundamental to all isolated children throughout Australia.

I'm going to have a chat about my education pathway from a School of the Air child to now and the amazing opportunities that are granted to children from remote areas. I really believe the advantages of growing up in rural and remote areas are tenfold. It gives you the grit and self-confidence to find your own way. The realisation that kids growing up in isolation on properties have a different way of looking at things was made glaringly evident when I was in Year 4. I was doing a video documentary for a project for SOTA, not sure if it was a scheduled task or something mum and I had dreamed up to try and get the teachers off our backs. My favourite TV show at the time was Big Cat Diaries, so we decided to make a Sheep Diary at shearing. I diligently filmed the lambs, lamb marking, bringing the sheep in for shearing, shearing and ended with dad slitting its throat and cutting up meat for tea. The teachers thought it was quite a laugh, or shocking to some of them, and it took some explaining to me what the issue was. I'm sure all the children, past and present, involved in SOTA have similar stories of the exasperation of their teachers. We got through it, by Year 7 I quite liked SOTA, just in time to head off to boarding school. It was very difficult at the start coping with home sickness, which I'm sure many people in the room can relate to, but by Year 10 I started to embrace it and I now look back on it as a pivotal time in my life. Not just because two and a half hours of prep every night puts in place some good habits but also because the horizons and new ideas that opened up to me. All of a sudden, I realised how big the world was and the possibilities that were out there. The girls I met at boarding school are a constant source of inspiration to me, they have gone on to amazing paths, lawyers, marketing directors, mothers, with grace and integrity because it is exactly what they wanted to do, and not because society told them to or they thought it might find them a husband. Their self-worth comes from within and they are constantly keeping me in check and inspiring me to do more. After boarding school, mum and dad packed me up and we went over to Wagga Wagga to Charles Sturt University. It is one of the oldest Ag Colleges in Australia but it was a brand-new Vet School and they were trying out a new learning technique called problem-based learning. This learning develops your critical analysis skills, your leadership and communication skills. These are attributes that children growing up in remote areas have in swathes. You have to deal with the problems thrown at you with whatever you have available. And, I think, that the unpredictable nature of living on the land sets you on a good path for learning.

After vet school, this is where the true education begins. Education is definitely not just about the academia but about the experiences you do in life. I often get asked why I am not working full time as a Vet, or I can see the quizzical looks on people's faces when I say I spent six years at university and now don't use my degree. But Vet taught me so many life skills that I use daily. It also gave me some amazing opportunities to travel around the world, working with farmers across Australia and overseas. I think it is always handy to have a skill that people need. I think this need for security comes from living on the land, the boom-and-bust cycles, no control over the rain or the markets but generally you can always find somewhere where someone wants their dog vaccinated. After working in the UK for a bit, my husband and I moved back to the station and I was desperate to immerse myself in all things agriculture. I wanted to contribute something to our station and then I stumbled across the Nuffield Scholarship. I had a year to perfect my application, talked to many other previous scholars and was lucky enough to get one.

It is probably one of the greatest things I have ever done. Like all great things, there were plenty of tears and sleepless nights but the highs outweighed the lows. It was the people I met, they were inspiring and amazing leaders but also normal, friendly down to earth people who make mistakes and they didn't have a path or plan to follow, they just kept trying. They came from all backgrounds, some with PHD's, some who dropped out of high school, but the trait they had in common was their resilience. They kept trying new ideas, they talked to new people and if something didn't work, they just kept trying. I think these are all traits you have to develop when you are doing remote learning. If you have ever had to battle through a music class or a radio, resilience really starts early. I'm sure the children now using the satellite internet know this only too well.

Some of the fantastic producers I met on the Nuffield trip include Christof and Erica Weeder, farmers in northern British Columbia, sparsely populated area in Canada. They spent 10 years building up an Angus beef brand, selling direct to restaurants. This involved a lot of travel and the Angus cattle didn't like the minus 40-degree winters. They started their own brand of Bison meat. Bison are really well adapted to the harsh winters; their metabolic rate goes down requiring less hay to be fed out. They get to spend more time at home on the farm. They are well aware that it may not work out, they still have the Angus cash cow in the background but the life long learning and constantly evolving their business model and lifestyle is really important.

