

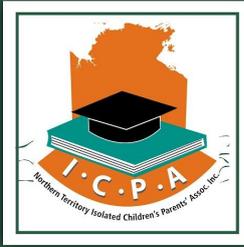


ICPA NT State 43rd Conference and AGM

Tue 4th March 2025, Katherine

Hosted by



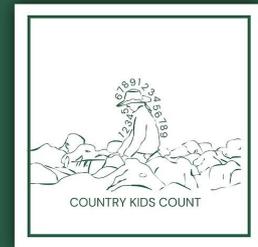


ICPA NT State Conference and AGM

Tue 4th March 2025

KATHERINE

www.icpa.com.au/nt/conference



Monday 3rd March 2025, Lambert Gallery, Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Stuart Highway, Katherine

5.00pm - 8pm Welcom Function: Preconference drinks and canapes

Tuesday 4th March 7am At The Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Stuart Highway, Katherine

8am	10	Welcome, Housekeeping, Apologies		ICPA NT President, Convenor, Secretary
	10	NT Education Minister	Education Minister	Hon Jo Hersey MLA
TOTAL 90 min	10	ICPA NT President's Address	ICPA NT President	Moira Lanzarin
90	3	Boarding Portfolio		Kerrie Scott
	30	"Trade School & Boarding"	Panel Session	Luke Papworth, Tech NQ; Charles Darwin University; Linda Blackwood, Katherine; Richard Stoakes, ABSA
	10	Boarding Motions	2 Motions	
	10	Katherine Branch Report	Presentation	Constance Woods
	7	Acknowledgement and lineup of Sponsors		
10am	30	Morning Tea		
10.30am	2	Early Childhood Portfolio		Julianne Vlach
	10	In-Home Care - the Big Picture	Presentation	Annie Sargood
	5	Early Childhood Motions	1 Motions	
	10	ICPA (Aus) Report	Presentation	Louise Martin
	8	Tertiary & Training Portfolio	Home Tutor Program update	Bec Osmotherly (on behalf of Kiya Gill)
Total 120 min	5	Tertiary and Training motions	1 motion	
120	10	From the Department	DoET	Susan Bowden, Cheif Executive
	5	Allowances Portfolio		Melisa Kerr
	40	Allowances Motions	8 motions	
	15	Miscellaneous Motions	3 Roads and Travel motions	
	10	Important Partnerships	NTCA - NT Cattlemen's Ass	Henry Burke, President
12.30pm	50	lunch		
1.20pm	2	Special Needs Portfolio		Melisa Kerr (on behalf of Jacinta McInerney)
	20	"Health and Well Being"	Presentation	Merryn Hughes, Head Space
Total 100 min	5	Special Needs Motions	1 Special Needs Motion	
100	10	Alice Springs Branch Report		Danyelle Haigh
	3	Distance Ed & Communications Portfolio		Amanda Murphy
	20	"Keeping the data flowing"	Panel Session	Elise Petty, NBN; Nic Danks, Telstra; Reg TechHub
	30	Dist.Ed & Comms Motions	6 motions	
	10	Message from Patron		Hon Vicki O'Halloran
3pm	30	Afternoon Tea		
3:30pm - 5pm	60	ICPA NT Annual General Meeting		ALL WELCOME

6pm to 11pm Conference Dinner, Banjo's Bar & Restaurant, The Contour Hotel, Stuart Highway, Katherine

Program Subject to Change at President's discretion

www.icpa.com.au/nt/conference

CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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Or view electronically, www.icpa.com.au/nt/conference

Sponsors

This conference wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our amazing partners. They're a driving force behind this incredible event, contributing both valuable resources and financial backing to make it all happen. THANK YOU.

GOLD SPONSORS

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- BR Styling

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- Jo Hersey
- Katherine School of the Air
- Regional Tech Hub
- St Joseph's Nudgee College
- Lakefield Station
- Coodardie Station
- Nutrien Ag Solutions

LUCKY DOOR PRIZES

- Katherine Branch ICPA
- Mandy Tootell artist
- Outstation Interiors & Design
- Australia's Leading Home Care Agency

Let's give a big round of applause to these businesses and organisations for believing in our vision and helping us create something truly special. We're incredibly grateful for their partnership!

Conference Voting Delegates

Moira Lanzarin	NT President
Catherine Atkins	NT Secretary
Rebecca Osmotherly	NT Treasurer
Juliane Vlach	NT Ass Secretary
Amanda Murphy	NT Publicity Officer
Melissa Kerr	NT Councillor
Constance Wood	Katherine Branch President
Sally Dyer	Katherine Branch Secretary
Emily Corbett	Katherine Branch
Alex Laurisson	Katherine Branch
Kelli McLaughlin	Katherine Branch
Meg Watters	Katherine Branch
Danyelle Haigh	Alice Springs Branch President (plus 4 AS votes)
Amanda Brown	Alice Springs Branch
Sara Barker	Territory Wide
Clair O'Brien	Territory Wide
Helen Harding	NT Life Member
Sally Sullivan	NT Life Member
Amber Driver	NT Federal Councillor

Conference Members

Cecily Bethel	Katherine
Bernadette Burke	Katherine
Tori Burke	Katherine
Megan Campbell	Katherine
Anna Cochrane	Katherine
Elizabeth Cook	Katherine
Jessica Corones	Katherine
Annie Craig	Katherine
Laurita Dennien	Katherine
Kimberley Harries	Katherine
Alex Latter	Katherine
Ruth Milne	Katherine
Jenna Trevenen	Katherine
Julie Richter	Katherine
Elise Petty	Territory Wide
Marianne St Clair	Territory Wide
Suzanne Wilson	Territory Wide
Vicki O'Halloran	ICPA NT Patron
Louise Martin	Federal President
Sally Brindal	Federal Vice President

