



# SA ICPA Annual State Conference 2023

**South Australia Isolated Children's Parents' Association Inc.**

The Eldo Hotel, Woomera SA

Thursday, 23 March 2023

Hosted by the North West Branch



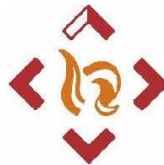
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## SPONSORS

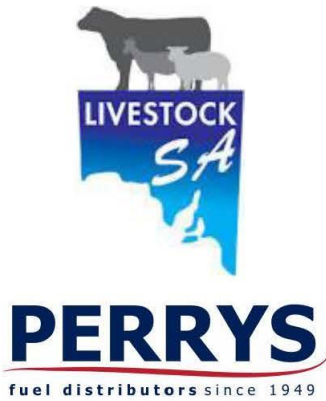
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# PRESIDENTS WELCOME

**Belinda Hatcher**

Good morning everyone, my name is Belinda Hatcher and it is my great pleasure as President of the South Australian Isolated Children's and Parents' Association and on behalf of our whole State Council to welcome you all here to Woomera for our 2023 Annual South Australian ICPA State Conference.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians 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 respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people from other areas of South Australia present today.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Launching Futures since 1972' and it is certainly a very good play on words given our location and the long history Woomera has had with 'launching' things into the atmosphere. For me, as I type this report, my connection to the theme is rather raw as Daniel and I are preparing to launch our second son on the path to his future. His bags are packed and his car is loaded and while it will be hard to say goodbye, we know we have done all we can to support him and know he is prepared and ready for launch. This is a sentiment that I am sure many of us share in this room today – launching our children towards the next step of their lives is never easy but we know that it is a step towards their bright futures.

Opening speaker Laura Greenfield has been a part of the ICPA family her whole life – from her beginnings as a SOTA student, to being a boarder and even as an interstate uni student stuck on the wrong side of the border during COVID, the advocacy of ICPA has almost always been present. When Jill and Col 'launched' Laura towards her future all those years ago in the Billa Kalina schoolroom I imagine they didn't quite know where she would land, but I have no doubt that they are very proud of where her journey has taken her and are especially excited to have her and her soon to be husband Ben, back so close to home and part of the family business.

We are excited to welcome Annabelle Homer as our guest speaker today. Annabelle grew up on a cattle station in central Queensland, she has a background with rural education having been a boarding student in Brisbane. She completed her university studies majoring in Journalism and Screen Production. She has since worked for the ABC TV's Landline program, Channel Seven as a researcher/producer and is currently back working with ABC as the north and west rural reporter with Brooke Neindorf. It is wonderful to have her here with us today, especially at such short notice given Emily Riggs was unable to be with us for personal reasons.

There will be two Q & A sessions today. The first will be with Peter Kenyon, from Bank of Ideas, who is going to speak about ways we can stimulate and revitalise local communities and organisations. Then after lunch Naomi Read and Elise Perry from NBN will present an update on NBN's newest programs. There will be a chance for members and guests to ask questions after both presentations.

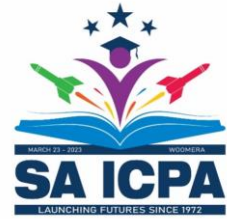
Please enjoy the branch photo stories, which will be shown throughout the day. These allow members and guests to get a snapshot into the lives of the students and families of SA ICPA, who are the very reason why we are all here today.

The AGM will be held at the end of conference proceedings. Visitors and guests are welcome to stay for this if they wish. All positions will be declared vacant so please consider volunteering your time for SA ICPA.

SA ICPA would like to thank all the sponsors of this conference. We could not continue our advocacy without the support of those businesses, organisations and individuals, some of whom have been supporting ICPA for many years. Thankyou also to Sharon Nutt who is the conference minute taker

and to Joanna Gibson who has again compiled the conference booklet for us. And of course, many thanks must go to Candice and the rest of the North West branch for the stellar job they have done organising this year's conference.

So please enjoy the 2023 SA ICPA State Conference – I know that today's proceedings are full of passionate and inspirational speakers, stories and motions which are the perfect foundations for us to continue to support launching the futures of many more rural and remote children for years to come.



# SA ICPA 2023 Conference Program

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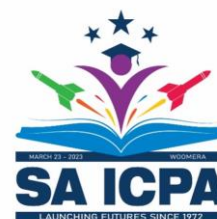
8:15	Registration	<i>Eldo Hotel, Woomera</i>
9:00	Conference Commences	
	National Anthem	SOTA & Woomera Area
		School Students
	President's Welcome	Belinda Hatcher
	Conference Convenor- Housekeeping	Candice Brown
	Introduction of Guests	Hollie Williams
	Minister for Education Training and Skills	
	<i>Hon Blair Boyer MP</i>	
	Official Opening of Conference	Laura Greenfield
	State ICPA President's Report	Belinda Hatcher
	AGENDA MOTIONS	
10:30	Morning Tea	
11:00	North West Branch Presentation	Jill Greenfield
11:10	Guest Speaker	Annabelle Homer
	<i>Annabelle Homer 'Voice It'</i>	
11:45	AGENDA MOTIONS	
	Lone Member Presentation	Jodie Keogh
	ICPA Federal Council Report	Alana Moller
	Marla / Oodnadatta Branch Presentation	Kirsty Williams
	Schools Presentation	



# SA ICPA 2023

## Conference Program

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12:30 Lunch

1:30 Marree Air Branch Presentation

Lisa Edwards

1:35 Bank of Idea's Q & A Session  
*'Revitalising Communities'*

Peter Kenyon

2:15 Flinders Ranges Branch Presentation

Belinda Hatcher

AGENDA MOTIONS

North East Branch Presentation

Leisa Breeding

2:40 NBN Co Update Q & A

Naomi Reed

Elyse Perry

3:10 Port Augusta Branch Presentation

Katrina Morris

AGENDA MOTIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY MOTIONS

Eyre Branch Presentation

Di Thomas

3:30 Afternoon Tea

3:50 AGM

4:30 Close of Conference

# STATE CONFERENCE MOTIONS

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

### Motion 1 North East Branch

CARRIED

**Moved** Leisa Breeding

**Seconded** Leah Beard

*“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.

Some families employ a Distance Education Tutor, which comes with an additional cost to the family. Families must decide whether to pay a wage to a tutor, or the mother must somehow find more time to take on the role. A Distance Education Tutor Allowance would go some way towards recognising the important role the tutor plays and compensate the family in a small way for the high cost of educating their children.

### Comment

**Alana Moller, Federal Council** - I would just like to let Conference know that Federal Council is earnestly trying to get a DETA across the line. It is in our key recommendations, it is in our pre-budget submission, we are trying to get media assistance with this which I will talk more about in my report later today. Anything State Council can do to help us we would appreciate but we also need help from members. We need your pictures, we need your stories, we need your case studies, we need to be able to show the real impact of having to teach your kids at home. It’s hard, we know that, but we need to be able to show everyone else that. We are running our “Geographically Isolated Distance Education Day” on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, please send in your stories, send in your information so we can pass that on to those that need to know, those that need to listen.

### Motion 2. North East Branch

CARRIED

**Moved** Leisa Breeding

**Seconded** Leah Beard

*“That SA ICPA request the Minister for Education, Training and Skills and the South Australian Government to build a new, stand-alone facility that would accommodate Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) and Remote & Isolated Children’s Exercise (RICE) on their own premises.”*

**Explanation:** Currently, the Port Augusta School of the Air and RICE have a campus on the Augusta Park Primary School grounds. They have the use of three separate buildings, located in different areas on the Augusta Park grounds. SOTA conducts face-to-face weeks each term in Port Augusta and the SOTA students must share the school facilities with Augusta Park students. This includes the requirement of SOTA teachers seeking permission from Augusta Park to use the school gym, oval and playground. During 2022 the buildings sustained significant water damage and the SOTA had to host their face to face week at another school premises.

It would be beneficial if both SOTA and RICE could share their own premises, not another school's campus. This would allow students, families, educators and the outback education community to have their own facilities and create their own school campus, ethos, values and unique space that directly relates to their distinctive learning and living style. This would have a direct and very beneficial effect on the mental health and well-being of our outback families. In addition, the current facilities are outdated and badly in need of repairs, so a new, stand-alone facility would very quickly make much better financial sense.

### **Motion 3. Port Augusta Branch**

DEEMED COVERED BY MOTION 2

**Katrina Morris** requested Conference permission to deem Motion 3 covered by Motion 2.

*"That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to provide a standalone all-inclusive building for School of the Air (SOTA) and Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) services in Pt Augusta."*

**Explanation:** Currently there are three separate buildings situated across the grounds of Augusta Park Primary School that house SOTA, RICE and the Outback Centre. We believe the benefits of having one site, for kindergarten, primary school, the community, and play will far out way the costs and will be beneficial for the education and wellbeing of all involved. Improved facilities would increase the sense of belonging for students, staff and the wider community. Improved access to these buildings for educational activities and support services is vital for the safety of our children.

### **Motion 4 North West Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Colin Greenfield

**Seconded** Edwina Bowie

*"That SA ICPA work with the Department for Education, Open Access College and School of the Air, (SOTA) Port Augusta to prepare and provide a review of the current school buildings and grounds with the ultimate aim to provide safe and inclusive facilities, essential infrastructure and an environment suitable for the teachers and geographically isolated students of SOTA."*

**Explanation:** This motion was presented and passed at the State Conference in 2022. The motion was taken to the Minister for Education with a reply, in July 2022, that a review would be undertaken. We ask the Minister and the Head of Open Access College, Julie Taylor about the outcomes of the review and the short and long term goals for the buildings and infrastructure at the current location.

#### **Comment**

**Petie Rankin, North West Branch** – I support this motion and I'm pretty sure everyone on SOTA would support this motion because our site is dated and it needs work. Ask the kids what they want, they want their own playground. They don't want to alternate play times. Our site is in the middle of another school site. We need our own site; we need to showcase what and who we are now and in the future.

**Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch** – I agree, we need a state of the art facility for student face to face days, to attract and keep teachers. If we want a quality education for our children we need the facilities to do that.

**Thu Anh Pham, Dept of Education** – we understand where you are coming from and this has been an issue raised for a while. The Assests and Facilities team did an evaluation last year and are looking at

options and has been raised with the senior minister. They are aware of your request and it is a priority with the Department. It will take time and will involve a lot of finance but it is on the table.

**Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Member** – A comment to the Department, it is excellent that you are looking into it. At the end of last year a couple of possible sites were given, one site is suitable only for the teaching staff, not suitable for bringing the children in, so I hope the Department understands that we need a quality building for our teachers but we also need the facilities for the children.

#### **Motion 5. North West Branch**

WITHDRAWN

**Col Greenfield** – request Conference permission to withdraw Motion 5

*"That SA ICPA write to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills requesting that funding for the Certificate 3 in Education Support be reinstated."*

**Explanation:** South Australia led the way in developing, implementing, and recognising the importance of the home supervisor when the Home Supervisor Training Grant was instigated in 2001. This gave Home Supervisors the opportunity to gain a Certificate 3 in Education Support by studying externally via Marden Senior College and Open Access College. Since then, we estimate at least 90 supervisors have completed their Certificate 3 in Education Support.

Minister Boyer stated in his letter to state council in July 2022 that *Open Access College and SOTA receive an annual grant from the department to provide financial support for SOTA supervisors completing Certificate III in Education Support. This grant includes a \$2,000 wage subsidy per student who successfully completes the certificate.* This has been an excellent incentive for both employer and employee as the funding could go towards paying for a supervisor which is a cost currently 100% covered by the family.

It is our understanding that the Certificate 3 in Education Support is no longer being offered. Where has this subsidy grant gone?

We strongly urge the government to reinstate this program for a further period as it has given acknowledgement to the supervisors and the work they do with their students in their remote classrooms.

#### **Motion 6. Port Augusta Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Pamela Cuffe

**Seconded** Katrina Morris

*That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education to provide a state Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) to recognise geographically isolated distance education home tutors (usually mothers) who take themselves out of the workforce, their businesses and their normal daily lives to administer daily compulsory education to their children in the home schoolroom.*

**Explanation:** Currently there are less than 50 families that would be eligible for this allowance, who meet the criteria of geographically isolated and teach their children via distance education. The Gross Regional Product per capita for the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) region in which these students reside is \$417,000. This compared to the Gross State Product of \$62,100 per capita highlights 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 and federal levels. This highlights the fact 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 work load and responsibility themselves. This continues to be a huge contributing factor to the reason many families leave the bush.