Across the other side of the world in Kenya, Machet Matomi was really inspirational. He inherited 5 acres in 1993 and from that 5 acres, he and his wife feed 150 people lunch every day. He uses every inch of his 5 acres, he grows lucerne to feed his dairy cows. The manure from the livestock goes into a bio-digester to create the gas to run the cooker for six hours a day. They have ducks, fish growing in the irrigation dams. With no formal education and no government support but NGO have provided many opportunities including the bio-digester and solar pumps. Living in Australia we can sometimes forget the privilege that education is, but Machet and his family really demonstrate that thirst for knowledge and no matter what your background if you work hard enough you really can succeed. He has been able to employ two other people from his village. His goal and measure of success is how many other people he can lift up.

I thought I'd leave you with this quote – Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself. The goal of helping young minds grow is to instil in them a passion for a life of learning, to keep an open mind and develop a thirst for new experiences, be that studying in the formal sense or going on a new adventure. The key concept to remote learning is that it teaches you to be flexible, you capitalise on the opportunities that present themselves and this is a hugely important life skill because life never goes to plan. Your ability to adapt to change and to teach your children to adapt to changes will be a massive advantage. Globally we will face some big changes in the future, from climate change to our global population hitting 9,000,000,000 and we are currently experiencing a pandemic. We need diversity of thought to develop creative solutions and I think children from these remote backgrounds are well placed to be leaders in these conversations. Thank you.

Guest Speaker - Pauly Daniel, Daniel-Tessari Horse Reflections

I'm Pauly Daniel, I'm a dad, husband, stockman, horse trainer and educator. I'm used to public speaking either on a horse about what I'm doing or to people on horses and it's really easy to tell them what to do, so this is new to me and thanks for having me as a guest today. The last time I did a speech here in Port Augusta was at my Year 12 graduation on behalf of my SRC 20 years ago.

I run a horse training business in the Adelaide Hills, educating horses and their riders, from breaking in, helping troubled horses, advancing horses training for multiple disciplines and coaching a lot of horse people. My students range from children, high performance riders, people with disabilities and people who aren't necessarily into horses but want to learn more about themselves and grow as people by learning how to be with and communicate with horses. I found my way to horse training and coaching. I never wanted to be coach or professional trainer. I still don't consider myself one as my identity. I'm a stockman and part of being a stockman is to be good with a horse and helping people learn.

As someone who is a professional educator of people, I don't have any formal training in how to teach. I've had to learn how to teach by trial, a lot of error, a lot of self-reflection, a lot of practice to then achieve a lot with people.

Are there any teachers or govies in the room? In my opinion you as educators should be some of the highest paid people in our society. I have four teachers in my family and none of them aim to be teachers for the money. They did it for the love and passion to be able to make a difference to the lives of the people they taught. I think that is the case for most teachers. A lot of the responsibility of the success for the future of our society lies in the hands of our teachers. Long before politicians, professors, media, police etc can influence anybody our teachers help our children to learn, to think, to problem solve and work. If that is not enough for a six-figure a year salary, I don't know what is.

I tried to go to uni, I took a gap year and worked as a station hand then started a Bachelor of Agriculture at Roseworthy. I had a lot of fun and the course interested me a little but every day at uni I thought about how much I missed working on the land and doing what I loved. I knew I was trying to force a square peg through a round hole. It was Thursday at the end of the third term and I had an assignment due on the Friday, that I had all term to do, that I was sitting down to do. I begrudgingly got out my books and I was making a start on what was to be a long night when my phone rang.

It was a contract musterer I'd met the year before. He said, "Hey Pauly, I heard you're thinking about leaving uni."

"Yeah."

"You want a job?"

"Yeah."

"When can you start?"

"Monday." That was it, I packed up my books and that was the end of my formal education to date.

The degree I started is a great course if you are aiming to get something out of it. You may need a Bachelor of Agriculture to be an agronomist before you go home on the family farm. But I had no goals going in to it and was committing myself just because I thought I should be. My older brother studied vet science and my older sister studied teaching and thought I should follow suit, get a degree behind me and see what I want to do later. Looking back, I was wrong. For my personality and passion it wasn't a good idea to study and rack up a HECS debt for the sake of it and would have been better choosing to work in jobs the course is aimed for first to see if that is what I wanted to do. My family never talked me in to it and they never talked me out of it either. They let me have a go at something I wanted to do, and I'd encourage anyone to do the same.