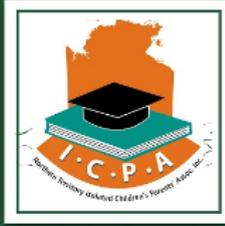
Conference Guests

Minister Jo Hersey	Education Minister Northern Territory
Susan Bowden	Department of Education and Training
Georgia Beecraft	Regional Tech Hub
Casey Brealy	St Joseph's Nudgee College
Donna Bryant	Katherine School of the Air
Henry Burke	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association

Romy Carey	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
Madeleine Carter	Columba Catholic College
Nic Danks	Telstra
Nick Eddy	Haileybury Rendall School
Shanae Goodchild	Australia Leading Home Care Agency
Megan Holzwart	KICS
Merryn Hughes	headspace
Daniel Kyle	Columba Catholic College
Jayne Kot	Callistemon House
Stephen Meara	St Joseph's Nudgee College
Sara Miller	Katherine School of the air
Tim Nicol	NBN
Luke Papworth	Tech NQ
Felicity Pearson	Haileybury Rendall School
Elise Petty	Exec Manager, Education and Regional Stakeholder Relations, NBN
Annie Sargood	Australia Leading Home Care Agency
Michael Silcock	Rockhampton Grammar School
Richard Stokes	Australian Boarding Schools Association
Rosemary Sullivan	Cave Creek Station
Sandra Talbot	Department of Trade Business and Asian Relations
Andrew Thorne	Blackheath & Thornburgh College
Kris Wheeler	St Philip's College
Cathy White	Department of Education and Training
Caitlin Yates	Australian Boarding Schools Association

Apologies for Conference and AGM

The Chief Minister, the Hon. Lia Finocchiaro MLA
 Deputy Chief Minister, the Hon. Gerard Maley MLA
 Hon Steven Edgington MLA
 Patricia Elliot FLM, SLM, KBLM
 Liz Bird SLM, ASLF
 Ros Andrews KLM
 Alan Andrews
 Kiya Gill NT State Council
 Kerrie Scott State Councillor
 Jacinta McKinnerney State Councillor
 Hollie Williams SA ICPA
 Libby McPhee NSW ICPA
 Annette Boyle QLD ICPA
 Michelle Parker NT COGSO
 Michelle Gibson Territory Wide
 Niall Gibson Territory Wide
 Ruth Woerle Territory Wide
 David Murtagh Territory Wide



ICPA NT State Conference and AGM

Tue 4th March 2025

KATHERINE

www.icpa.com.au/nt/conference



ICPA NT 2025 State Conference

22 Motions

Allowances (8 motions)	2
Boarding (2 motions)	5
Distance Education & Communications (6 motions)	6
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Please also see our revised **Policy Documents** that will be presented at this year's conference. The Policy Statement will become ICPA NT Policy (updated only via full Constitutional Process). All Policy Objectives are determined by resolved motions from conference and referenced with year and motion number.

Allowances (8 motions)

1. MOTION: Alice Springs Branch:

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT lobbies the Northern Territory Department of Education to change the way they measure zones to allocate financial assistance under the Student Assistance Schemes Guidelines and Procedures from the current radius method to actual distance travelled.

Explanation:

Currently the Student Assistance Schemes Guidelines and Procedures use a radius method via CalcMaps to determine how far a student resides from their nearest distance education institution. Financial assistance is then split into 4 Zones and the amount of assistance a student receives is determined by the Zone they fall into. This is not an accurate indication of the real distance families travel to their nearest distance education institution. The easy use of Google Maps can verify distance travelled to substantiate a claim and determine the appropriate Zone and eligibility.

Case study 1

A student resides 350 km from Alice Springs and travels a 700 km return trip to access their nearest distance education institution. They should be classed as Zone 3: 251 km+ and be eligible to receive \$2,040 in financial assistance. However, using the CalcMaps radius method the student falls into Zone 2 being 151 km to 250 km to their nearest distance education institution and receives \$1,660 in financial assistance.

2. MOTION: Alice Springs Branch:

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT requests that the Department of Education share their findings on their recent review of the "Back to School Payment Scheme" and how distance education students can make the most of this scheme.

Explanation

We would like the Department of Education to acknowledge that distance education students require different educational goods and services than other students. The current scheme allows distance education students to only purchase items from their school. It is difficult for schools to be able to offer a variety of goods and services aside from uniforms. Distance education students only wear uniforms 20 days a year and therefore they do not need to replace them annually.

We would like the Back to School Payment Scheme Policy to allow more flexibility so that distance education students can choose to purchase items directly from their school or another supplier like home school students are able to under the current scheme.

3. MOTION: Alice Springs Branch:

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT lobbies the NT Department of Education, to adapt the Distance and Correspondence Education Conditions, under the Student Assistance Scheme Guidelines and Procedures, to allow for students that do not reside in the Northern Territory but are enrolled in a Northern Territory Distance Education school to make a special application for benefits through a Director of Financial Services.

Explanation

A condition of the current scheme is that students must both be attending a distance education school and be a permanent resident of the NT.

We have seven students enrolled with Alice Springs School of Air that reside interstate but attend Alice Springs School of the Air as Alice Springs is their closest community and service centre. They are not eligible for financial assistance from the South Australian Government due to not being enrolled in a South Australian School. Under the current scheme there is a condition that states “students who attend interstate correspondence schools may make special applications for benefit through a director of financial Service. We ask that this condition is expanded to allow non-resident students who attend an NT school the same benefit. The Back to School Payment Scheme is based on enrolment, yet the Student Assistance Scheme is not.

4. MOTION: Alice Springs Branch:

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT lobbies the Department of Education to increase the maximum reimbursement amount of their internet subsidy scheme from \$174 a month to \$195 a month, in line with the current costs of the internet.

Explanation:

Under the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement it states that “all students are provided access to high-quality evidence-based teaching that is inclusive, where young Australians of all backgrounds and levels of need are supported to achieve their full educational potential’.