## **BOARDING SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS**

### **MOTION 7. Flinders Ranges Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Sonya Fels

**Seconded** Mija Reynolds

*“That SA ICPA writes to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to request an increase in the State Education Allowance (SEA) in recognition of the rising cost of living pressures, exacerbated by the tyranny of distance for rural and remote families.”*

**Explanation:** Over the 12 months to December 2022 quarter, inflation/cost of living rose by 7.8%, the highest it has been since 1990. The cost of day-to-day necessities including food, electricity, and fuel have increased in line with inflation. For people who live rurally, the price of these commodities is generally higher the further you live from metropolitan/built up areas before inflation is factored into it. Having no alternative but to send your child away to boarding school for their secondary education, or to set up a second home to educate your children, families are having to pay high out of pocket expenses to ensure their children receive a compulsory education. With the rising cost of living pressures, this is adding to much stress and anxiety for families.

The SEA is currently set at \$4486.27, and we request that in line with inflation, an increase of \$400 per student be provided. For an estimated 50 students that would mean a cost to the Government of \$20,000. In turn it would make the world of difference to those geographically isolated families who rely on the SEA to ensure their children receive an equitable education.

**Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Member** – I live just across the border on SW Queensland. I started my boys’ journey at Innamincka in SA and Port Augusta SOTA, which still suits us. In Queensland their scheme similar to this is called the Living Away From Home Allowance Scheme (LAFHAS). It is made up of four parts, two most relevant to this motion, a remote area travel allowance and a remote area tuition allowance. Theirs is a little different, it is based on the cost of your tuition and school attended varying from \$3144 - \$6200. On top of that the remote travel allowance is kilometre based. My allowance in Queensland adds up to \$8000. Today Queensland ICPA have done a press release from the steps of Parliament House, asking for an increase in the LAFHAS of \$4000. So, this motion for \$400 is a pittance compared to what they are asking. All State Government allowances help our kids attend school. I’d like for my boys to attend a SA high school but I wouldn’t qualify for the SA allowances. It doesn’t where you live you should get the allowance and it should be a decent allowance. I wholeheartedly support the motion.

**Di Thomas, Eyre Branch** - \$400 might not be a lot, but it is two flights home for kids in our branch.

## **MOTION 8. Flinders Ranges Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Mija Reynolds

**Seconded** Sonya Fels

*“That SA ICPA requests the Department for Education for an increase to the Remote Travel Allowance component of the State Education Allowance (SEA).”*

**Explanation:** The current rate of the Remote Travel Allowance is set at \$250. This has been the flat rate since its inception and given the current cost of living and the level of inflation we are seeing we believe that an increase to this rate is necessary for families to alleviate the financial strain of transporting students long distance. For an estimated 50 families in receipt of this allowance the cost to the Government would be \$12,500, a small amount that would go a long way for families.

**Jodie Keogh, SA Lone Member** – Queensland’s minimum allowance is \$164/student, first 500km is an additional 92c/km, over 500km is \$1.53/km to a maximum allowance of \$2011. Perhaps these figures can help SA ICPA.

**Di Thomas, Eyre Branch** – I support this motion. For students from my area the only option of travel is to fly or drive. That means 8 hours in a car each way. Flights can be well over \$400.

**Joanna Gibson, North West Branch** – It used to be that if you lived over 250km from your school, you had a little component of \$250 tacked onto the SEA. A few years ago there was an increase to the SEA and everybody got the RTA component. I’m not sure why we are bringing it up again because I wouldn’t like to see it go back and only some people get the RTA.

**Lisa Slade, State Council** – Originally the RTA was for students that lived more than 250km from nearest school or bus route. We advocated that only one or two students would meet that criteria. This was changed to 150km, and it still missed a lot of people. Minister Close decided that everyone should get it as a combined payment, but the two allowances are still itemised separately on the paperwork.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE**

### **Motion 9. North East Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Leisa Breeding

**Seconded** Leah Beard

*“That SA ICPA State Council continue to work with ICPA Federal Council towards having the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) extended to 3/4-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. Most 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**

**Alana Moller, Federal Council** – Similar to DETA this is really high on our priority list, and it is in our six key recommendations we have been sending around to anyone who will listen. It was in our prebudget submission again and we are working with a media company around some of these long standing key issues. The key point when we have been advocating for this is the cost. It is going to cost the government very little to put something like this in place to make a big difference to our families.

Each state council has supplied us with the numbers for each year, the total we have come up with is, each year there would be less than 250 eligible students and would cost the government less than \$1.5million a year, which, when there was a \$2billion allocation to early childhood education last year, doesn't seem like much to us. Once again, we would love your stories and case studies so we can show people just how important this is.

**Kirsty Williams, Marla-Oodnadatta Branch** – my kindy student is one of four this year with RICE. There is a mid-year intake starting as of this year. Kindy students are going to do there 12 months and those starting mid-year will be eligible for six terms of Reception. If they are going to give the AIC allowance mid-year, which they will have to once they attend school, what is the difference? There has been no questions about doing a mid-year intake.

## **Motion 10. State Council**

CARRIED

**Moved** Hollie Williams

**Seconded** Di Thomas

*“That SA ICPA, on behalf of all its members, offer their gratitude and thanks to the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) for their willingness to work with SA ICPA State Council and other interested parties on improving outcomes for our members.”*

**Explanation:** In recent years there has been several motions and issues brought to State Council from members, with concerns about a gap in some of the services being provided by CaFHS. As a council we have taken those motions to CaFHS during delegations, and we have always been welcomed and made to feel like our concerns have been heard. While some of the ‘kinks’ have still not been ironed out, SA ICPA wanted to offer our thanks to all those involved for their openness with their processes and willingness to work with us to find solutions that can benefit all interested parties. It should be noted that this is not always the case with other areas of advocacy and it is most appreciated.

### **Comment**

**Shona Amos, North West Branch** – I had my first baby in June last year. My sister had a baby at the same time, she doesn't live as isolated as I do but still lives in a rural area. She had ongoing CaFHS appointments throughout the whole year, in home checks etc. In the last 12 months I have only received one phone call from CaFHS and that is the only correspondence I have had.

**Edwina Bowie, North West Branch** – similar to Shona, I had a baby 8 months ago and I have had one follow up phone call from CaFHS. However, I did have a wonderful lady visit me because I have the luxury of having a unit in Adelaide and I did receive a home visit.

**Pamela Cuffe, Port Augusta Branch** – I had a baby last year in May. I only live 1½ hours from Port Augusta but I had to fight for a face to face appointment in Port Augusta with CaFHS. This was my third child but I still wanted a check up for my child as we live remotely. A teleconference was thought good enough for a six week old!

**Hollie Williams, State Council** – From State Council, CaFHS has been very willing to work with us. They seem to say and do all the right things, but as in the explanation, there are still some kinks but the open line of communication has been good. Obviously, it is not that way for some of our members. We will get your stories and go back to them again.

## RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

### MOTION 11 Flinders Ranges Branch

CARRIED

**Moved** Sonya Fels

**Seconded** Mija Reynolds

*“That SA ICPA ask the Department for Education for an increase in the Car Allowance component of the Student Travelling Allowance Scheme, which is paid to families who transport their children to a school or a suitable bus stop.”*

**Explanation:** A motion presented at the 2017 SA ICPA State Conference regarding an increase in the rate paid for the Car Allowance component of the Student Travelling Allowance Scheme, quoted that the rate was just over \$0.22 cents per kilometre. This year it has been quoted to us that the rate for 2023 is \$0.2687 per kilometre. That means the increase for 6 years stands at 22% and around 4 cents. Historically this allowance has increased in relation to the CPI.

In 2017 the cost of diesel was around \$1.35 per litre. At the beginning of 2023 the cost of diesel was hovering around \$2 per litre. This would suggest an increase in the cost of diesel of around 48%. In 2017 the cost for an average priced four-wheel drive tyre was around \$150 per tyre. Currently the cost of the same type of tyre is around \$300. This is an increase of 100%. These are just two of the main costs that families in rural and remote South Australia incur when running a car to and from a school or a bus stop and the cost of running a vehicle has increased at a far greater rate than that of the Car Allowance.

Whilst we understand that an increase to the allowance to match the above running cost increases may not be achievable, we do ask that the Department for Education increase the allowance for families who are educating and driving their children to school and or bus stops in rural and remote South Australia so that it is closer to the physical increases and not just the CPI.

#### Comment

**Di Thomas, Eyre Branch** – I support this motion. Our members have a lot of students who go to rural schools and must travel to meet their school bus. The allowance is ridiculous, and I would like to see government departments run their fleet on that rate.

### Motion 12. Port Augusta Branch

CARRIED

**Moved** Pamela Cuffe

**Seconded** Katrina Morris

*“That SA ICPA liaise with the Minister for Regional Roads and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), Road Maintenance – Regional North & Outback division to highlight how vital having a functional road system is to ensure our members are able to access educational opportunities.”*

**Explanation:** The road is our lifeline. It needs to be maintained to a safe and acceptable level to ensure that our children can safely access their schools. Roads are critical in providing an essential link to enable remote and isolated families to access educational facilities, mail to be delivered and children to access school events, as well as improving the livelihood and productivity of our outback regions. Within the Port Augusta branch we have families that attend School of the Air, families that drive into school in Port Augusta each day, families with students that are weekly boarders and families that have sent their children to Adelaide to board full time. It is essential that unsealed roads are maintained and repaired to allow safe travel. Over the years the money for maintenance of outback roads is getting less and less.



The roads need to be maintained to support us accessing compulsory education for our students.

#### **Comment**

**Col Greenfield, North West Branch** – With my “Outback Roads Action Group” hat on, the only way you are going to improve your road conditions is to get some publicity with it, get some photos, get some stories, make it public. Send your issues through to the Action Group or your local member. It’s the only way things are going to improve; the money is certainly not increasing for these roads.

**Anna Nunn, SA Lone Member** - Not only are the roads terrible but trying to access who to speak to and raise issues with regard to the roads. I tried to report issues with our road and was handballed to five different people in one call. A direct channel to report these issues would be helpful.

**Pamela Cuffe, Port Augusta Branch** – In the last month we found out our road gang has been pulled and no longer maintaining our road. This week we have had 800 cars plus travelling on our road for Speed Week at Lake Gairdner, so our road has deteriorated dramatically in two days. We don’t know if we will get a gang back to fix the road and we don’t know who to talk to either.

#### **Motion 13. Port Augusta Branch**

**CARRIED**

**Moved** Pamela Cuffe

**Seconded** Katrina Morris

*“That SA ICPA lobbies airlines servicing the northern areas of South Australia to provide a student fare.”*

**Explanation:** Boarding students returning home during term are faced with the dilemma of long bus journeys that greatly erode available down time or huge airfare costs. Families are faced with the situation that they need to cut a long weekend short to allow for the two days travel via the bus because the cost of air fares precludes families from being able to utilise them.

#### **Comment**

**Di Thomas, Eyre Branch** – I support this motion. Members in my branch face a long and tiring drive to pick up their children, we don’t have an appropriate bus service. Flights that can be booked in advance may get a community fare but sometimes kids get sick or there is an emergency they have to come home for then flights can be up to \$600. A student fare would be great.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Motion 14. Marla Oodnadatta Branch**

**CARRIED with Acclamation**

**Moved** Kirsty Williams

**Seconded** Helen Williams

*“That the Marla Oodnadatta Branch host the 2024 SA ICPA state conference.”*

# SUPPLEMENTARY MOTIONS

## **Motion S1: Flinders Ranges Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Mija Reynolds

**Seconded** Sonya Fels

*“That SA ICPA write to the Minister for Education to request that basic ‘Student with Additional Needs (SWAN)’ support training be standard for all School Support Officers (SSOs) across Rural Schools and Open Access College School of the Air Campus.”*

### **Explanation:**

Currently SSOs assist teachers to work with SWAN children in classrooms; this is increasingly difficult due to time/funding constraints when considering the skillset of SSOs. Many different needs within each classroom require upskilling for SSOs to meet speech, additional physical needs, ADHD, children with Autism as examples. In rural towns, there is a gap emerging between what a school can fund for training to support SWAN children and what children on NDIS actually receive. Visits from visiting professionals in rural areas is below student demand. The process for a school to apply for additional funds for SWAN children is lengthy and arduous, which in itself acts as a prohibiting factor. Requiring all SSOs in rural schools to receive mandatory basic SWAN training will relieve pressure from all parties involved, the SSO, the Teacher, the School and most importantly will ensure that SWAN children are appropriately supported.

