

## ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



### 2023 FEDERAL CONFERENCE SCHOOL TRAVEL PORTFOLIO MOTIONS

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#### **A33. Alice Springs Branch (NT)**

**CARRIED**

“That ICPA (Aust) lobbies the relevant bodies for a ‘Capped Student Fare’ for geographically isolated students attending educational institutions within Australia who need to travel between their home residence and the educational establishment they attend.”

#### **Explanation:**

Students who fit this Category should be able to book tickets by Air or Road at any point during the year without being subject to inflation caused by peak tourist season, holidays, limited tickets, and any number of other reasons ticket prices fluctuate.

There are geographically isolated families whose children attend school’s interstate or intrastate that have all their travel costs covered and or organised, home to closest airport, then airport to interstate school. There are examples of how such a policy mechanism can work through allowances such as ABSTUDY.

We would like to suggest that this existing framework (used by agencies such as ABSTUDY, to book and secure travel for students) be extended to all geographically isolated families when travelling between their home residence and the educational establishment they attend. At the very least to secure capped student travel fares.

#### **A34. Walgett Branch (NSW)**

**CARRIED**

“That ICPA (Aust) continues to lobby the relevant federal ministers and the Education Minister to implement a national funding program that would help ensure that no young geographically isolated children are left on childcare, preschool or school buses by installing sensor devices that sense sound and movement, to detect and alert drivers if young children have been left in the vehicle.”

#### **Explanation:**

There have been numerous incidences that have occurred over the years of children being left on childcare/school buses and it continues to be a big issue. These incidences occur on a far more regular basis than are reported in the media. These incidences have caused distress, heat exhaustion, major physical injury and death.

Whilst thoughtful Policies and Procedures are continually put in place in Schools and Childcare Centres this is not preventing children from being left on busses. There needs to be physical monitoring devices installed in buses to counteract unfortunate human error.

A Sensor Device that monitors sound and movement just like a home monitoring device could be set during the hours that the bus wouldn’t ordinarily be transporting children. Alerts could be made to the bus drivers and centres or schools to mobile phones should the sensor detect anything. Human error is inevitable, we urge the government act on implementing movement monitors as a matter of urgency on all Childcare Centre and School buses.