Without access to internet, it isn’t possible for distance education students to achieve the equity and excellence outcomes of this agreement. It is the Department of Education responsibility to provide students with access to reliable internet, so they are able to achieve their learning and wellbeing goals.

The current Northern Territory internet subsidy scheme has been in place for some years, it recently underwent a review however the review failed to increase the maximum reimbursement amount in line with the current cost of internet. Whilst not all families require access to portable internet, many do due to the nature of their business requiring them to work and live in multiple locations throughout the year.

5. MOTION: Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT requests that the Department of Education and Training annually review the Student Assistance Scheme - Boarding Allowance, including the zone methodology and allowance amounts, to ensure all geographically isolated boarding students are adequately and fairly, financially supported to complete their compulsory schooling.

Explanation:

The NT Student Assistance Boarding Allowances (Intrastate & Interstate) must adequately support families of isolated Territory students completing their compulsory secondary education through boarding. The NT Education Act states that access to education must be free, yet the cost of educating geographically isolated students through boarding, which is the only option for many students, is a huge and often overwhelming expense for families to cover.

The Dept of Education has refined the Allowance to subsidize both the cost of education, and any travel to and from their place of study, and they have an obligation to ensure this subsidy aligns with cost-of-living increases. Each year, the boarding fees, uniforms, equipment, and travel expenses increase, and the NT Student Assistance Boarding Allowances must reflect this.

The Zone Methodology must be equitable – it must reflect distance and difficulty in travel, and

support itinerant working families that do not have a permanent fixed address due to varied worksites throughout the school year.

6. MOTION: Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT request that the Department of Education and Training extend the Back-to-School voucher scheme to all Northern Territory Geographically Isolated students that are required to Board Interstate to complete their compulsory schooling.

Explanation:

Currently, the Department of Education offer a Back-to-School voucher to NT students either

- *enrolled in a Northern Territory (NT) school or*
- *registered for home-schooling as described*

“You are entitled to receive \$200 of educational goods and services for each child enrolled in a government or non-government NT school or preschool. If your child is in transition to year 12, you will receive the entitlement in term 1 each year. The entitlement must be used by the end of term 1.” We request that due to the need for some Geographically Isolated students to board interstate, the Department of Education should extend this program by way of a Back-to-School Voucher Allowance. These children are still Northern Territory residents, and they are slipping through the net of support by way of exclusion. They cannot access financial support for back-to-school items in the state they are being educated in.

7. MOTION: Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT encourage the NT Department of Education and Training to annually review and improve the Student Assistance Scheme application, re-application and processing systems and ensure the scheme subsidies and assistance is appropriate to the needs of isolated students.

Explanation:

ICPA acknowledges the Grants NT online platform is a significant improvement, however, ICPA members continue to have issues with the Student Assistance Office in relation to applications, re-applying in subsequent years, and changes of circumstances during the school year.

The Student Assistance Scheme must continue to be current and in line with the needs of users, cost of living, and currently, in comparison with other States, the Territory is falling short of coming anywhere near actual costs.

8. MOTION: Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT request the NT Student Assistance Scheme includes all students eligible for the Federal Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme - under the 'Isolated Conditions - No reasonable Access to School' Clause, where families are required to work onsite at various geographically isolated locations throughout the school year preventing them from being able to enroll in a conventional public school.

Explanation:

Currently contracting families that are travelling around the NT to service Geographically Isolated areas, where their child does not have access to school for more than 100 days (as per AIC Guidelines), or 20 days, as per Katherine School of the Air Requirements, have no provision for assistance under the NT Student Assistance Scheme. These families are vital to providing skilled labor and services to remote areas and should have support to educate their children like all geographically isolated NT Students.

Families affected by this are already covered by the rigorous AIC application, therefore they should be eligible for the NT Student Assistance Scheme given this is a requirement for the NT Student Assistance Scheme.



GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED

For over 57 years, Katherine School of the Air has provided exceptional distance education to families residing in remote areas. The programs are designed for students in the home classroom from Preschool through to Year 9.

Eligibility

- Remote residents living in the top half of the NT and along the WA board

Meet one of the below criteria:

- 56kms from the nearest government school, or
- 4.5km to the nearest transport to a government school and 16km to the school via the shortest route, or
- No reasonable access to a government school for at least 20 days of the school year

Confident. Resilient. Independent

Boarding (2 motions)

9. Motion: ICPA NT State Council

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT works with relevant stakeholders and providers to investigate trade focussed secondary options with appropriate and affordable boarding for our GI students within the NT.

Explanation:

Despite the NT being in drastic need of tradespeople, there are few, if any, solely trade based secondary options within the NT. Many highschools are offering VET and certificate options in Secondary school but these are alongside mainstream other subjects. A trade focused school, with conceptualised English and Maths where the subjects are able to be related directly to a practical trade application is overdue. This will help to keep teenagers engaged, less disruptive to other students and increase their chance to become productive members of society.

Equally important, is the current lack of boarding facilities - appropriate and affordable - to match those schools who do offer such subjects.

Potential models from across Australia: TecNQ in Townsville www.tecnq.com.au

Potential stakeholders: NT Dept of Education & Training; Charles Darwin University (CDU) - Katherine

Rural Campus; NT Chamber of Commerce; Calistimone Boarding House (Katherine); NT public and private secondary schools; NT registered Training Organisations (GTNT etc); Apprenticeships Australia and Trade Associations, SEDA

10. Motion: ICPA NT State Council

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT supports the Australian Boarding Standard and its adoption and continual improvement in all boarding schools.

Explanation:

The Australian Boarding Standard was published on 23 July, 2015, and is published through the affiliate of Standards Australia, SAI Global.

Excerpt from the Standard: "This Standard is designed for application in boarding services operated by Australian state and territory government agencies, by non-government schools and systems and by local government and community committees. This Standard is designed to promote and safeguard the welfare of students for whom boarding accommodation is provided.

Legislative requirements affecting boarding services in Australia vary from state to state and between states and territories. This Standard provides a common framework across all jurisdictions and is intended to be of benefit to service providers and users.