### **Comment**

**Stefanie Roeske, Eyre Branch** – Having two autistic children on SOTA...(not audible, unable to transcribe)

**Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch** – As far as I know SSOs don’t have to have any training prior to employment with the Department. I totally agree they need training, but we need to be careful that we are not asking that SSOs have this training prior to employment as it is already hard enough to get SSOs in country schools. I support from the Government that the SSO’s get the training on the job, and it is paid in their time after they have commenced their employment.

**Lisa Slade, State Council** – that is the intention of the motion, that SSOs get the training when they start instead of teachers having to take the time to train them when they are already busy with the classroom.

## **Motion S2: Flinders Ranges Branch**

CARRIED

**Moved** Sonya Fels

**Seconded** Mija Reynolds

*“That SA ICPA write to the Minister for Education to request financial support for Rural Schools and Open Access College School of the Air Campus to enable the appropriate teachers to become trained in the management of ‘Students with Additional Needs’ (SWAN) children, which will enable them to train the School Support Officers in SWAN fundamentals suited to their classroom requirements.”*

**Explanation:**

Currently rural schools are funded by the department to train Autism Lead Teachers. However, specific needs teacher training is not funded so must compete with whole school demands for finite financial resources. We would like to see dedicated specific needs funding for each rural school to allow teachers to be released for SWAN training and to cover the costs of attending this training to ensure each school is able to access such an important resource.

**Stefanie Roeske, Eyre Branch** – The NDIS has a huge pot of money but that is not available to the education side of things. It would be fantastic if ICPA could go that way to make a point that funding could support teachers to support children with special needs, educate teachers in special needs.

# SA ICPA 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## **AGM Motion 1**

“That the minutes of the 2021 conference be accepted.”

MOVED: Lisa Slade

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

CARRIED

## **AGM Motion 2**

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

CARRIED

## **AGM Motion 3**

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

CARRIED

## **AGM Motion 4**

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

CARRIED

## **AGM Motion 5**

“That the Financial Report be accepted.”

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

CARRIED

## ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2022-2023

President: **Belinda Hatcher**

Nominated: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Hollie Williams

Vice-President: **Lisa Slade**

Nominated: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Sonya Fels

Secretary: **Hollie Williams**

Nominated: Helen Williams

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Treasurer: **Michelle Hilder**

Nominated: Sonya Fels

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

Publicity Officer: **Helen Williams**

Nominated: Candice Brown

Seconded: Kerry Williams

Immediate Past President: **Jill Greenfield**

## APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch:

Di Thomas

Flinders Ranges Branch:

Belinda Hatcher, Linda Haydon

Marla Oodnadatta Branch:

Hollie Williams, Louise Kohler

Marree Air Branch:

Ellen Litchfield

North East Branch:

Penny Rasheed

North West Branch:

Candice Brown, Pamela Cuffe

Port Augusta Branch:

Katrina Morris, Amanda Michael

# SA ICPA 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

## **AGM Motion 1**

CARRIED

*“That the minutes of the 2022 AGM and State Conference be accepted.”*

MOVED: Lisa Slade

SECONDED: Hollie Williams

## **AGM Motion 2**

CARRIED

*“That the SA ICPA Audited Financial Statements tabled, be accepted.”*

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

## **AGM Motion 3**

CARRIED

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

**Explanation:** In light of reporting a loss for the second year in a row, State Council will continue to monitor our financial situation over the course of the next twelve months, with a view to requesting an increase to the State affiliation fee at the 2024 AGM. This will also take into consideration the possibility that Federal Council may be increasing their federal affiliation fee at their next AGM (as indicated at the 2022 Federal AGM). For now, we recommend that the fee remain at \$22 per member family until further investigation and consultation with branches can be carried out.

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

## **AGM Motion 4**

CARRIED

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

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

## **AGM Motion 5**

CARRIED

*“That the SA ICPA Financial records be audited by Mid North Accounting.”*

MOVED: Michelle Hilder

SECONDED: Pamela Cuffe

## ELECTION OF SA ICPA STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE 2023-2024

President: <b>Belinda Hatcher</b>	Nominated: Michelle Hilder
	Seconded: Sonya Fels
Vice-President: <b>Kirsty Williams</b>	Nominated: Hollie Williams
	Seconded: Helen Williams
Secretary: <b>Hollie Williams</b>	Nominated: Lisa Slade
	Seconded: Kirsty Williams
Treasurer: <b>Jodie Keogh</b>	Nominated: Michelle Hilder
	Seconded: Hollie Williams
Publicity Officer: <b>Ellen Litchfield</b>	Nominated: Lisa Edwards
	Seconded: Jessica Bell
Immediate Past President:	Vacant

## APPOINTMENT OF BRANCH DELEGATES TO STATE COUNCIL

Eyre Branch:	Di Thomas, Stefanie Roeske
Flinders Ranges Branch:	Michelle Hilder, Mija Reynolds
Marla Oodnadatta Branch:	Helen Williams
Marree Air Branch:	Ellen Litchfield
North East Branch:	Josephine Drennan, Kristina Crawford
North West Branch:	Candice Brown
Port Augusta Branch:	Katrina Morris, Pamela Cuffe

# SA ICPA Presidents Report

Belinda Hatcher

Members and guests of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parents' Association, it is with pleasure that I present my first Presidents report at this the 2023 SA ICPA State Conference.

As I read this report out it has been 356 days since I was elected to the role of SA ICPA State President and as they old saying goes those days have really flown by. I can certainly say that my first year as president has proven to be the learning curve I knew it would be, but one I have embraced as best I could. If you had asked me 11 years ago in Wilpena, at the start of the first ever state conference I attended if I saw myself taking on the role of State President one day, my answer would have been a definite no. However, I did somehow find myself as the State Secretary by the end of that day so perhaps destiny was already at play way back then.

These past 11 years that I have been involved on State Council, as well as in my branch have been such an enriching experience and one I have learnt so much from. The history of voluntary service that has been the backbone of this organisation is something that I hold the deepest respect and gratitude for. And finally, to all our members, it is you who I draw my greatest strength from. The way you live your lives to the fullest in rural and remote Australia, despite the often-glaring lack of services, is inspiring and is the very reason why ICPA exists today.

Along with myself, the State Council elected at the 2022 AGM were Vice President – Lisa Slade; Immediate Past President – Jill Greenfield; Secretary – Hollie Williams; Treasurer – Michelle Hilder and Publicity Officer – Helen Williams. Branch reps and councillors were Katrina Morris, Amanda Michael, Ellen Litchfield, Pamela Cuffe, Louise Kohler, Candice Brown, Penny Rasheed, Di Thomas and Linda Haydon. It was exciting to welcome some new (and returning) faces to council and the collective skill set of all our councillors has meant we have had a deep pool of resources to draw from when we needed it. As well as the above, the appointed positions for 2022 were: Pipeline Editor – Lynly Kerin; Pipeline Layout Designer – Mija Reynolds; State Webmaster – Jodie Keogh; E-Newsletter Editor; Helen Williams; REVISE representative - Candice Brown; OACGC representative - Petie Rankin and Lone Member officer - Jodie Keogh.

Once the dust from conference had settled, State Council set about drafting and delivering our motion letters. All together there were 14 letters drafted from the 22 motions debated at conference and they were worked on as a whole council collaboration. Letters went to the Hon Blair Boyer, Minister for Education, Training and Skills, the Department for Education, Open Access College, The Indulkaninna Foundation, Sandy's Memorial Trust and Federal Council. Once the letters were sent and had time to sit with the intended recipients we made plans for delegation and our avenues of advocacy.

In early July myself, Hollie Williams and Candice Brown headed to Adelaide for delegation and we managed to squeeze in 6 meetings in a little over 48 hours. We met with Livestock SA's, new at the time, CEO Travis Tobin and Alison Amber from SA Dairy Farmers Association, Nigel Huxtable and Danielle Elston from the Department for Education, Julie Taylor from Open Access College, The Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Geoff Brock Member for Stuart, Verity Timms and Tracey Corcoran from Child and Family Health Service and Chloe Hunter from RICE.



All the meetings we had were productive and well received. As always, SA ICPA takes member issues and needs very seriously and it was a great privilege to be able to represent them at our delegation. I feel confident that myself, Hollie, Candice did just that at all our delegation meetings and are glad we were able to give our time to represent SA ICPA and its advocacy.

On our way home and less than 24 hours after our visit with the Minister we received a document from his office that addressed all the motion letters that were sent to him. The proposed suggestions and solutions to the issues we raised were not exactly what we were hoping for and even though we appreciated the speed at which he responded, I feel that the small amount of time he and the Labour party had been in office for perhaps contributed to his near sightedness. I do, however, feel confident that with continued correspondence and contact with the Minister, his office and the department, we will be able to bring about outcomes that are closer to the requests from our members.

We continue to deliver the Pipeline publication to members bi-annually and it is always wonderful to read about all the comings and goings from members. I personally think that our publication has a great mix of SA ICPA, State Council and member news and is always a pleasure to get in the mail. We sadly farewelled Lynly Kerin from her role as Editor of Pipeline when she announced her retirement in November 2022. Lynly took over the roll from Kerry Williams back in May of 2017 and has done a stellar job ever since. Trying to get content for our newsletter is sometimes like pulling teeth but Lynly always seemed to pull together a fantastic edition each and every time. I think that all our members will join me in offering a very big thank you to Lynly for the fantastic job she has done over the last 5 years and wish her all the very best for her future adventures.

We were pleased to announce that Mija Reynolds accepted our offer to become the editor of Pipeline. Given that she was already the layout editor it made sense for us to ask if she could combine the roles. The experience she had meant that the transition was a smooth one and she hit the ground running with a great first edition. Thank you Mija.

It was announced in November that the South Australian Government were launching a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, which is being led by Julia Gillard. Some of the focus topics will include, how South Australian families are supported in the first 1000 days of a child's life, access of out of school care for both preschool and primary aged children, how a quality universal preschool program can be delivered to 3–4-year old's with a goal for this to be achieved by 2026 and improved access to childcare, early childhood education and out of school care. SA ICPA State Council will be putting together a submission that addresses the above topics and more, straight after conference, with a focus on the glaring lack of access and services for families in rural and remote South Australia.

Unfortunately, due to station commitments I was unable to attend the 51<sup>st</sup> Federal Conference in Perth and it sounds like I missed an excellent few days (apart from the unpredictable weather!) I recorded my report over a PowerPoint presentation with photos from our state, so it was wonderful to get the chance to show case all our SA ICPA members. And let's face it, much less daunting than getting up in front of everyone! Thanks to Helen Williams, Lisa Edwards, Jess Bell and Lisa Slade for flying the flag for SA. Helen was our sole State Council delegate and Lisa and Jess represented the Marree Air Branch. Congratulations to Alana, Federal Council and the WA State Council for putting on such a successful conference.

In May last year and February this year Hollie and myself travelled to be part of joint State Council and Federal Council catch ups, in Canberra and Melbourne. The opportunity to meet our peers from other states is a special one, especially considering our meeting in Canberra was the first face to face catch up of that kind in over two years. After both meetings we came away with renewed enthusiasm and ideas on how best to support our members' needs and new ideas for SA ICPA.

Whilst there may be differences in council make-ups, membership numbers and member needs, it is the collective passion of all councillors across the country at every level that makes ICPA such a powerful organisation. To know I have played just a small part in this big family is one of the reasons why I am (and I think why so many others are as well) so inspired to be involved.

While still on the topic of Federal Council, I would like to offer gratitude and acknowledgement for Alana Moller, who at this year's Federal Conference will finish up her 4 years as Federal President. Leading the organisation during COVID (amongst all the normal advocacy they do) with so much uncertainty and continuing changes would have been challenging, but she seemed to make it look so easy. I do imagine that perhaps at times she was like a swan – all graceful and composed on the surface but paddling like mad underneath. The way she could connect with members at all membership levels is a testament to her ability to be both professional and personal all at the same time. Thanks Alana – it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to be involved in ICPA with you at the helm and the whole of ICPA is has gained so much from your time as its leader.

SA ICPA have been lucky enough to have ongoing support from the Indulkaninna Foundation and this has allowed us to continue to provide bursaries for a wide range of activities and educational resources. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them as we look towards some exciting future projects that will support our members. We also received a \$2000 AFA Foundation Grant from the Association of Financial Advisors (AFA) and I would like to thank Rochelle Leese from Miller Leese Financial Services for applying for the grant on our behalf. We expect to be able to use the grant to provide gift certificates for all ICPA families to use towards something that will support their children with their education.