I talk to kids I teach and coach to life as separate to horses, and I encourage them to follow and work hard at their passion. Do what you love and you will never work a day in your life! I don't think that is true, I think you work harder doing something you love more than anything else. Many days it is going to feel like work, but the rewards from that work are what make it all worth while.

Some people know what they want to do from an early age. I had to play "schools" with my older sister pretending to be my teacher from three years old. I do remember being the only kid starting reception at Stirling North who could write my name and do basic sums because of her early passion of teaching me. I think that is when I peaked at the top of the class. You don't need to know what you want to do but following your passion and working at your own education will lead you to what you should do. If that is being a mum, that is your calling. If that is being a business person, that is your calling. If that means you are a ringer, a mum and a business person, like many of you would be, that's your job. Anyone can advance their education at anytime in their lives. My mum studied adult education in her 40's and completed her Primary Teaching degree in her 50's.

After uni I went contracting and ringing. Back to doing what I loved and following my heart and booking work that would lead me to more knowledge and experience that I craved. I worked in camps in the Gulf, chased bulls in the Cape, drove mobs down the stock route, drove trucks in the desert, did some filming on a cattle crew, worked on ranches in Canada, and while I was there, paid good money to get bucked off some of the rankest broncs in the world, resulting in some humbling education and reflection that I still had a lot to learn.

I met my wife, Lauren, when I was home for the wet season one year and I was smitten enough to stay in South Australia and take a job offer as a stock agent in the Adelaide Hills. The stock agent role was one of those jobs that I didn't love but loved that I did. In the years of ringing, and even overseeing a place, no one had ever cared to educate me in the business side of the cattle industry. I never asked either, I just saw myself as a worker. I'd advise employers here, if you are not already, educate your staff in your business. I teach people in horsemanship, why you do something is much more important than what you do. Why would you only get on the left-hand side of the horse if you aren't carrying a sword? But why you should tie a halter correctly is an extremely important thing. I think if staff knew more about the dollar side of the business you would find out who cared most about your goals as a team, and the passion instilled in employees would lead to a greater staff retention and productivity.

Whilst working as a stock agent I had my horses at an adjustment centre in the hills. People started asking me to help with their horses which I enjoyed, and I found out early that some people only valued information and help if they paid for it. Very quickly I was in demand, enough to make a full-time business out of horse training, and our business Daniel-Tessari Horse Reflections was born nine years ago.

Teaching people and understanding the psychology of humans to be able to teach well requires more about knowing yourself than knowing others. If you want to find out how deep an understanding you have of anything, try explaining it to someone. I realised I knew how to communicate with a horse but I didn't know how to explain to others what I was doing. I'd spend hours after a lesson with someone, explaining over and over in my head again what I had done. At the same time, realising more about what I was actually doing in my mind and body where before I thought was something so simple and should be easy to teach. The stockmen and horse trainers I had spent time with before, simply told you what to do but they never told you how to

think and feel. I had a head stockman yell at me once, asking if I was watching my cattle or just looking at them? it is a pretty good question when you think about it but at the time didn't give me a lot of insight.

Education comes in many forms. I like the theory that you are the average of the four people you spend the most time with. Being in the Adelaide Hills for a few years I felt I had lost touch with my kind of people, so I booked in some work back at one of my favourite stations. You can spend time with anyone, why not spend time with people you are going to learn from? On this family place, I am surrounded by people who are better than me in different ways. The stockmen there can track man or beast through or over anything and their real horsemanship experience would leave most pro horse trainers for dead. There is not one, but two doctors on the place, both vets, there is even a lady who is a midwife, reiki and aromatherapist, who in my younger years encouraged me to be more open in my thoughts and senses.

Seeing I can't be around stockman and horseman I'd like to learn from all the time I choose other disciplines to help me grow. I train Brazilian jujitsu and karate, surrounding myself, on purpose, with people who are much better than me and advanced in another sport, keeps me yearning to grow, keeps me mentally sharp but also keeps my level of empathy for my students by putting myself in a similar position as they are in. today's self-education in growing your knowledge as a person couldn't be easier. You can listen to varied points of view in news from around the world, audio books while driving or tailing a mob, or podcasts by some of the most successful and inciteful people of the world. I'm often pausing a podcast then explaining back to myself in my own words what I just heard and want to retain, just as I used to talk to myself learning how I trained horses. Online coaching to many subjects and sports are easy to subscribe to and finding out about courses and clinics run by people all over the globe usually pop-up in our social media new feed without us even looking for them. getting to know the who's who in whatever interest or industry happens with ease. Just going through our social media pages people know me and book in for clinics, demonstrations and as an educator.