Experience in other countries suggests that a national boarding standard is effective in promoting quality boarding services.

Many sections of this Standard may align with policies and procedures that already exist and are documented."

Distance Education & Communications (6 motions)

11. Motion Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT ensure the NT Department of Education and Training subsidises the full amount of school room internet to families, and remains a key participant and advisor to the Department of Education and Training regarding the provision required for distance education.

Explanation:

As all Katherine School of the Air students have now transitioned to private internet providers in their home schoolrooms, it is imperative that families are able to afford adequate internet packages for their students' needs. The NT Education Act states that access to a public education must be free, and for Distance Education Students, access to reliable internet is crucial to enabling delivery of a standard public-school education. The cost of schoolroom internet must be met by the Territory Government. Every classroom is unique, and families need flexibility to find the most appropriate internet solution for their situation. The cost of schoolroom internet, startup costs and monthly fees must be met by the NT Government. Starlink is recommended by Katherine School of the Air IT Department and the startup cost for families is currently \$349 + \$34 shipping, it was \$599 + \$30 shipping in December 2024. The hardware cost fluctuates throughout the year.

Case Study: Jenna Trevenen, Larrizona Station

We are located at Larrizona Station, my husband and I manage the property for a corporate. Our eldest son commenced Preschool this year through KSA. We were unable to apply for the reimbursement for internet services as the internet at the Station is provided to us as part of our salary package therefore is in the company name. We also have no control as to the internet package that is provided, currently it's a limited service that is also shared with other staff, therefore continually running out of data. We made a financial decision at the commencement of the year that we wouldn't take out our own Starlink service as the setup costs weren't included in the reimbursements offered and it was an additional cost we couldn't afford at the time along with the cost of setting up a school room. This year we have had continual issues with our current internet situation with our son missing lessons due to poor connection or no connection.

12. MOTION: Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT requests the NT Department of Education to ensure all Geographically Isolated students receive a laptop at no cost to the families, through Katherine School of the Air. Either through the form of a bond, or no cost.

Explanation:

The costs associated with setting up a Geographically Isolated school room include compulsory costs, as per the Katherine School of the Air enrolment and essential costs associated with the reality of living in a Geographically Isolated area. These costs obviously fluctuate between each enrolment, but it is an overwhelming process. For example, purchasing and installing internet hardware, age-appropriate tables and chairs for students and staff. Classroom consumables not supplied by the school, i.e. Folders, Stapler, Extra Art & Craft supplies, especially Early Years, STEM Resources, storage, Brain Break Resources and extra sporting equipment.

It is considered compulsory for a School of the Air online student to attend each online lesson, to ensure their attendance is recorded. To meet full engagement with the School of the Air learning program. Therefore the NT Department of Education should deem Laptops an essential material item for Distance Education students and supply them at no cost.

13. MOTION: Alice Springs

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT express to the Department of Education the importance of continued regular communication between Distance Education Schools and the Department of Corporate and Digital Development. We understand these meetings have been planned to commence in 2025. We want to ensure they occur regularly and are ongoing.

Explanation

In 2024 Alice Springs School of the Air experienced significant connectivity issues that prevented students from engaging in their online learning for more than a week. Regular meetings are vital to ensure IT issues can be resolved as a priority quickly and are in line with the unique context of Distance Education.

14. MOTION: ICPA NT State Council

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT requests the Education Minister and Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of the NT Schools of Distance Education and Schools of the Air to ensure that they remain cutting edge, contemporary and are an appropriate custom-fit, for Geographically Isolated students.

Explanation:

Our Schools of Distance Education and Schools of the Air are very unique institutions. They pioneered distance learning and for a very long time were at the forefront in the delivery of it. With the rapid rise in technology and communication systems combined with necessity brought about during the Covid 19 Pandemic, virtual learning has accelerated at an unprecedented pace. This has brought great advancements in methodologies, pedagogy and mindsets and opened up opportunities to many more individuals.

As part of the review, we would like to ensure that the Geographically Isolated students' unique needs are never overlooked and that there is always cutting-age space for them to have access to a quality public education from their geographically isolated family home. Funding models and an increasing move away from main stream schools has meant that many institutions are taking an ever increasing number of non-geographic isolated enrollments.

An equally important part of this review would be to determine a funding mechanism for the essential home supervisor to be remunerated.

15. Motion: ICPA NT State Council

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT requests the NT Education Minister and Dept of Education & Training support the campaign by ICPA (Aust) to the Federal Government to add an additional loading category to the School Resourcing Model for Geographic Isolated students.

Explanation:

Education funding from the Federal Government to the States is calculated by the School Resource Standards (SRS).

<https://www.education.gov.au/recurrent-funding-schools/schooling-resource-standard>

At present there are 4 SRS loadings. The SRS loadings provide additional funding for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools. A school's SRS can include up to 4 student-based loadings and 2 school-based loadings. Loadings are not affected by capacity to contribute.

The 4 student-based loadings are the:

- *student with disability loading*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander loading*
- *socio-educational disadvantage loading*
- *low-English proficiency loading.*

A student may attract funding under more than one loading.

The 2 school-based loadings are for:

- *School size*
- *School location.*

The Department calculates the loadings for each school each year.

ICPA (Aus) are advocating that there be a 5th student-based loading for Geographically Isolated students. This would then provide additional funding to the states to cover the higher costs of supporting Geographically Isolated students in the Distance Education journey - travel to contact events, appropriate technology, funding towards compulsory supervisor etc.

If successful, this would mean an increase in funding for NT Distance Education schools.

16. MOTION: ICPA NT State Council

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT works with the Department of Education and Training and all other relevant stakeholders for the formation of a Distance Education Supervision subsidy (name is not important) to assist GI families whose only choice for their children is Distance Education.

Explanation:

The ICPA has been advocating for many many years for an allowance or subsidy to support Geographically Isolated families with the ongoing costs of Distance Education. This has been occurring at State and Federal levels of ICPA. Unfortunately with little traction and being bounced between state and federal governments.