I would like to say thank you to our outgoing State Councillors this year. Linda Haydon, Amanda Michael and Penny Rasheed have been representatives from their branches. Penny has also been the e-newsletter editor and a guru with Mailchimp. We appreciate you giving your time to support ICPA. I would also like to acknowledge Michelle Hilder, who isn't leaving state council just yet, but who will finish up her 4-year tenure as State Treasurer. A roll she was thrust into but one she devoted her time to, doing the most amazing job possible. Thanks, Michelle, for the last 4 years and I am so glad that you have decided to stay on as part of our SA ICPA State Council team.

Last but certainly not least we sadly say goodbye to Jill Greenfield who has decided to step off State Council this year after many consecutive years volunteering for SA ICPA. She has been a councillor, treasurer, vice-president, president and immediate past president. Her dedication to the organisation and its members has been commendable and quite frankly inspirational. From attending her first State Conference in Woomera in 2001 with a toddler and a baby, to attending this year in Woomera as the soon to be mother of the bride to that very toddler, Jill has been a member of and involved in SA ICPA for over 20 years. Jill's leadership has been and still is a steadying presence not only during the unprecedented times of COVID but for all her time served on council and she has handled it with grace and strength. Thanks, Jill, for everything– enjoy this new chapter of your life – we will miss you.

My hearty thanks must go to this year's State Councillors for all their hard work and the support they have given me in my first year as president. To the other executives Jill, Helen, Michelle, Lisa and Hollie it has been such a pleasure to be able to lean on all of you as I found my feet and that we could work together well in order to do what we can for our members. I would like to offer an extra special thanks to Hollie without her, I couldn't have got through the last 12 months. Nothing was ever too much trouble and more times than not she knew what needed to be done before it even needed doing. I am grateful to have been able to work with you so closely and effortlessly and SA ICPA are lucky to have you on our team.

Like many of you here today I have friends and family from all walks of life and who live in different parts of the state and country. I recently had a real ah ha moment regarding ICPA after I was able to reflect on time I spent with some of those family and friends. This was a recent visit with our friends the Keogh Family at Durham Downs Station in South West Queensland and then upon returning from there an afternoon spent having a cuppa with my cousin Jo who lives just down the road from me and close to Hawker.

Growing up and still living in the Flinders Ranges, I have always considered myself to be 'nicely isolated' which meant that I was able to live out of town and be free but still have access to most services when needed. Our visit to the channel country and the opportunity to take in the polarising beauty of such isolation was eye opening and just incredible. After a while there, it was clear to see that the Keogh's have a real synergy with isolation and how they live their lives within it. With seemingly little fuss the whole focus for their children is to create the best distance education experience they can, making sure they have access to as many face to face events as possible and then ultimately making the most informed, bittersweet and exciting decision about their futures away from the station as a boarding school student to further their education.

The one-way journey to Durham Downs took over 11 hours but it took me only 20 minutes to drive to my cousin's house, who along with her husband and two young boys live only a handful of kilometres from our local town of Hawker. They are like me, nicely isolated, but their boys are close enough to catch the bus to the local area school that has about 30 students on a good day. With some travel they are also able to drive them each week to sport and other extracurricular activities and for secondary school they will have to make the tough decision about keeping them at that small and limited area school or to send them away from home to be boarders.

The Keogh's and my cousin's children's lives and educational pathways and needs are so very different but the outcomes that those parents want for them is exactly the same. They just want them to have access to and be part of the very best opportunities they rightly deserve. This is where my ah ha moment came from and what I want SA ICPA to focus on moving forward. We need this diversity represented at branch and member level to be able to keep our advocacy focused on where it should be.

We need you – your children, your families, your stories, your struggles, your triumphs, how far you need to travel, what support your local school might need and how we can better support your students' educational journeys. The list goes on and on and so too will our advocacy as long as you keep showing up for us. So, I ask this of you - help your neighbour renew their membership if they are struggling, whip out one of our pamphlets at the next bush event and recruit a new member, contact me, a state councillor or someone in your area with an ICPA background if you are needing help with something no matter how big or small you think it is. If you do this for us and while you continue to live and educate your kids in rural and remote Australia, SA ICPA will support you in any way we can, to continue the fight for equity of access to quality educational outcomes for all your children and families. Cheers

# SA ICPA TREASURERS REPORT

Michelle Hilder

Madam President, fellow ICPA members, guests and visitors.

I am pleased to present my fourth Treasurers Report for SA ICPA. My four-year term as Treasurer is up at this Conference. My role as Treasurer has been a very enjoyable and rewarding one. Working with so many dedicated and passionate people for our rural and remote children has been an absolute delight.

I would like to thank anyone who has given me any assistance, or who I have worked with throughout my term as Treasurer.

My report includes the audited Financial Statement for the year 2022 and the unaudited Interim Report from the 01/01/2023 to the 28/02/2023.

SA ICPA made a loss of \$8,982.78 for the 2022 year. Please note the significant Net (Loss) amount showing on the Profit and Loss (Cash) Report for 2022 is due to a variety of reasons. SA ICPA is still to receive the 85% profit amount for the 2022 State Conference which is not far off being finalised. This generally falls within the same financial year as the Conference, so the reported loss has not considered this expected income. In the coming year State Council will look to further funding opportunities to cover the increasing operating costs of the association. As the cost-of-living pressures continue to impact our member families, costs to attend vital face to face events and delegations are increasing exponentially. While State Council endeavour to keep costs to a minimum we are finding that Councillors are dipping into their own pockets often to help cover expenses. As an example, we once used to reimburse councillors for overnight accommodation in Adelaide for delegation, now private accommodation is the primary source of accommodation. While this has maintained a decent cost savings to the association, it does not allow Councillors to interact together outside of busy meeting schedules and provide that meaningful face to face contact which is vitally important when facing the tyranny of distance for most of the year. To support future Councillors in being able to advocate for our rural and remote children, it is important we can provide an environment where they are not impacted financially while acting on behalf of the association.

At the end of 2022 we had a bank account balance of \$42,768.70.

SA ICPA received a grant from The Department for Education (Delivery of Services for ICPA) for \$10,000 for the 2022 year. This grant has allowed us to support State Council to attend face to face meetings, conferences, delegation and offset every day running expenses e.g., insurance, printing, "The Pipeline" Newsletter. We are grateful to the Department for Education for their continued support.

We continue to speak with The Indulkaninna Foundation representatives regarding future financial support of SA ICPA.

The Marree Sports Club made a very kind donation to SA ICPA of \$1,000.00. We also received an Association of Financial Advisers (AFA) Foundation Grant for \$2,000 and we thank Rochelle Leese from Miller Leese Financial Services for applying for that grant on our behalf.

The SA ICPA joint Fishing Shirt fundraiser with School of the Air (SOTA) Port Augusta was finalised at the end of October 2022 which was very profitable for us. A total profit amount of \$3,744.60. Thank you to those who worked behind the scenes on this successful project.

SA ICPA held the 2022 Annual State Conference (hosted by the Port Augusta Branch) at the Central Oval, Port Augusta on Friday, 1 April 2022. This 50 year celebration of ICPA was well organised and attended by a good number of past and present members and guests.

Our President and Secretary attended a joint Federal/States meeting held in Canberra on the 14 and 15 May 2022. This was very well represented by Federal and State Councillors. A great way to meet as a group and have round table discussions on many different topics.

Three SA ICPA Councillors were able to meet in Adelaide on the 6, 7 and 8 July 2022 to attend Delegation. The group attended meetings with The Minister for Education, The Education Department, The Independent State Member – Frome and Ministerial Advisor, Open Access College, Livestock SA and The Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS).

The Federal Conference was held in Perth, Western Australia on the 5 and 6 August 2022. SA ICPA was represented by our Publicity Officer and two Marree Air Branch Executives. Lisa Slade (SA ICPA Vice President) was also in attendance in her position as Federal Council Vice President. Lisa finished her time with Federal Council at the Conference. Those who attended commended Federal Council on how well organised and interesting the Conference was.

State Council continue to use Zoom (web-based video conferencing tool) to meet for their regular monthly meetings. This has proven to be a great way to hold our Council meetings. We are paying an annual subscription fee for this meeting platform.

Mid North Accounting were engaged to carry out the audit of the SA ICPA financials for the 2022 year. Once again, the organising of this went very smoothly and the Audited Report was carried out, presented, and received on schedule.

The new Federal ICPA Website and Database which was setup in 2021 is working okay but there are still some small issues that need to be ironed out with relation to online memberships. Future plans to make it more accessible for States, will lighten the load for the Federal Membership Officer. If you are experiencing any issues with your online membership, please make contact with the dedicated database team by sending an email to [database@icpa.com.au](mailto:database@icpa.com.au) which is the primary contact point if you need help with anything related to the website.

For the 2022 membership year 126 member families renewed their membership, with the majority of those renewing using the online membership option. This was a positive increase to the previous year.

We have five Corporate Members and ten School Corporate Members for the 2022 year. This enables these members to receive all State and Territory Publications.

# BRANCH REPORTS

## MARREE AIR BRANCH

President: Lisa Edwards

A very quiet year with only six financial members at this point. I would like to say a massive THANK YOU to these girls. Without their support and dedication there would be no branch.

Everyone has been re-elected into their positions.

**President** – Lisa Edwards

**Treasury** – Cindy Mitchell and Lisa Edwards

**Secretary** – Jessica Bell

**Publicity officer** – Lucy Morphett

**State council rep** – Ellen Litchfield

Our branch helped cover the costs for myself and Jess to attend the Federal Conference in Perth. Hats off to the WA ladies! It was an absolutely wonderful 2 days!

The youngest of the Morphett boys from Callanna is set to marry his beautiful bride in Portugal in June and half of our branch will be there to enjoy this amazing day. We look forward to sharing some holiday snaps with you all!

As I write this we are waiting with baited breath for the arrival of Tom and Lucy Morphett's second baby. I look forward to sharing the news with you all on conference day!

Here's to 2023! I hope it is successful and wet for us all!

## FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH

President: Belinda Hatcher

After a few years of reporting on the negative effects of COVID 19 and the lingering drought, it is nice to be able to write this report looking out the window at an abundance of feed (slowly drying off but still with a tinge of green) and with slightly less ominous presence of the virus that has shaped how we have lived over the past 3 years. Seeing the pictures of the running creeks, green countryside and families out and about enjoying our region in all its glory has been so heartening. Our membership has again remained static (and the largest within SA ICPA) this year and as always it has been wonderful to see those new and old members continue their support of our branch. Don't forget if you think there is a family who might benefit from being a part of ICPA and what we advocate for, invite them to join ours or any of the branches across the state.

Our committee this year saw all the executives remain the same and we welcomed Linda Haydon as a State Council Rep. We were only able to hold our AGM and one general meeting over the past 12 months in part due to COVID and the busy lives we all lead. Taking on the role of State President in April means that my plate has been rather full, so this will be my last year as president of our branch. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all those who have supported both myself and our branch over the last few years and I wish the new executive and committee all the best.

This year our branch was given the opportunity to not only hold our ever-popular cheese stall at the Hawker Races, but to also facilitate and run the BBQ for the patrons on the day. As always, the stall was very successful and I would like to thank Mija and all her helpers for manning the stall during the day. I would also like to thank my mum Julie, who, while I was trying to put together cheese platters and execute my role as Secretary of the Hawker Racing Club at the same time, stepped in and helped me get the platters ready on the Friday night. I would also like to acknowledge Sonya and all her helpers (both from our branch and other members of the community) who took on organising and running such a huge task. With almost 1000 patrons through the gate for the day, it was a massive job, but with Sonya's flawless prep, the whole team seemed to take it in their stride and did a fantastic job. All together the branch raised around \$3000 from both fundraisers. Well done everyone!

The 2022 State Conference was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April at the Central Oval Complex in Port Augusta and was hosted by the Port Augusta Branch. It was a wonderful day, celebrating not only everything that ICPA stand for but it was also a celebration of 50 years of SA ICPA. Throughout the day we were treated to tales from past members of their time as part of ICPA, as well as some inspiring guest speakers. Our branch was well represented and put forward 4 motions for discussion. 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. Remember to keep the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March free for the 2023 State Conference 'Launching Futures Since 1972' which is being held in Woomera.