Growth and education mean you are going to change. I've heard if you don't look back to where you were 5 years ago and mildly dislike that person it means you are not going to grow and should be seeking more education of some form.

Who here met 21-year-old Pauly? If I met 21-year-old Pauly at a rodeo, I don't really think I'd like him. Thank goodness we have all grown. But myself now would love to employ a 21-year-old Pauly, to help pull his ego in a little and to nurture the admirable traits and passion in him.

One thing you have to be careful of in your education, or in your education of others, is that you don't start living in an echo chamber, where everything you send out comes back sounding the same, so you think you must be right with just that information. I was chatting to a mate on the weekend who is studying medicine and I joked that my long hair was connected to my crownsharkra. He said in five years of medicine they had never taught him about a crownsharkra. Yes, they have, you know as your skull grows it never quite fully forms and there is a small opening, that is your crownsharkra. I was joking but I was planting a seed for different thoughts on how other people view the world. But we should often stay in our own lane. His medicine knowledge is way out of my lane and he is right in any thoughts he has as he has found his calling. I make an effort to research and listen to people I don't necessarily agree with, sometimes I change my mind with research and sometimes I grow to be more confident in the reasons behind my beliefs. Living in an echo chamber will only grow ignorance.

The early challenge I found teaching people is reading how they need to be treated. We need to throw away the notion that we need to treat people how we would like to be treated and read people to know how they would like to be treated; it may be very different. If I go hard on someone while coaching, I may not get anything out of them. If I don't get hard on someone else, I might not get anything out of them. Reading people, like reading stock, is a sense that becomes finely tuned and subconscious with time and practice. Like a sculptor that carves what they already saw in a stone, as an educator's job we must bring out the best in our students that is already in them. People just can't be told what to do, they need to feel what they do themselves to really learn it. Feel can not be taught any more than the colour blue can be explained to a blind person. Educators are only a catalyst to someone else being their best self. Every horse that comes to me is already a good horse, it is my job to show them what is destined for them. A belief of reality is also needed when aiming to achieve our best self. You can be anything you want, is bad advice. No matter how bad I wanted, I would never have become the next Michael Jordan. We should never plant limiting beliefs in our students but let life flow with achievements and failures as it should. Society should hopefully work out the giving kids medals for coming 14th is terrible and setting them up to fail in the real world.

Reading people is the key to successful communication and then being able to teach. I'm not a believer in psychology systems that put people in to categories with a manual of how to treat them as we all know we change in time or in a moment. I'm a different person before or after a coffee, before or after a success or failure and then I need to be treated differently. Reading people means being quiet. Quiet in our minds and listening and feeling their energy.

The word genius is a Latin word originally meaning guardian deity who watches over us from birth so we achieve our innate ability. It is our job as educators to help people find their passion and path, help them to be their best self, to help them achieve being their own genius.

2020 Financial Statements AUDITED

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

Account(s) in this report: Express Saver, Society Cheque Account

Income	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	1499.00	
Bank SA Interest Received	2.56	
Donations	20004.57	
Grant	12095.00	
Interest Received	18.86	
Lone Membership	135.00	
Miscellaneous Income	512.35	
PayPal Transfers	1615.00	
State Conference	4389.59	
Total Income		40271.93
Expenses	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	1055.35	
Audit & Accounting Fees	495.00	
Conferences & Meetings	4903.47	
Donation	7850.00	
Insurance	1076.27	
Newsletter costs	2674.10	
Postage	49.80	
Printing & Stationery	213.50	
Sponsorship	3989.00	
Subscriptions	448.71	
Travel Expenses	1647.85	
Total Expenses		24403.05
Net Profit (Loss)		15868.88

Please Note: This report may require adjustment for depreciation or 'accrual' items depending on your tax or accounting requirements.