Distance education enrolment – guidelines and procedures (NT Government Publication)

“ All distance education enrolments require children and young people to:

- meet the requirements for enrolment in an NT Government school as detailed in the Enrolment procedures*
- be enrolled for a minimum of one semester for preschool to year 9 enrolment, and by negotiation for years 10 to 12*
- have access to a telephone, computer and the internet. Provision of information technology equipment may be facilitated by the department*
- be provided with an appropriate learning space and environment. This includes a well-lit, ventilated space, absence of unwanted distractions to learning, and access to learning materials and resources*
- be suitably supervised and supported by an adult each school day to complete their learning, including any requirement to attend the distance education centre or another place.*

Division 2 of the NT Education Act 2015 states:

Cost of Government school education 75 Government school education to be free

(1) This section applies in relation to a student:

(a) whose usual place of residence is in the Territory; and

(b) who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident in Australia or a child of such a citizen or resident; and

(c) who is enrolled in a Government school.

(2) The cost of providing the following at the Government school to the student must be met by the Territory:

(a) instruction that forms part of the program that is prescribed by regulation (the standard curriculum program);

(b) any materials or administrative or other services or facilities provided as part of the standard curriculum program.”

With this legislation and policy in mind, consider the following.

Most mothers are able to return to work when their children start school, but it is mostly the mothers of Geographically Isolated Families are either unable to work, or have an increased workload due to the supervision responsibilities required by the enrolment policies for Distance Education which requires that students undertaking Distance Education have adequate supervision in the classroom and an appropriate space or the child to undertake their learning, free of distractions etc. (see above)

The choices for these DE families are:

One parent (usually the mother) must either forgo an income or time working in the business to supervise the children in the classroom.

The family or the employers of the family engage a home tutor – firstly recruiting and then providing a salary or day rate for this employee.

Even when the family or business has employed a home tutor, one parent carries an increased workload by taking on the management of the home tutor and classroom activities. Its never a simple drop and go solution like those familiar to non-GI families.

Furthermore, due to the isolation, the family or the remote businesses who employ these families need to house and feed their home tutors. All of which comes at a cost to the private business and not to the government. The costs vary between families but no matter the circumstance, huge cost or sacrifices are made by our GI families in pursuit of a government funded education, which for all Territorians – is supposed to be “FREE”.

Further to these ongoing costs, there is the cost of the initial setup of an appropriate study environment for the students, desks, chairs and the installation of the appropriate internet connection being the very bare minimum. Laptops and ICT equipment are available for hire and purchase from the school, still at a further cost to the family. The back to school voucher scheme does subsidise the cost but at \$200 per year, this amount doesn’t really touch the sides of the initial set up or ongoing replenishment of resources required.

All of these costs do not even take into account the face to face events that are optional but also integral for the children's social and emotional learning, which for those attending Katherine School of the Air comes in at approx. \$2,000 + per term if you factor in the cost of accommodating a family for the time in town, travel, food for the family for the week, the potential loss of income for the week that one caregiver has to be away from the business for. The subsidy for attending an inschool event is approx. \$100 per student per event. Although we are thankful for it, this wouldn’t even cover the cost of the fuel to attend these events.

The AIC and NT Student Assistance Scheme does allow some relief but does not even come close to covering the total cost of education for those GI families.

Case Study: Costs of setting up and maintaining a home classroom.

Wood Family, Wave Hill Station

Family Outlay	Amount	Assistance Received	Amount
Classroom setup Purchase 2 desk \$100 each, 2 chairs \$100, Rugs for the schoolroom - \$50 each x 3 = \$150, Laptop Initial hire: \$400 upfront and \$100 a year thereafter. (\$500); Headsets \$165 each; School uniforms \$30 per shirt x 3 shirts \$90; Storage Drawers \$100	\$1,605	Back to School Voucher	\$200

<i>each x 2. \$200; Shelving \$200</i>			
<i>Home Tutor Salary \$198 per day (10 school weeks per term, 5 days of school x 4 terms)</i>	<i>\$40,000</i>	<i>AIC - Distance Ed \$3,741.79 (Preschool not eligible)</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>In School Accomodation and Food P.A</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>	<i>NT - Distance Ed (PreSchool ineligible in 2022 \$2,080 per student per year)</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Internet (Per Annum)</i>	<i>\$2,160</i>	<i>Connellan Airways Grant (in-school)</i>	<i>330</i>
<i>Internet Hardware (Starlink)</i>	<i>\$300</i>	<i>internet subsidy (\$174 per month)</i>	<i>\$2,088</i>
Total Outlay Preschool 2022	\$52,065	Total Subsidies in 2022	\$2,618
Total Cost to Family for our first year of Distance Education <u>\$49,447</u>			

Note: At the time of setting up the student was in preschool, in 2022 and was ineligible for AIC assistance and NT SAS Distance Ed Grant. Since setting up our classroom in 2022, preschool students are now eligible for the NT Student Assistance Scheme, but still ineligible for AIC until they are in transition.

The family has since incurred more outlay with the inclusion of 3 more early years students, and another home tutor as of 2025.

Stationery such as pencils, whiteboard markers, art supplies, paper for printing, ink have not been included in this estimate, nor have the board and keep or annual leave and superannuation for the home tutor, or the costs of renovating an existing old building to make it fit-for-purpose.

Early Childhood (1 motion)

17. MOTION: Alice Springs Branch:

Carried/Lost

ICPA NT thanks the Department of Education and Training FaFT program for continuing to deliver playgroups during in -school weeks in Alice Springs. We request that the Department of Education and training develop and implement new early learning programs for geographically isolated children In Central Australia.

Explanation

Geographically isolated children in Central Australia have been without access to regularly early learning programs for more than two decades. We have been advocating for change with the Department of Education and Training for some time without little change. We would like the Department to review their current programs and look for ways they can expand their current programs to geographically isolated children In Central Australia.