The 2022 Federal Conference 'Outback to Ocean' was held in Perth in August, with over 160 people in attendance from across the country. South Australia was represented by our Publicity Officer Helen Williams, Lisa Edwards and Jess Bell from the Marree Air branch and of course our very own branch members and the outgoing Federal Vice President Lisa Slade. Lisa was given a lovely farewell as she stepped off of Federal Council after several years and a little birdie told me she needed a tissue or two by the end of it! Attendees were treated to a diverse range of guest speakers including Regional Education Commissioner, the Hon Fiona Nash and Dr Craig Challen, who was one of the Australian doctors that was part of the rescue of the 12 Thai soccer team members and their coach. Members debated 73 motions with great passion for their advocacy issues and overall, I hear it was a fantastic couple of days. The 2023 Federal Conference is being held in Darwin on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of July so put that date in your diaries.

Finally, I want to say congratulations and well done to all the children (and their families who support them) in our branch for a stellar year. For all their hard work in achieving everything

they have done this year – from graduating, to winning awards, to special achievements in the classroom or on the sporting field. Your determination and resilience is always inspirational and one of the main reasons I volunteer my time for ICPA.

I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who has contribute to our branch and ICPA in any way. Here's hoping that 2023 blesses us with a wet autumn and winter, fat cows, woolly sheep, happy tourists, less stress and more laughter.

## NORTH WEST BRANCH

President: Jill Greenfield

I am pleased to say that after scrolling through the 2022 North West Presidents branch report, I can repeat the introduction with; the North West region has had a great season. It certainly makes for happy and healthy families.

The North West Christmas tree was held at Arcoona Station in early December, under the bright stars and with the reflection of their own personal lake to gaze at! It certainly was a spectacular evening. We gathered to hold our annual meetings and the Christmas party for our area. Father Christmas as always made an entrance, this time in a Cam Am buggy. I would like to thank Candice and Adam for hosting this wonderful event and to BHP for feeding us (a little too well) and Peak Iron for making sure all the children were surprised with a gift from Santa.

### **At the Christmas tree we held our AGM. The following were elected:**

President – Jill Greenfield

Secretary – Petie Rankin

Treasurer – Megan Henderson

Publicity Officer – Edwina Bowie

Branch Delegates – Candice Brown

Life Members – Joanna Gibson & Jill Greenfield

I would like to thank Pam Cuffe in her role as Publicity Officer and Delegate. Thank you to Lynly Kerin in her role as branch President. They have both stepped off these positions. The North West branch would like to wish Matt, Lynly and Elke all the best with their move to Streaky Bay.

Welcome 'back' to those who have continued in their roles and to Edwina who has taken on the role of Publicity Officer for our branch.

### **What are the North West families up to!**

Congratulations to Ruby Willis, Arcoona Station, for being elected the president of SOTA school council. Ruby also won the Hon Geoff Brock Parliamentary Award for 2022. A little birdie told me that Nelson loves his new rooster, while Hudson can't wait to get into the schoolroom to join his older siblings.



Hayden Rankin, from The Twins Station, continues her boarding school journey in Adelaide. Ryder has started his last year of primary school at SOTA while his younger brothers, Eli and Lawson love playing football and riding motorbikes.

Edwina and Ian from Wilgena welcomed into the world, Wilhelmina in July. Max Matheson has begun year 11, studying IB and we wish him all the best as he gets to the pointy end of his education. Sam begun boarding school this year joining his older brother, all the best Sam. While Winsome loves riding her new horse and getting lots of cuddles with her baby sister.

Molly Gibson spent 2022 working as a jillaroo near Kununurra and will continue in the same area in 2023 while Charlie Gibson is completing his Diesel Mechanic apprenticeship in Moree, NSW. Amelia Gibson worked in the Agri business sector in 2022 and is now living and working on a property out of Narrabri, NSW.

Anna Greenfield has spent the last eight months working and experiencing New Zealand, while Bridie Greenfield has enjoyed 2022 as a jillaroo near Julia Creek and is now near Blackall working on a cattle station. Laura Greenfield and her partner Ben have moved back to SA to manage Pernatty Station.

We warmly welcome Shona Amos and Toby Crowell to the North West branch. They live and work on Mt Eba Station. Congratulations on the arrival of beautiful baby girl, Tanner, born in June.

Other long-standing families in our branch include the Henderson's from Mt Vivian and the Greenfield's from Port Broughton, who complete our members for 2023.

Our branch has had a few wonderful opportunities to fundraise throughout 2022.

The shit box rally was catered for by our branch at North Well Station on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, while it clashed with the state conference, we were able to rally together enough volunteers to serve the crowd. Thank you to all that made this possible.

Our branch fed 325 mouths when we had the SA Variety Bash tour through the outback. They stopped at Mt Vivian for lunch on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. We dished up warm soups, scrumptious wraps and rolls, crammed with delicious fillings and a warm cup of tea to follow. A catering event in an outback shearing shed doesn't just happen without the many helpers. Thanks to the North West branch who cooked and supplied food for the event. A shout out to OZ Minerals, Prominent Hill who supplied some food. A massive thank you to Megan and David Henderson for allowing the bash to come through their property and who hosted the lunch in their shearing shed.

Our annual Glendambo Gymkhana held in October brings many people from far and wide. The North West branch caters on the Friday night and the evening has become bigger as we attract a larger crowd. We serve delicious hamburgers (not to be missed) to the crowd to prepare themselves for the weekend ahead.

Finally, well done to the North West branch especially Candice and Petie for their dedication to making the 2023 state conference a wonderful event. Thank you to both State and Federal councils for your tireless work in making sure that our rural and remote children's voices are heard.

## PORT AUGUSTA BRANCH

President: Katrina Morris

The last 12 months have seen our branch kids finishing off school and moving out into the big wide world. Some have undertaken studies on line, and some are having a break before moving onto other things. All are invested in our rural and remote community which is so exciting for our future.

Some of our branch kids are off to Adelaide to start their boarding and high school endeavours and we wish them all the best for the adventures ahead.

While others are pursuing their university degrees and finding that maybe the course, they had their hearts set on is not for them and switching into other courses.

We also have some brave little ones starting off down the School of the Air pathway and they have grabbed a hold of the beginning of their school journey with gusto.

We congratulate our sporting stars with some competing at Country Carnivals and in local competition.

We have welcomed two new babies into our community and another one is on the way.

Our branch has such a diverse range of educational needs and even though some are finishing their educational pursuits, the babies and young ones are following close behind.

Last year we had a very successful fundraiser, when the SA Variety Bash was hosted by Paul and Kate Greenfield at South Gap Station. While these events are hard work at the time, I always feel like the good outweighs the bad and it is such a great community event where we can get together laugh, grumble, and say, "hey me too" and not feel so isolated and overwhelmed. It's a great opportunity for the kids to get together and be overloaded by the crowds of people and lollies, so exciting seeing all the cars and costumes.

Our busy bees are continuing to give us many learning experiences and I must tell you I was so looking forward to some honey being available to everyone this year, but the little bees swarmed and took off with the honey. There is still so much to learn about harvesting honey before this happens again and we can taste that bush honey. We are aiming for another course with our local bee keeping guru in the not too distant future and we look forward to getting the honey to you soon.

We look forward to the next 12 months and getting some of our educational issues addressed.

## MARLA/OODNADATTA BRANCH

President: Kirsty Williams

The Marla Oodnadatta Branch had a relatively quiet year with few new babies, one fundraising event and the same annual community events taking place.

William Creek and Oodnadatta hosted their annual Gymkhanas and Bronco Brandings, cricket and football matches which were enjoyed by many in 2022 with the challenges of Covid that were experienced the previous year seeming only a distant memory. The Oodnadatta Bronco Branding included a kids' clinic with Bill Willoughby funded partially by our Branch and the William Creek Bronco Branding also hosted a Stockman's Challenge and a horse clinic run by Shannon Bell. These events take a lot of volunteer hours to put on as everyone in small communities would know, but the importance of having these for everyone's social well-being is enormous. We hope that in 2023 we can offer the kids in the area some additional learning opportunities or experiences with funds we have raised. In June, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to cater for a Mystery Box rally in

Oodnadatta. Feeding over 300 people 3 meals is no easy feat but a fantastic fundraising opportunity for our small branch.

In 2023 we have Olivia Williams, Anna Creek commencing her schooling through Alice Springs SOTA and Emmett Colman of Mt Sarah also starting Reception through Port Augusta SOTA. Lenny Williams from The Peake and Bonnie Williams of Anna Creek will be joining their siblings in the school room as they start kindy. Stephen Fennell from Lambina Station will be entering middle school and heading to Saint Marks in Port Pirie for Year 7. We wish Steven a smooth transition into boarding school and wish him all the best with this next chapter. Older brother Alan will be starting his school-based placement through East Farm Machinery Group Technician Academy. Best of luck to all SA ICPA kids on their education journey in 2023.

Last year several of our branch members attended the State conference in Port Augusta which saw a number of motions put forward including increasing the SOTA travel allowance, looking into the feasibility of SA opening an Ag College and thanking SOTA for their hard work in the past couple of years to ensure our children are receiving a top-notch education. Helen Williams attended the ICPA Federal conference in Perth and together with Trevor enjoyed the few days away even though the weather was not overly kind.

Both Federal and State conferences always provide a great sounding board with others from around the different areas and the social interaction is always welcome. Hopefully a couple of our branch members will manage to get to Darwin for this year's Federal Conference and take in the sights of the Top End.

2022 saw a good season in the Marla Oodnadatta area with great rainfalls, lots of feed around and full dams for the stock. It is definitely not a normal year when we have to check if the roads are open before we make a trip off the property, but we will take it any day.

**Save the Dates 2023:** William Creek Gymkhana - March 11<sup>th</sup>, Oodnadatta Gymkhana - 13<sup>th</sup> May, Oodnadatta Bronco Branding - 14<sup>th</sup> July, William Creek Bronco Branding - 19<sup>th</sup> August.

In December, we held our branch AGM via Zoom and the following were elected;

President: Kirsty Williams

Secretary: Frankie Fennell

Treasurer: Helen Williams

Publicity Officer: Hollie Williams

State Council Delegates: Helen Williams & Louise Kohler

On behalf of the Marla-Oodnadatta branch we would like to congratulate the North West branch on hosting the 2023 conference - Thank You.

## EYRE BRANCH

Di Thomas

Eyre Branch has had another quiet year. We had an influx of members last year which was great to see but unfortunately everything has ground to a halt. This year we have lost some members and the reasoning being unsure. I have a feeling that maybe once an issue has been resolved the membership is dissolved.

Eyre Branch is nothing but resilient. We will soldier on and continue to spread the good word about ICPA and the great work achieved over the years

At our AGM most positions were filled. Our committee is John Duncan as President, Di Thomas as Secretary/Treasurer and State Councillor and Stef Roske as Publicity officer and State Councillor.

For the first time in many years we will have two representatives at State Conference.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable conference and safe travels on the way home.

## NORTH EAST BRANCH

Leisa Breeding

Dear ICPA members and friends,

2022 seemed to slip past at a record pace and it's hard to believe we are at the 2023 State Conference. 2022 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> year for the North East Branch which was celebrated at our AGM in December at the beautiful new facilities at the Yunta Race Club. Past and present members attended and caught up on reminiscing over the past five decades.

We also had the privilege of awarding Keith and Jenny Treloar Branch Life Membership, both founding members of the North East Branch in 1972. Such support and dedication to our branch over 50 years is an incredible achievement. Unfortunately, Keith passed away before Christmas and our thoughts and condolences are with the Treloar family.

We have students attending SOTA through Port Augusta, Broken Hill and also the Yunta Rural School. It is fantastic watching them grow and flourish through out the year.

It was also wonderful to see most of the state received a wet spring bringing such relief and making summer far more bearable.

At our AGM our members have elected:

President: Leisa Breeding

Secretary: Josephine Drennan

Treasurer: Leisa Breeding

Publicity Officer: Katie Robinson

Thank you to past position holders and thanks to those who have stepped into positions, looking forward to the year ahead.

Thank you to the North West Branch for hosting the 2022 SA ICPA State Conference.

## LONE MEMBER'S REPORT

Jodie Keogh

For the 2022 year we had 15 Lone Members and to date for the 2023 year we have 10 Lone Members. We are hoping to get renewals in for some members and attract new members also.

Regular communication has been emailed to members of any relevant happenings within SA ICPA and State Council.

I look forward to continuing to develop and engage Lone Members with communications and connections and to promote that you do not have to be a remote to be an ICPA member, you just need to have an interest in rural and remote education.

