

## ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



### 2021 FEDERAL CONFERENCE TRAINING PORTFOLIO MOTIONS

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#### **A47. Richmond Branch (Qld)**

**CARRIED**

“That ICPA (Aust) continues to advocate to the Federal Government to provide an immediate increase to the commonwealth Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA) and indexation to the CPI to better assist Australian Apprentices with the cost of living.”

#### **Explanation**

We thank ICPA Federal Council for their advocacy in this area over many years. The eligibility criteria for the LAFHA is based on the recognition that an Australian Apprentice has moved away from home to access their apprenticeship.

The LAFHA has not increased since 2015 and remains at:

- \$77.17 per week for the first 12 months
- \$36.95 per week for the second 12 months
- \$25.00 for the third 12 months

An example of the weekly rate of pay for a junior first year apprentice under the Vehicle, Manufacturing, Repair, Services and Retail Aware 2010 is \$482.68 before tax and deductions.

Without adequate assistance to offset the cost of living, rural and remote apprentices face extreme financial pressure to make ends meet with the significant costs associated with living away from the family home. Expenses include rental bond, rent, utilities, food, and fuel.

It should also be noted that because the LAFHA is only available to apprentices who are not eligible for Youth Allowance and therefore apprentices receiving the LAFHA are not entitled to any adjunct payments which come with Youth Allowance e.g., the Coronavirus Supplement which supported many young people during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, this period for Australian Apprentices without any additional support was particularly dire.

The Federal Government has put a tremendous amount of money into providing incentives for employers to create more apprenticeship positions as a response of the skills shortage largely brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic. There is also significant skills reform being undertaken in the VET space. However, if reasonable attention is not placed on providing meaningful financial assistance to support young rural and remote apprentices who must move away from home to access these positions, representation from this cohort will diminish and improvements to the number of skilled and qualified workers in regional, rural and remote areas will be unachievable.

#### **A48. Western Australia State Council (WA)**

**CARRIED**

“That ICPA (Aust) lobby the Federal Government to improve the process by which eligible Australian Apprentices can apply and receive the Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA).”

**Explanation:**

Currently, if you are eligible to apply for the LAFHA you contact your local Apprenticeship Network provider.

Members are finding it difficult to source information to keep them informed and the processes required, as arrangements are made between TAFE and the employer; no allowance is payable until the TAFE component of their course is commenced.

Some TAFE courses keep getting pushed back and six months after commencing their apprenticeships students still have not undertaken any TAFE components and consequently have received no financial assistance.

**A49. Richmond Branch (Qld)**

**CARRIED**

“That ICPA (Aust) continues to advocate to the Federal Government the need to provide relocation assistance to apprentices and trainees who must relocate from their homes to access apprenticeships and traineeships.”

**Explanation**

We thank ICPA Federal Council for their continued advocacy on this issue.

Apprentices and trainees who are ineligible for Youth Allowance as a dependent may receive the commonwealth Living Away from Home Allowance (LAFHA) if they have had to move away from home to access their apprenticeship or traineeship. However, this allowance, although appreciated, is not adequate to provide meaningful support to offset the significant costs of relocation and living expenses including rent, rental bond, food, fuel, and utilities.

Currently there is little assistance available for apprentices or trainees to relocate to access their chosen pathway. Apprentices and trainees who are eligible for Youth Allowance as a dependent are not eligible for the Relocation Scholarship, which is an adjunct payment to Youth Allowance available for higher education study. There is also no provision for apprentices and trainees to receive the new Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) which provides assistance for relocation costs to access higher education.

It is imperative that some sort of relocation assistance is provided to these young people to ensure they have the opportunity to pursue their chosen pathways regardless of geographical location.