Roads & Travel (3 motions)

18. MOTION: Katherine Branch

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT implore the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure to increase maintenance of roads to ensure safe conditions for families travelling to attend for educational purposes and school staff.

Explanation:

Many Families need to travel vast distances over NT Roads to attend to the educational needs of their children, and there is concern over funding not being available for adequate road maintenance.

Case Study:

The current maintenance program on the Central Arnhem Road cannot keep up with the high volume of heavy vehicles/road trains using the road to access Nhulunbuy, cattle stations, communities, and mining exploration sites, leaving the road in an unsafe condition only weeks after a maintenance grade. This affects families when the road becomes so poor that they need to consider whether their children can attend a school contact event or assessment, or travel to collect or return school resources or unit work. If the road is deemed to be in an unacceptable state for Department of Education Teachers to travel, or a longer travel time is needed due to road conditions, there can be a delay or school patrols can be cancelled, leaving students without the valuable contact time with teaching staff and health services.

Case Study: Jenna Trevenen, Larrizona Station

We are located at Larrizona Station on the Gorrie Dry River Road. We have 100km of gravel out to the Victoria Highway or 100km of gravel out to the Stuart Highway. For the last 2 years our road has flooded in both directions, leaving us landlocked for months on end. This year we were land locked for 3.5 months from January to April. With our son commencing Preschool this year we were unable to get to town for the first term in the lead up to Inschool to familiarize him with his teacher and school. We managed to get out via boat for the Inschool week at the end of term 1 but the week proved to be very difficult for him to be left in unfamiliar surroundings.

19. MOTION: NT State Council

Carried/Lost

“That ICPA NT lobbies Qantas to extend their Resident Fares Scheme for travel for geographically isolated students.”

Explanation:

The Northern Territory has a large number of geographically isolated students living remotely with their families who need to attend educational institutions interstate to complete their education. The Northern Territory has a very limited number of boarding school places available for students, therefore, a large number of families have no choice but to send their children to boarding schools interstate. Choices for tertiary and trade training are equally limited.

NT residents can access the Qantas Resident Fares but only for flights from Alice Springs to Darwin (return) or Alice Springs to Adelaide (return). These are useful and much appreciated but more options are needed. There are a large number of families not even living close to Darwin (up to approx. 1,000km away) that have children studying interstate in locations such as Townsville, Charters Towers, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, Adelaide, and Melbourne who need to drive up to 1,000km and then fly from Darwin but have no access to resident fares.

There are two/three airlines operating from Darwin, and during the hugely popular ‘dry season,’ parents are competing with tourists for flights that can range from \$300 - \$3,000 one way to get

children to and from boarding school. There is no consistency for reasonable fares for parents, particularly during the peak dry season. Children are boarding a long way from home and travel for parents to visit during the term is often unaffordable.

Many other states receive significant assistance for travel.

20. Motion: ICPA NT State Council

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT works with the major airlines to determine a more consistent and fairer pricing structure for geographically isolated students who must travel to attend educational institutions.

Explanation:

There is no consistency for reasonable fares for students when they must travel interstate to attend educational institutions, particularly during the peak dry season. To enable a choice between different airlines flying out of the Northern Territory to other states, all major airlines should be encouraged to offer discounted and affordable student fares.

Special Needs (1 motion)

21. MOTION: Katherine Branch:

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT requests that the Dept of Education and Training provides targeted support and funding to the Additional Needs team at Schools of the Air to educate and support Home Tutors and families of students who are Geographically Isolated and have recognised additional needs.

Explanation:

In recent years the NT Government has introduced "Inclusion and Well being Teams" into Public Schools, which has certainly improved support for enrolled students and their families. There is still a gap for remote and Geographically Isolated students between identifying an issue and obtaining a timely diagnosis. The role of an Educational Psychologist within the Schools of the Air would greatly improve the diagnosis pathway and outcomes for these students.

Most geographically isolated parents and Home Tutors of students with learning difficulties are not trained teachers. Their role is to assist the student with their learning, supporting the School of the Air curriculum. Due to the 'satellite' nature of distance education classrooms, it is greatly difficult for the teachers to get an understanding of a student's capabilities and challenges through an online learning platform.

The key areas that need funding are:

- *Long waiting times for student assessments, due to lack of staffing in the education Department in remote towns of Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.*
- *Limited access to online, or face-to-face support and training, for the Home Tutor. Due to waiting times on assessments and lack of skilled staff in Dept of Education who support the "Special Needs Teacher" in a Distance Ed context.*
- *Easier access to Tele-health options for children living in Geographically Isolated areas.*
- *Lack of personnel and financial resources for teachers to be able to conduct Patrols annually or as required to support Home Tutors.*

It is so important that families and Home Tutors can be armed with the right tools to educate students with learning difficulties in Geographically Isolated areas. An ongoing support network, online training and family patrols to remote areas are a lifeline to the student, home tutor and parents.

Tertiary & Training (1 motion)

22. **Motion: ICPA NT State Council**

Carried/Lost

That ICPA NT advocate for the continuation and expansion of the Home Tutor Program through Charles Darwin University.

Explanation:

The Home Tutor Program began in 2024 and was offered through Charles Darwin University to Home Tutors in the Alice Springs/Barkly region. The program was completed by four Home Tutors and three of the students were awarded travel grants through ICPA NT. The six month course covers 8 units to increase the skills and knowledge of home tutors. In order to ensure that NT based families can recruit and retain competent Home Tutors the Home Tutor Program must continue and be offered to Home Tutors across all areas of the Northern Territory.