# PORTFOLIO REPORTS

## BOARDING SCHOOLS, SCHOOL TERM HOSTELS & SECOND HOME

Ellen Litchfield

The boarding/hostels/second home portfolio was dominated in 2022 with the issues arising from **COVID-19 restrictions**. The handling of the covid restrictions highlighted the importance of having organisations like ICPA that advocate for boarding school students across the state since there was little cohesion between the schools on how it was handled. The motions at the 2022 federal conference and state conference last year reflected this with many motions calling for more compassion in how the COVID-19 restrictions were handled. Hopefully we can put this behind us now and what we have learnt from this challenge and our concerns will be considered next time.

Requested at a federal and state level across all branches is the call to increase the **Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) boarding and second home allowances**. Boarding fees are an extreme expense that is constantly rising, for a minority group such as remote and isolated families the impact of inflation, droughts and the rising boarding school fees will create further educational inequality between isolated families and metropolitan counterparts. The AIC currently influences what education a family can provide for its children based on where they choose to live. This is undermining the resilience of remote Australia and improvements to this scheme are required to ensure a prosperous future for remote Australia and all the families that reside there. Removing economic barriers by increasing the AIC is key to ensuring educational equality across Australia.

Federal Council is attending quarterly meetings with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Services Australia to discuss the AIC, Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY and the Tertiary Access Payment. These meetings have continued with the new government and demonstrates that they understand the value of the ICPA and recognise this is an issue that needs to be addressed. Continued advocacy for these longstanding issues is fundamental to getting any change.

**The direct measure of income school funding model** poses quite a few barriers for isolated children attending boarding schools as it will result in less government funding for most private boarding schools. The federal ICPA is working through all the other effects this funding model will have on other isolated children trying to receive an education. From a boarding school perspective, it is another factor of concern impacting the affordability of boarding school.

# COMMUNICATIONS

Pamela Cuffe & Helen Williams

Communications, from adequate internet access to a reliable working telephone, continues to be a vital issue in the education of our rural and remote children in South Australia.

In the past twelve months there has been some significant changes, particularly in data usage and providers.

Many members are using the Skymuster satellite service. In recent times the Sky Muster Plus product has been available to consumers. These Plus plans provide an extensive unmetered data capacity, which includes education platforms and web meeting tools such as Zoom. This may negate the student having to use (and pay for) an Education Port.

Various internet providers have recently enhanced their services even more, and from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, some RSP's have been offering unmetered data from midnight to 4pm for all usage.

At the end of February 2023, Pamela was able to sit in on a joint communication meeting with Telstra and other state portfolio leaders. Although it was heavily based around Queensland, New South Wales, and Northern Territory it was still very useful.

Telstra, in partnership with the [Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal](#), made us aware that there is a Connected Community Grant currently available (closing 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023), with the program to support community organisations wishing to improve their digital capability. For example:

- Take your meetings, documents, and communication online.
- Attract new and younger members and support older members with training and access to technology to support their participation.
- Streamline your volunteer management by automating volunteer management functions, creating online rostering systems, etc.
- Purchase new hardware and software, as well as offer training.
- Improve digital connectivity.
- Improve digital literacy.

Telstra also made mention of trialing their own Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite system and expect to have a commercial product offering soon.

Customers that have concerns can contact the Telstra Regional Australia local team via an online form. This will direct you to the closest, best person/team to assist you.

There is another new player on the block as far as telecommunications go- and that is Starlink.

Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX, a division within Elon Musk's spaceflight company. Starlink launched in Australia in April 2021, mainly in NSW and Victoria. It is now available almost Australia wide. There is a ground station not far from us today- at Pimba.

Starlink is proving to be a popular product in our area for uninterrupted connectivity and unlimited data activity. A number of remote families over the last 12 months have made the switch however many have retained one other form of internet as well, as a safeguard.

We would like to remind members about the Regional Tech Hub. This is a free Federal Government initiative which offers independent advice to regional, rural and remote Australians on the best communications connections, both phone and internet, for their needs. The Regional Tech Hub was established after requests from ICPA Federal Council and the team at BIRRR (Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia

Lastly, we would like to thank Federal Council and our Communications portfolio leader Wendy Hick for their untiring efforts in making communications easier for our rural and remote children.

## DISTANCE EDUCATION

Hollie Williams & Jodie Keogh

Both being new to this portfolio in 2022, Jodie and I felt it was a good portfolio for us as we both currently have children taught via Distance Education through Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA), Open Access College.

At last year's conference, eight Distance Ed (plus 2 deemed covered) motions were raised and carried. These motions covered issues relating to the DETA Allowance, NAPLAN Testing, increase to the Travel Rate for Distance Education Students attending Face to Face Events and a new SOTA building/complex.

SOTA currently have 43 students enrolled and have welcomed 3 new teachers. One itinerant position is yet to be filled, with few to no applicants each time the position is advertised. Term 1, Week 1 commenced in Port Augusta with a Face-to-Face Induction week lead by Head of Campus, Lai Kuan Lim and her team of staff. Informative introduction sessions were held in the studio office for all new and returning supervisors and families which were incredibly beneficial to helping set good routines and hitting the ground running once returning home to the schoolroom.

This week SOTA Students are at Woomera (20-24 March) for their School Experience Week. Students in Years 3,5 and 7 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) throughout the week. Other SOTA Events and dates to be held this year include a 5/6/7 Canberra Trip (Term 2, 1-5 May), School Camp that is to be at El Shaddai in Adelaide (Term 2, 3-7 July), Mini Schools (Term 3, 25-29 September) and Get Together (Term 4, 8-9 December) to be held in Port Augusta.

SA ICPA met with Julie Taylor, Principal of Open Access Collage (OAC) in Adelaide at delegation on 15 July 2022. This was a formative general discussion about Distance Education schooling. Discussions included the idea of a new building/complex for SOTA in Port Augusta and the excellent improvements to the well-being and learning outcomes of the students that have come about with Lai Kuan Lim at the helm. Julie also pointed out the importance of Port Augusta SOTA being prepared to begin the process for finding a new Head of Campus (HOC) as this process takes time and the current SOTA HOC tenure finishes at the conclusion of 2024.

2022 saw a 4c/km increase, from 28c/km to 32c/km, provided to assist DE families with travel assistance to attend face to face events. The rebate rate was raised at Delegation with the Education Minister Blair Boyer, where we highlighted that whilst we are pleased with the small increase, DE families would benefit from and appreciate a further increase in the rate in line with current CPI. We have been told that this rate will be reviewed as part of the budget process for the next school year (2023).

Jodie and I attended a Distance Education joint portfolio meeting on 26 May 2022 and Jodie attended a second meeting on 14 November 2022. These meetings are a chance for states to update each other on relevant issues and hear what is happening in the federal portfolio.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Geographical Isolated Distance Education (GIDE) Day was held on 1 December 2022. Two templates (for both families where Mum is the home tutor and for families who employ a governess) were created to help guide any members who were willing to put their face to the



campaign for GIDE day and for the Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA). This was to help continue the advocacy to help people understand the cost families face to employ a home tutor or the cost of Mum taking on the role by not being able to work another job. South Australia proudly offered 4 families faces and also had State President Belinda Hatcher do her own story. This campaign puts a personal touch behind each statistic and increases the demand for the Federal Government to properly acknowledge the role that parents play/pay in distance education. Sadly, this advocacy hasn't had much traction at a State, Territory or Federal level *yet*.

At Delegation we also discussed with Education Minister Blair Boyer, the Port Augusta School of the Air building and facilities. We were told he would be asking for the current facilities to be assessed, with a report submitted on any potential improvements that could be made. In September flood damage added to the buildings despair. SA ICPA State Council have asked as a matter of urgency that an assessment be carried out and a report be attended to as soon as possible. Furthermore, SA ICPA have also been in talks with some key stake holders regarding an "Outback Hub" which could potentially contain a SOTA site along with other facilities that would be of benefit to all SA ICPA members. Should a board or a charitable organisation be formed, SA ICPA would welcome a seat at the table.

We would like to thank ICPA Australia Distance Education portfolio Leader Ali Allision and her team, Alana Moller, Julia Broad, Laura Stalley and Miffy Waugh for the work that they continue to do around Distance Education. The ICPA Australia Website is a great tool full of important and useful information. Have a look at the Distance Education tab for all things in this portfolio including a Briefing Paper outlining the current distance education issues that ICPA (Australia) have advocated the federal government for and an open letter seeking support for a Distance Education Teaching Allowance.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Candice Brown

Representing SA ICPA at Delegation was a big highlight for me in 2022, to be able to be part of that experience and have that opportunity was an honour. During delegation we were able to meet with CaFHS (Child and Family Health Services) & RICE (Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise), RFDS were unfortunately unable to attend. A general chat was had and our concerns regarding a lack of communication and access to services were raised and spoken about, and all we met with were keen to listen. SA ICPA will continue to share and provide information regarding the needs of remote and isolated families and plans were made to have regular catch ups between our organisations. We all felt it was a very positive meeting and let's hope actions will be taken from our raised issues.

Access to increase childcare has once again been raised. It was announced on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November that the South Australian Government are launching a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, which is being led by Julia Gillard. Some of the focus topics will include, how South Australian families are supported in the first 1000 days of a child's life, access to out of school care for both preschool and primary aged children, how a quality universal preschool program can be delivered to 3-4-year old's with a goal for this to be achieved by 2026 and improved access to childcare, early childhood education and out of school care. The State Government are calling for formal submissions from interested parties and the SA ICPA State Council will be putting together a submission that addresses the above topics and more, with a focus on the glaring lack of access and services for families in rural and remote South Australia. They are also asking for parents, families and the community to have their say on these matters, so don't be afraid to send in any thoughts and comments you have may have. You can find all the information and the place to have your say here: <https://www.royalcommissionecec.sa.gov.au/>

# RURAL SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL TRAVEL

Di Thomas & Amanda Michael

The SA ICPA Rural Schools and School Travel Portfolio is headed by Di Thomas and Amanda Michael. Di has been a part of this portfolio for over ten years and is very passionate about it. Di has a strong background in rural schools and bus routes that comes from living in the Eyre region. Amanda was new to State Council this year and as a mum who drives her children to and from school daily has provided great insight into the travel side of things.

In April, Di attended a virtual zoom portfolio meeting with Federal Council and other States. It was good to meet people, put faces to names and hear about concerns in other States. It appears that most States have similar issues as us, re: road conditions and high airfares.

## **Rural Travel**

Return to school 2023 so far has gone to plan with no Covid interruptions. There is a huge number of Rural Schools in SA, with many students required to travel reasonable distances to and from school, whether that be on a bus or driven by parents. Currently SA ICPA only have three schools that are financial members of SA ICPA, it would be great to see others join. We had a membership push in this area in 2021 perhaps we need to revisit this again.

A School Travelling Allowance is available for primary and secondary students living 5km or more from their nearest public school or school bus run. An application needs to be completed and presented to the school for the Principal to approve, it is then lodged by your school to the Department for Education on your behalf. More information can be found here: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/travel-concession-and-allowances>. You can also phone the Department for Education on 8226 2406 if you have any questions about the allowance. The school Travelling Allowance increases every year with CPI, and is currently set at 26.84 c/km. This rate is calculated in 2km brackets and multiplied by 4 trips a day.

At the 2022 State Conference two motions were presented and carried in relation to Rural Schools and Rural Schools Travel. Indirectly, there was also a third motion about agriculture in rural schools.

The first motion requested SA ICPA to liaise with appropriate departments to convey how vital having a functional road system is to our members to ensure access to educational opportunities. This was spoken about at delegation in July with the Education Minister, the Hon. Blair Boyer MP but he was unable to offer any support given that it was a transport issue. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in getting a meeting with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis MP during delegation. We did speak to and gain support from Livestock SA regarding this issue and are certain that if any specific cases where road quality impacts a student's learning that they would be able to provide some support. Following Conference, we distributed some questions to all SA ICPA members about experiences with rural road conditions and distances travelled for educational purposes, responses received will be available to be used when needed.

The second motion asked SA ICPA to lobby airlines servicing the northern areas of SA to provide a student fare. Following Conference, a motion letter was sent to appropriate parties. We also asked for information from members about airline travel re: prices, frequency, and why parents fly their children to and from boarding school. My hope is to collate all these personal experiences so it can give a picture of what rural and remote students and the families deal with. This information can then be presented to Ministers or organisations or anyone who will listen when relevant.

## Rural Schools

A motion was brought that we look into the feasibility of the provision of an agricultural program in South Australia that provides learning opportunities in the pastoral industry for high school students. SA ICPA actioned an investigation into what rural schools offered in this way of learning and State Council members contacted and then collated information from different SA schools outlining what is currently being offered around the State. Please contact Di or Amanda for a copy of this information.