Balance Sheet

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2020 - 31/12/2020

Account(s) in this report: Express Saver, Society Cheque Account

Column

Cash at Bank (Express Saver)	31313.75
Cash at Bank (Society Cheque Account)	29124.79
Total Members Funds	60438.54

Note 1 to the special purpose financial report

This special purpose financial report was prepared for distribution to the members to fulfill the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia's constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act* (SA). The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia's constitution and with previous years and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members:

- (a) The financial report was prepared on a cash basis of accounting.
- (b) The requirements of accounting standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia because it is not a 'reporting entity'
- (c) Capital items were expensed immediately.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia, being a special purpose financial report, which comprises the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the period ended 31 December 2020 and a note comprising a summary of significant accounting policies.

The Management Committee's responsibility for the financial report

The Management Committee of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA)* and the needs of the members. The Management Committee responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report that presents fairly [gives a true and fair view] in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by The Management Committee as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Basis for qualified opinion

Receipts from donations and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia. The management committee has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations and other fundraising activity revenue prior to entry in its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to me about revenue from these sources was limited, my audit procedures for donations and other fundraising activity revenue had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. Therefore, I am unable to express an opinion on whether donations and other fundraising activity revenue obtained by the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia are complete.

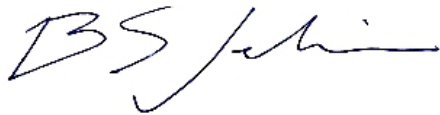
Qualified opinion

In my opinion (except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation on my audit procedures referred to in the Basis for qualified opinion paragraph not existed), the financial report of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial

statements, the financial position of the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia at 31 December 2020 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the management committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA)*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



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Benjamin Stuart Jenkin
Ben Jenkin CPA
47 Commercial Road
Port Augusta SA 5700

Dated this 5th day of March 2021

2021 Interim Financial Statement UNAUDITED

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2021 - 28/02/2021

Account(s) in this report: Express Saver, Society Cheque Account

Income	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	52.00	
Grant	1894.00	
Interest Received	1.22	
Lone Membership	90.00	
PayPal Transfers	2564.00	
Total Income		4601.22
Expenses	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	1648.00	
Conferences & Meetings	1285.68	
Donation	11750.00	
Newsletter costs	1379.70	
Total Expenses		16063.38
Net Profit (Loss)		(11462.16)

Please Note: This report may require adjustment for depreciation or 'accrual' items depending on your tax or accounting requirements.

ALLOWANCES

Allowances for remote and isolated families 2021

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much?
Federal Allowances: Centrelink Assistance for Isolated Children • Boarding Allowance	Parents of geographically isolated school aged students who need to board away from home to attend school. Applies to boarding schools, hostels and private board	\$11,011 per year, made up of 2 components: \$8,557 - basic \$2,454 - additional subject to parental income and actual boarding costs \$8,307 minimum boarding charge threshold for Additional Boarding Allowance
Assistance for Isolated Children • Distance Education Allowance	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$4,278 per year.
Assistance for Isolated Children • Second Home Allowance	Geographically isolated and run a second home to access education.	\$6,499 per year paid in fortnightly instalments, for up to three students. \$19,497 maximum second home allowance for each family (three children). www.icpa.com.au TAB: Boarding/Hostels/Second Home
Youth Allowance	Young people from 16-24 years, studying, training or looking for work. Dependant children up to 22 years are subject to Parental Means Test. Rural and regional students can claim the independent rate by earning 75% of Wage Level A in a 14 month period.	Varies by situation. Please call the dedicated hotline: 13 24 90 or see the Centrelink website.
State Allowances: DECD Transport Services Department (08) 8226 2406		
Travel Allowance	School students living five kilometres or more from the nearest public school or school bus run.	Paid per km. Apply through school principal.
State Education Allowance (SEA)	Families in receipt of AIC Basic Boarding Allowance and recipients of AIC Second Home Allowance.	\$4299.98 per year.

**Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)
Apply through Centrelink**

- **Dedicated Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Call Centre: 13 23 18**

To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from an appropriate government school, or at least 16km from an appropriate state school and at least 4.5km from the nearest bus route.

The Parental Income Free Area for 2020 above which the Additional Boarding Allowance is reduced to \$54,677.



Marree Air Branch and SA State Council would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support of the 2021 State Conference.