ICPA NT 2025 State Conference

Portfolio Reports

MOTION RESPONSE from Dept Education & Training

[Boarding & Allowances Portfolio](#)

[Communications & Distance Education Portfolio](#)

[Early Childhood Portfolio](#)

[Miscellaneous Portfolio](#)

[Rural & Remote Schools Portfolio](#)

[Special Needs Portfolio](#)

[Tertiary & Training Portfolio](#)

ICPA NT - 2024 Portfolio Teams

Boarding & Allowances	Melissa Kerr , Kerrie Scott, Bec Osmotherly, Kiya Gill
Distance Education & Communications	Amanda Murphy , Danyelle Haigh, Connie Woods
Early Childhood	Jacinta McInnerney , Julianne Vlach, Danyelle Haigh
Tertiary & Training	Kiya Gill , Catherine Atkins
Rural & Remote Schools	Melissa Kerr , Jacinta McInnerney
Special Needs	Jacinta McInnerney'
Miscellaneous	Moira Lanzarin

Please also see our revised **Policy Documents** that will be presented at this year's conference.

The Policy Statement will become ICPA NT Policy (updated only via full Constitutional process). All Policy Objectives are determined by resolved motions from conference and referenced with year and motion number.

Department of Education update on motions from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) 2024 State Conference

Motion	Department response – July 2024
Special needs	
<p>1. Katherine branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT requests that the Dept of Education and the Dept of Health provide targeted support to ‘Special Needs Teachers’ at Schools of the Air. To better educate and support Home Tutors and families of students who are Geographically Isolated and have recognised additional needs.</p>	<p>The Department of Education (the department) can confirm that Katherine School of the Air and Alice Springs School of the Air each have an allocated Key Contact in Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Programs and Services (SWIPS) Client Services team that is available to provide advice and support to the school.</p> <p>The schools are able to request a service for support and this has been discussed as part of the School Service Plan. This includes planning for support to special education teachers, home tutors and students through professional consultancy, professional learning sessions and individual supports (e.g. assessments and counselling) as required.</p> <p>The School Service Plans are reviewed regularly by the Key Contact and school leadership to ensure that needs identified by the school are supported.</p>
Allowances	
<p>2. Katherine Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT requests the Department of Education annually review the Student Assistance Boarding Allowance, including the zone methodology and allowance amounts, to ensure all geographically isolated boarding students are adequately and fairly financially supported to complete their compulsory schooling.</p>	<p>The first annual review of the simplified Student Assistance Scheme will occur in 2024.</p> <p>Planning for the Review of the Student Assistance Schemes (Stage 4) commenced in April 2024. One year after the major changes (Stage 1 and 2) were implemented and following the processing of the 2023 grandfathered applications which closed on 31 March 2024.</p> <p>The implementation review plan will include a collaborative approach and scheduled meetings with key stakeholders, including the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association.</p> <p>Future review cycles will be considered as part of this review.</p>

Motion	Department response – July 2024
<p>3. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT lobbies the NT Department of Education for an increase in all allowances within the Student Assistance Scheme, including the kilometre travel rate, to more closely reflect the real cost of travel and the actual distance families must travel in kilometres instead of the radius travelled & zone restrictions which is currently being used, especially in light of the number of kilometres our members travel on dirt roads to access education.</p>	<p>As part of the simplified Student Assistance Scheme, families no longer receive allowances based on a per kilometre travel rate and instead are provided with lump sum amounts. This provides families with the flexibility to choose how best to use their funding.</p> <p>Under the new scheme, a majority of recipients receive increased support and it is expected that additional families have access to support through the new schemes.</p> <p>Implementation challenges will be considered as part of the review of the scheme.</p>
<p>4. Katherine Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT requests the NT Student Assistance Scheme includes all students eligible for the <u>Federal Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme</u> - under the <i>'Isolated Conditions - No reasonable Access to School'</i> Clause, where families are required to work onsite at various geographically isolated locations throughout the school year preventing them from being able to enrol in a conventional public school.</p>	<p>Planning for the Review of the Student Assistance Schemes (Stage 4) commenced in April 2024. One year after the major changes (Stage 1 and 2) were implemented and following the processing of the 2023 grandfathered applications which close on 31 March 2024.</p> <p>The implementation review plan will include a collaborative approach and scheduled meetings with key stakeholders, including the Isolated Children's Parents' Association.</p> <p>Guidance resources to support efficiency of the scheme will be considered as part of the review.</p> <p>The new policy and procedures for the updated Internet Subsidy Scheme for Distance Education Students includes provisions for families who work across various geographically isolated locations.</p>
<p>5. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT requests that the Department of Education offer training sessions for all Northern Territory based subsidies available for Geographically Isolated students and families enrolled in schools of distance education.</p>	<p>In 2024, department representatives provided information sessions tailored to the requests of the distance education schools. One session was held in Katherine on 8 February 2024 and another held in Alice Springs on 27 February 2024. Additional information sessions can be provided upon request.</p> <p>Guidance resources to support efficiency of the scheme will be considered as part of the Student Assistance Scheme review.</p>
<p>6. Katherine Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT encourages the NT Education Department to continually improve the Student Assistance Scheme application, re-application and processing systems and ensure the scheme subsidies and assistance is appropriate to the needs of isolated students.</p>	<p>Planning for the Review of the Student Assistance Schemes (Stage 4) commenced in April 2024. One year after the major changes (Stage 1 and 2) were implemented and following the processing of the 2023 grandfathered applications which closed on 31 March 2024.</p> <p>The implementation review plan will include an engagement approach and scheduled meetings with key stakeholders, including the Isolated Children's Parents' Association.</p> <p>Guidance resources to support efficiency of the scheme will be considered as part of the review.</p>

