



# Congratulations

## WENDY HICK

### FEDERAL LIFE MEMBER

*Presented by Nikki Mahony*  
**Federal Vice-President**  
 at ICPA (Aust) Federal  
 Conference, July 2026

Photo: Louise Martin, Federal President  
 and Wendy Hick, Federal Life Member

Wendy Hick's ICPA journey has been one of deep commitment, steady leadership and determined advocacy. An active member of the Mount Isa Branch of the Air, Wendy went on to serve on ICPA Queensland State Council, where she held the role of Vice President for four years. In 2015, she stepped from State Council to Federal Council — and not just quietly through the side door. Wendy was elected directly into the role of Federal President.

From her home at Thornton Station, north-west Queensland, where she and husband Lloyd raised their two sons, Adam and Zac, Wendy brought to ICPA the lived experience of home tutoring, boarding school, distance, isolation and the constant practical realities of raising and educating children in the bush.

Wendy's own story is quite remarkable. From early years near Washington DC, then Chicago, to meeting Lloyd through the horse world in the United States, and eventually making the very large move from America to far western Queensland, Wendy's life has well and truly travelled from Chicago to Camooweal. That journey alone speaks to resilience, adaptability and a willingness to embrace life with both hands.

Those qualities have also shaped her contribution to ICPA.

Wendy became especially known for her work in communications. What began through her Queensland State Council portfolio became, during her years as Federal President and Immediate Past President, one of the defining areas of her advocacy. Wendy understood that for geographically isolated

families, connectivity is not a luxury. It is education, business, safety, health, community and connection.

She has been a strong, informed and persistent voice in this space — respected by telcos, governments and rural organisations alike, and perhaps, at times, just a little bit feared. Always respectfully, of course.

Wendy served four years as Federal President, followed by four years as Immediate Past President, and then continued to support ICPA with her communications knowledge even after her formal Council role had finished. Her contribution has never been measured simply by titles. It has been measured in wisdom shared, policy strengthened, members supported and rural families better heard.

While known for both her attention to detail, as evident in her long emails and reports where no piece of information was left out and her respectful and equal treatment of all — regardless of their job title, location or status, it is Wendy's professionalism, passion and commitment to the role that stands out most when recalling her time as President. She gave each and every person attention and time, because to Wendy no person was deserving of more or less than any other and every issue deserved at least 100% of her energy and effort in order to create successful outcomes for families "beyond the black stump".

I witnessed this when I first encountered Wendy on the streets of Alice Springs in 2017, making my way to my very first Federal Conference, quietly trembling

at the thought of presenting an early childhood motion on behalf of our branch. Seeing me walking alone, she asked where I was headed. Hearing her American accent, I rather innocently asked whether she had ever heard of a group called ICPA. Wendy did not skip a beat. She simply said she was from the Mount Isa Branch and chatted warmly with me all the way to the venue. You can imagine my surprise when conference began and that very same woman took her place at the front — presiding over the entire proceedings as Federal President.

By the time I joined Federal Council, Wendy was in the Immediate Past President role. She quickly became my touchstone as well as others. Wendy demonstrated how to sit back, observe, consider, and then speak with clarity, conviction and compassion.

When it came time for her final walk through the halls of Parliament House, it was very obvious she was going to miss that work terribly. But it was also clear she trusted the remaining crew to continue steering the faithful ICPA ship through the changing seas of rural and remote education advocacy.

Wendy, your track through ICPA has been quiet but determined, forceful yet respectful, and always pointed towards equity, accessibility and opportunity for rural and remote students.

It is an honour to acknowledge your significant service and contribution by presenting you with Federal Life Membership of ICPA Australia.