## Federal Council

The Federal ICPA team for the Rural Schools/School Travel portfolio is headed by Naomi Obst and is assisted by her team, Alana Moller, Nikki Mahony, Anna McCorkle, Wendy Henning and Miffy Waugh. There were two Rural Schools/School Travel Motions presented in 2022 at Federal Conference in Perth, both were carried. These motions covered having an affordable Student Concessional Fare and installing sensor devices on buses to make sure children are not left on them accidentally.

On October 19 2022, ICPA Australia released a Federal Rural School Briefing Paper and a Federal Schools Travel Briefing Paper, they can both be found on the ICPA webpage (<https://icpa.com.au/au/resources/briefing-papers>). These papers both outline current key issues ICPA (Aust) is advocating for with the government and relevant stakeholders.

## SPECIFIC EDUCATION NEEDS

Jill Greenfield

State Council has continued to advocate for support for teachers in rural, regional, and remote areas to implement-high quality evidence-based literacy programs. Specific Learning Difficulties (SPELD) is an excellent resource for both families and schools to be able to navigate through their literacy clinics, workshops and tutoring.

SPELD have been out and about to the regions and presenting workshops and working with parents and teachers. They have been working with School of the Air (SOTA) based in Port Augusta and held a Dyslexia workshop for parents at SOTA.

SPELD have ICPA bursaries available for their Literacy Clinics. Please follow the link: <https://www.speldsa.org.au/literacy-clinic>

The generous donations from Sandy's Memorial Trust and the Indulkaninna Foundation continue to be for ICPA families only so please mention that you are an ICPA member if applying. These Literacy Clinics are extremely sought after so please contact SPELD if you would like further information. There are currently nine ICPA children utilising these valuable bursaries.

I attended an online meeting with Federal Portfolio leader, Laura Stalley and portfolio leaders from the other States and Territories on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

Points of discussion:

- Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) and what it provides in other states and territories. *Through PATS, subsidies are provided to assist South Australians who are required to travel more than 100km each way to access necessary and approved medical specialist services that are not available locally.*
- Telehealth and Medicare rebates.
- Incentives to attract and maintain allied health graduates and professionals.

- SPELD and how it operates in other states: <https://auspeld.org.au/>

At Federal Conference in WA, 2022, Laura Stalley was appointed the Specific Education Needs Portfolio leader. There were four motions presented at Federal Conference and all motions were carried. The motions were regarding: Medicare benefits for telehealth, incentives to attract qualified health graduates and health clinics being available to all rural and remote children.

Federal Council continue to tirelessly work through issues that members at a state and territory level have brought to conferences.

1. Provision of Medicare rebate for telehealth services where this is not already accessible
2. Provision of travel and accommodation assistance for travel to face-to-face specialist services
3. Improved staff training for teachers in rural and remote locations
4. Workshops for rural and remote parents of gifted students
5. Early identification and intervention for learning difficulties
6. Provision of additional resources in boarding schools for students with disability
7. Access for all Australians to federally funded health clinics
8. Incentives to attract qualified health graduates to live and work rural and remote areas.
9. Rebates from Private Health Insurance companies for all Allied Health Services for children that are necessary for the improved educational development outcomes.
10. Increase of age-appropriate Mental Health resources and programs for rural and remote children

For more information, please go to: <https://icpa.com.au/au/portfolios/specific-education-needs>

If you feel that you would like further assistance with your child, there are excellent resources on the ICPA website. Check it out: <https://icpa.com.au/au/useful-links-and-resources-specific-education-needs-families>

## TERTIARY EDUCATION AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Katrina Morris

Federal Council have been continuing their work on the ongoing costs for relocation and securing accommodation and travel to and from university. In the Federal Tertiary briefing paper, they have outlined recommendations to take to federal government, focusing on parental income limits which are putting barriers up for our rural students and the lengthy waiting times students and families are experiencing when contacting Centrelink.

At the moment there are several Australian Government scholarship and payment programs that are available to support regional and remote undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational education and training students including the Tertiary Access Payment (TAP), Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships (RRES) and Destination Australia Program

**Tertiary Access Payment** Is available to those students relocating to attend further education.

Criteria is as follows;

- An inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote school-leaver AND
- Relocating at least 90 minutes from your regional or remote family home by public transport to commence a higher-level tertiary education AND

- Studying a full-time university course, a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course or other higher education course (Certificate IV or above) AND
- Commencing study in the year immediately following completion of year 12 or equivalent

The Tertiary Access Payment is a one-off, means tested (parental income under \$250,000) payment for inner regional, outer regional, remote or very remote students commencing tertiary study in Semester 1 or Semester 2 in the year following Year 12. A payment of \$3000 or up to \$5000, is available to assist with the cost of relocation – start-up expenses, cost of living, direct costs of education or training and the cost of travelling home in semester breaks.

**Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships (RRES)**, valued at up to \$18,000 are available to students from regional and remote Australia undertaking undergraduate, postgraduate and Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses with an eligible higher education provider or vocational education and training institution, who remain in their local community or relocate to study.

Students can receive an additional \$500 to support an internship.

RRES scholarships are available to eligible students:

- commencing a new course of study in the same year as the relevant scholarship round
- studying on campus or online
- studying from six months full-time up to eight years part-time
- studying in any discipline from Certificate IV to PhD level.

### **DESTINATION AUSTRALIA**

The Destination Australia program funds eligible tertiary education providers to offer scholarships of up to \$15,000 per year to domestic and international students to study a Certificate IV to Doctorate level qualification at a regional campus and live in regional Australia.

A list of eligible tertiary institutions are available [here](#). Applications are made through the eligible institution and potential applicants should contact their education provider to determine availability and eligibility.

For more information, go to <https://www.dese.gov.au/destination-australia>

Some of the courses available:

Course	Method of delivery	Location	Cost
Cert 11 & 111 Rural Operations	TAFE	Pt Lincoln Mt Gambier	\$2,864 12 Months
Cert 11 & 111 Agriculture	TAFE	Pt Lincoln Mt Gambier	Free eligibility or \$5,270
Drones in Agriculture	TAFE	online	\$103
Certificate 1V Agribusiness	TAFE	Pt Lincoln Mt Gambier Barossa Valley	\$9,440 36 Months
<a href="http://rcsaustralia.com.au">RCS: Holistic agribusiness education and professional advice (rcsaustralia.com.au)</a> Grazing Clinic - 12 Weeks	Zoom	Online	Early Bird \$1350 or \$1650
<a href="http://rcsaustralia.com.au">RCS: Holistic agribusiness education and professional advice (rcsaustralia.com.au)</a> Business Fundamentals- 12 Weeks	Zoom	Online	Early Bird \$1650 or \$1950
<a href="http://rcsaustralia.com.au">RCS: Holistic agribusiness education and professional advice (rcsaustralia.com.au)</a> Grazing for Profit		Numerous Locations QLD, Vic, NSW	
Marcus Oldham Bachelor of Business (Agriculture) 3 years	Uni	Geelong Vic	
Marcus Oldham Bachelor of Business (Agribusiness)	Uni	Geelong Vic	

## PUBLICITY REPORT

Helen Williams

There has not been a lot happening on the publicity front.

I have been posting on social media via our Facebook page as information comes in, and only two or three mail chimps have gone out. I am not very savvy at that!!

I attended the Federal Conference in Perth last year. Raelene Hall, after 17 years as Pedals Editor retired at the meeting and was thanked for all her work over that time.

Hannah Calcino, from Queensland has taken over the Editorial role, and Tracey Dewell, from Jamestown is the new Publisher.

## THE PIPELINE

Mija Reynolds – Editor, Design, and Publication

It gives me great pleasure to present my first report as the new editor of our state newsletter, The Pipeline. I would like to thank our members for their contributions to the newsletter and urge you all to consider submitting articles, photos, news, and relevant information in the future. Thank you to State President Belinda Hatcher for your support, it is most appreciated. Hollie Williams, State Secretary for your support and awesome ability to chase up and deliver a plethora of content to me. This is a big part of what makes our newsletter so diverse, yet personalised. Thank you to Michelle Hilder, State Treasurer for answering my questions about mailing and membership lists. And thank you to Lynly Kerin, past editor. Wishing you all the best for your future endeavours.

The past year has seen our association celebrate 50 years of ICPA in South Australia – a momentous achievement! Many gathered to celebrate the occasion at our last conference with the comradery of members, and their friendships, displaying just how we have managed to grow in strength over the years and become the institution we are today.

My first edition of The Pipeline, as Editor, was edition 102. Published in January 2023, it gave me great pleasure to edit, layout, and produce that newsletter. I particularly enjoyed placing the photo of Alex and Edward Robinson from Sturt Vale Station on the cover because their joy at splashing in a big puddle was palpable. I feel many readers, both young and old, felt the same sense of joy (and relief) at the wonderful rain most of us received in 2022.

The Pipeline will continue to publish two editions per annum. One in January and the other in July. Our newsletter is only as strong as your contributions. Our membership enjoys reading about news, achievements, and general stories pertinent to the ICPA demographic. If you have an idea that you think would be valued by our readership, please contact me or the State Secretary to discuss. It would be greatly appreciated.

Our federal magazine Pedals has both a new editor and publisher since last year's state conference. We welcome Hannah Calcino (QLD) as editor and Tracey Dewell (SA) as publisher. Please consider submissions for the July issue which has a deadline of 15 May 2023.

The Pipeline has a link on our SA ICPA website and current issues are uploaded post print and distribution. These can be accessed online for our members reading pleasure at any time.

Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful state conference in Woomera, which happens to be my old home town where I grew up! Most importantly, don't forget that the deadline for the next edition of The Pipeline is 1 June 2023.

## REVISE

Georgy Ewing, Manager REVISE

2022 was a quiet year for REVISE. This is probably due to more properties employing governesses than in the past, so there are fewer “teaching mums”. We had four placements in total during the year, two to Wilgena and two to The Peake. We were able to fulfill all requests for support during the year. We also had three requests that were withdrawn for differing reasons.

During the year, we had nine attendances at various SOTA events – School Experience Weeks, Sports Day and Get Together. Coincidentally, I was in Hawker for the Hawker Races in May and was able to assist the Flinders Ranges ICPA Branch with their stall on the day – very yummy packs of cheese and nibbles!

Over the year a total of 12,540 kilometres was travelled.

We now have a smaller pool of REVISE volunteers, as two of our long standing members have moved onto other pursuits. Mary Hook has retired to focus more on her activities in her home town of Orroroo. Trish Ellin has also retired, mainly because her car is no longer up to long outback journeys. I’d like to thank both ladies for all the support they have given to REVISE, SOTA, and the Outback over the years. I’m not sure how many kilometres they have travelled, or how many lives they have touched, but in the words of a five year old I was talking to recently, it would be “a very big, big number”. Thank you, Trish and Mary.

Thank you also to Garry Coombes for so ably dealing with our finances.

## OPEN ACCESS COLLEGE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Petie Rankin

It is with pleasure I present my report as the ICPA representative on the Open Access College (OAC) Governing Council. OAC and School of the Air (SOTA) continue their supportive relationship of all our students and their learning pathways. Lai Kuan is firmly entrenched in SOTA’s clutches as she heads into her 4 year as our Head of Campus, continuing to strive passionately for the very best outcomes for the entire school community.

### SOTA Campus

2023’s beginning saw a very successful induction week with only one student absent, a record for sure. We welcomed three new teachers: returning Miss Jo Byrne teaching the class of 1/2’s, Miss Rebecca Morley teaching the year 3/4 class, and Miss Navneet Kaur taking the 5/6 year levels. As of writing, we have only one Itinerant teacher, the continuing Miss Megan, as 2022 saw Michael Kerin take leave after 9+ years of SOTA’s most experienced IT. We welcomed four new families to SOTA and six new governesses. SANFL also ran two training sessions for our students during Induction week, regardless of heat or experience. A very healthy beginning!

2024 will be our final year of having a year 7 class with students either continuing their studies through OAC, heading off to boarding schools or moving into private accommodation from 2025 onwards.

Student Council was introduced this year, with eight of our students being elected from our year 5/6/7’s classes. The roles for the council members will include President, Vice President, Wellbeing and Community Engagement, with the students participating in meetings and collaborating on ideas to support the children in SOTA.



Every year, SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC) is given the opportunity to nominate someone for the Rowan Ramsey MP School Community Award and last year it went to the very deserving Julie Taylor, our Open Access College Principal. This award is traditionally handed out at our end of year Get Together but the recipient was unwell and couldn't attend so, while attending Induction week of 2023, Julie gratefully received the award to a round of applause.

Learning support - Students at SOTA are accessing support from a Marden based SSO through online sessions with the outcomes of this being positive and encouraging from last year.

School improvement plan goal - *Increase student achievement in writing/mathematics*

Primary Years (Marden)- We continue to work on improving student achievement in reading. PLCs met and set their goals, teaching strategies and methods for tracking and monitoring success.

SOTA - Improving reading continues to be the goal for SOTA in 2023. A Professional Learning Community is organised to prepare a strategic plan to support students in improving their reading.

Student Wellbeing – Subject counselling and re-counselling to ensure students are enrolled in the most appropriate courses for engagement and achievement. Sasha (psychologist) completed three cognitive assessments for students over the Dec/Jan period. A big body of work that will enhance the planning of appropriate support for those students to connect with our SIP goals of improving literacy and getting students up to grade level.

Languages - Enrolments in some languages, particularly Spanish and French, are possibly at the highest it has ever been, showcasing a positive trend in language study among our students and the solid foundation achieved by our teachers to build continued interest. SOTA year 7's have access to these electives with many choosing Spanish as their language of choice.

## SA ICPA STATE WEBMASTER REPORT

Jodie Keogh

The renewed ICPA website has now been live for nearly 2 years. It is much improved and has a wealth of information if required. The Federal site (main site) has very comprehensive information regarding allowances and issues that are followed up on.

Membership renewals online are the main way members are renewing or joining and I appreciate that some members have had issues using this portal. This has been advised to the web provider and this will be improved to make a much easier user experience.

The Webmasters of each state have a group chat and email to keep in touch. A meeting was held on 28/02/2023 of all Webmasters and each state may now contact the web developer directly for any issues, changes or improvements to their state site. This meeting proved very informative as each state wants different things from their site and was a great opportunity to reconnect again and use each other for troubleshooting or tips and hints.

Again, I encourage any members to please forward through photos (high resolution) only and articles that may be relevant or valuable to our members. I would love to see some more content come through. These can be emailed to [saicpawebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:saicpawebmaster@gmail.com)



MID NORTH ACCOUNTING  
VONNIE LEA CPA

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & AUDIT REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022

LIABILITY LIMITED BY A SCHEME APPROVED UNDER PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS LEGISLATION  
MID NORTH ACCOUNTING IS A CPA PRACTICE

40 IRVINE STREET,  
JAMESTOWN SA 5491  
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18 MARKET SQUARE,  
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**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
80 494 798 566**

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Liability limited by a scheme approved under  
Professional Standards Legislation**

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**80 494 798 566**

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**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**80 494 798 566**

**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

**Committee Members**

The name of each member of the committee during the year and if different, at the date of the report;

Belinda Hatcher  
Lisa Slade  
Hollie Williams  
Michelle Hilder  
Katrina Morris  
Jodie Keogh  
Jill Greenfield  
Helen Williams  
Penny Rasheed  
Candice Brown  
Di Thomas  
Louise Kohler  
Ellen Litchfield  
Pamela Cuffe

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

To help families in rural & remote South Australia to receive a better education for their children.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The loss of the association after providing for income tax amounted to \$(8,982.78).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Committee Member: Belinda Hatcher  
Belinda Hatcher

Committee Member: M. A. Hilder  
Michelle Hilder

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
80 494 798 566

**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations		3,050.00	12,400.00
Fundraiser Income		2,360.00	13,010.00
Grants		10,000.00	1,894.00
Interest Received		20.78	3.78
		<u>15,430.78</u>	<u>27,307.78</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Affiliation Fees		3,945.18	6,861.07
Lone Membership		45.00	135.00
State Conference		-	803.93
		<u>3,990.18</u>	<u>7,800.00</u>
		<u>19,420.96</u>	<u>35,107.78</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Affiliation Fees		3,728.00	2,366.00
Audit Fees		660.00	495.00
Conferences & Meetings		11,114.38	10,576.48
Donations		1,000.00	19,870.00
Fundraiser Expenses		5,422.15	5,879.25
Insurance		995.31	1,020.42
Newsletter Costs		4,897.84	2,750.24
Printing & Stationery		91.17	342.30
Subscriptions		494.89	494.89
		<u>28,403.74</u>	<u>43,794.58</u>
Loss before income tax		<u>(8,982.78)</u>	<u>(8,686.80)</u>
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<u>(8,982.78)</u>	<u>(8,686.80)</u>
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		51,751.48	60,438.28
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>		<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Page 2

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**80 494 798 566**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	42,768.70	51,751.48
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained earnings	4	42,768.70	51,751.48
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
Page 3

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**80 494 798 566**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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The financial statements cover Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia as an individual entity. Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia is a not for profit Association incorporated in SA under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

The functional and presentation currency of Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia is Australian dollars.

**1 Basis of Preparation**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows, AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**



ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
80 494 798 566

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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**Impairment of Non-Financial Assets**

At the end of each reporting period the association determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where this indicator exists and regardless for goodwill, indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the assets is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss , except for goodwill.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

**Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

**Sale of goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery as this corresponds to the transfer of significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods and the cessation of all involvement in those goods.

**Interest revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

**Rendering of services**

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the services can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the services is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Revenue from training services is generally recognised once the training has been delivered.

ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
80 494 798 566

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>3 Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Bank SA Express Saver	31,338.05	31,317.27
Bank SA Society Cheque Account	<u>11,430.65</u>	<u>20,434.21</u>
	<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>
<b>4 Retained Earnings</b>		
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	51,751.48	60,438.28
Net loss attributable to the association	<u>(8,982.78)</u>	<u>(8,686.80)</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u>42,768.70</u>	<u>51,751.48</u>

**ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
80 494 798 566**

**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 6:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia as at 31 December 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Isolated Childrens Parents Association of South Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

President: Belinda Hatcher  
Belinda Hatcher

Treasurer: M. G. Hilder  
Michelle Hilder

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
**80 494 798 566**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the code.

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

**Emphasis of Matter- Basis of Accounting**

I draw attention to note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the association in fulfilling the management committees's financial reporting responsibilities under the constitution and the Associations Incorporations Act (SA). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My report is intended solely for the association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the association. My opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

**Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the association's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF ISOLATED CHILDRENS PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
80 494 798 566**

**Name of Firm:** Mid North Accounting  
Certified Practising Accountant

**Name of Principal:**   
Vonnie Lea CPA

**Address:** 40 Irvine Street Jamestown SA

**Dated this 14th day of February 2023**

# 2023 Interim Financial Statement UNAUDITED

## Profit and Loss (Cash)

**Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA**

WPN:  
Report Period: 1/01/2023 - 28/02/2023

<b>Account(s) in this report:</b> Express Saver, Society Cheque Account		
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Affiliation Fees	176.00	
Interest Received	5.06	
PayPal Transfers	2983.78	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>3164.84</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Affiliation Fees	1078.00	
Conferences & Meetings	2011.16	
Miscellaneous	216.88	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>3306.04</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>		<b>( 141.20 )</b>

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 2023

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much?
<b>Federal Allowances:</b> <b>Services Australia</b> Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boarding Allowance</li> </ul>	Parents of geographically isolated school aged students who need to board away from home to attend school.  Applies to boarding schools, hostels	<b>\$12,091</b> per year, made up of 2 components: \$9,396 – Basic Boarding Allowance \$2,695 - Additional Boarding Allowance (*ABA is subject to Parental Means Test, and actual boarding costs – ie. boarding charges must be greater than \$9,146 in 2023)
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distance Education Allowance</li> </ul>	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$4,698 per year.
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Home Allowance</li> </ul>	Geographically isolated and run a second home to access education.	\$7,136 per year paid in fortnightly instalments, for up to three students. \$20,178 maximum second home allowance for each family (three children). <a href="http://icpa.com.au/au/portfolios/boarding-hostels-second-home">icpa.com.au/au/portfolios/boarding-hostels-second-home</a>
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.
<b>State Allowances:</b> <b>DECD Transport Services</b> <b>Department (08) 8226 2406</b>		
Travel Allowance	School students living five kilometers 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.	\$4486.27 per year.
Remote Travel Allowance		<a href="http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/travel-concession-and-allowances">www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/travel-concession-and-allowances</a> \$250 per year

Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)  
 Apply through Services Australia ([www.servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au))  
 Dedicated Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Call Centre: 13 23 18

\* To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from nearest/appropriate Govt school OR 4.5km from transport and 16km from nearest Govt School OR are adversely affected by road conditions preventing travel to school for more than 20 days in the school year (journey exceeds 3 hrs) OR meet special needs criteria.

\* The AIC Additional Boarding Allowance threshold is \$58,108 or less for 2023. It is reduced by 20c for every dollar over \$58,108 and also dependent on the number of children in your family pool.



## WHAT IS A MOTION?

A motion is a proposal put to the conference for discussion, recommending or requesting that State Council takes a particular course of action. If a motion is carried, the outcome forms the basis for actions and decisions by Council to carry out the business of the organisation.

**Example:** "That SA ICPA requests the Government for equitable access to education for geographically isolated students."

*Agenda Motion:* is a motion which is in the hands of the Federal Secretary four weeks prior to conference.

*Supplementary Motion:* is a motion about a new issue, arising since the cut-off date for general motions.

*Floor Motion:* is a motion presented by delegates (i.e.: they come from the conference floor) which generally comes about as a result of discussion and debate during conference.

*Foreshadowed Motion:* is a motion which arises during debate on a motion as a result of the debate. A delegate advises the meeting that they intend to move another motion or amendment on the same subject later in the conference. (The proposer may be asked to read the motion). If the original motion is carried, the foreshadowed motion cannot be put forward.

## ON THE CONFERENCE FLOOR

*Presenting a motion* - motions must be moved by one person then seconded by another. Conference proceedings are recorded for the minutes; therefore, a microphone must be used.

*Moving a motion* - the Chair will nominate the motion to be put up for discussion, e.g. Motion 1, Outback branch.

**Example:**

Mover: Name and Branch,

"I move that SA ICPA requests the Government to..."

Chair: "Do we have a seconder for that motion?"

The person seconding the motion will state:

Name, Branch and declare, "I second this motion."

An explanation is then read either by the person moving the motion or seconding it. The motion is then debated and voted on.





**DEBATE:**

The Chair will ask for speakers for the motion, speakers against the motion or comments and this will

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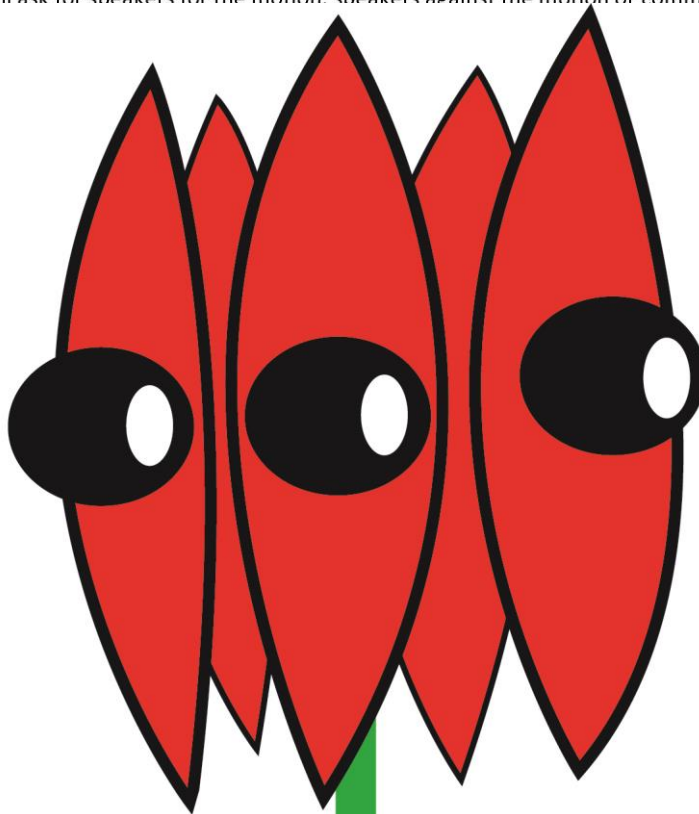
*Amending*  
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vote, which must be exercised on behalf of SC rather than the Councillor's own branch. State Life Members present are also entitled to a vote. At the AGM, all financial members present are entitled to a vote.