Motion	Department response – July 2024
<p>7. Katherine Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT requests that the Department of Education extend the Back to School voucher scheme to all Northern Territory Geographically Isolated Students that are required to Board Interstate to complete their compulsory schooling.</p>	<p>The department has committed to reviewing the Back to School payment scheme policy in 2024 with the updated policy to take effect in 2025.</p> <p>The review will include engaging with stakeholders.</p> <p>The Back to School payment scheme is a Northern Territory (NT) Government initiative to assist families with certain school related costs at the beginning of the school year. The entitlement to purchase educational items can only be redeemed at the student's school.</p> <p>Students enrolled and attending a NT school are eligible for the scheme. This includes students enrolled at a NT Government school, non-government school and NT home-educated students.</p>
<p>8. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That NT ICPA requests that the Department of Education review the current policy that guides Schools of Distance Education for the "Back to School Voucher" scheme, to allow more flexibility for Geographically isolated families enrolled in schools of Distance Education to purchase what is needed for their remote classrooms.</p>	<p>The department has committed to reviewing the Back to School payment scheme policy in 2024 with the updated policy to take effect in 2025.</p> <p>The review will include engaging with stakeholders.</p> <p>The Back to School payment scheme is a NT Government initiative to assist families with certain school related costs at the beginning of the school year. The entitlement to purchase educational items can only be redeemed at the student's school.</p> <p>Students enrolled and attending a NT school are eligible for the scheme. This includes students enrolled at a NT Government school, non-government school and NT home-educated students.</p> <p>School representative bodies decide the appropriate goods and services on offer within their school community.</p>
<p>9. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT lobbies the NT department of Education to provide student assistance scheme funding via an enrolment base model rather than state based model.</p>	<p>The Student Assistance Scheme is an NT Government scheme and is aimed at supporting families who reside in the NT. There is no plan to extend the eligibility of the Distance Education Allowance to students who reside outside of the NT.</p> <p>Families who reside interstate may wish to contact their local state government to address support for cross-border distance education.</p> <p>We understand some financial assistance is available to geographically isolated students in South Australia through the Travelling Allowance.</p>
<p>Distance Education</p>	

Motion	Department response – July 2024
<p>10. Katherine Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT ensures the NT Department of Education subsidises the full amount of school room internet to families, and remains a key participant and advisor to the Department of Education regarding the provision required for distance education.</p>	<p>Under the Internet Subsidy Scheme for Distance Education Students, geographically isolated families are provided assistance with internet costs for the purpose of accessing distance education.</p> <p>In 2023, the department conducted a review of the scheme and following consultation with principals from distance education, have developed new policy and procedures to strengthen the application and eligibility assessment process.</p> <p>The subsidy will be implemented in 2 stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● from Term 1, 2024 Katherine School of the Air and Alice Springs School of the Air will continue to facilitate payment of \$165 per month to eligible households for the 2024 school year ● from Term 1, 2025 the subsidy will be centrally managed through the NT Government’s grant management system - GrantsNT and the subsidy paid will match the applicant’s internet tax invoice of up to \$174 per month (based on Starlink Roam). <p>The department presented at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Katherine School of the Air School Representative Board (SRB) meeting on 8 February 2024, where the SRB endorsed end semester payments to eligible families ● Alice Springs School of Air Home Tutor Conference held on 27 February 2024 and this included information on the Student Assistance Scheme on Distance Education Allowance and the Back to School payment scheme. <p>Families may be able to access additional assistance towards internet or other related costs under the Australian’s Government’s Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme or the Student Assistance Scheme the Distance Education Allowance.</p>
<p>11. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT direct the Minister for Education and NT Government to ensure that Schools of Distance Education are funded appropriately for permanent and adequate Information & Communication Technology (ICT) positions within each School of Distance Education.</p>	<p>The department provides annual funding to government schools using the School Resourcing Model methodology. The School Resourcing Model methodology provides distance education schools with additional funding through the distance education weighting in the Student Needs Based Funding Model.</p> <p>Schools have autonomy about the use of school managed resources to meet the needs of their student cohort. This includes the staffing profile and operational expenditure within this funding allocation having regard to strategies and initiatives identified through strategic and operational planning.</p>

Motion	Department response – July 2024
<p>12. Katherine Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT continues to relay the importance of Northern Territory Schools of the Air to all relevant Ministers and Government departments.</p>	<p>Noted – no action for the department.</p>
<p>13. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That ICPA NT works with and encourages NBN to continue exploring low latency internet connection options for students enrolled and studying at schools of distance education.</p>	<p>Noted – no action for the department.</p>
<p>14. Alice Springs Branch</p> <p>That NT ICPA requests that the Northern Territory Department of Education partner with internet providers (such as NBN) to ensure educational connections are available to Schools of Distance Education.</p>	<p>The Department of Corporate and Digital Development (DCDD) manage relationships with major telecommunications providers, including NBN co., Telstra, Vocus and Speedcast. This request should be referred direct to DCDD.</p>
<p>15. Alice Springs Branch (motion lost)</p> <p>That NT ICPA lobbies the Department of Education to provide remuneration to families with students enrolled in Schools of Distance Education to cover monthly costs incurred with portable internet connections.</p>	<p>No response required – motion lost.</p>
<p>Early Childhood</p>	

Motion	Department response – July 2024
<p>16. Alice Springs Branch:</p> <p>That ICPA NT lobbies the relevant NT Government Departments to ensure registered Early Childhood Services operating in the Central Australian region are financially supported to implement their program into the geographically isolated areas of Central Australia, which are not receiving such services.</p>	<p>The department continues to liaise regularly with ICPA NT regarding access to early childhood programs. Expanded access to supported playgroups in Central Australia has been offered through Families as First Teachers (FaFT), including establishing an ICPA specific supported playgroup for families when attending Alice Springs School of the Air in-school events.</p> <p>ICPA has lobbied the department for mobile playgroups for Central Australia for many years. The department has raised this with the Australian Government, as the primary funder for these programs.</p> <p>Playgroup NT is supporting RAISEducation (a business that provides isolated families with resources to support distance education) to deliver face to face and online early learning playgroups across Central Australia under the federally funded <i>Helping Families Learn and Grow with Playgroups (FLAG) stream of the Children and Parenting Support (CaPS) program</i>. The program will run from 2024 to 2026. FaFT has supported RAISEducation through offers of training (Abecedarian, ASK-TRAK, participation in regional forums and online mentoring support), materials and scoping of areas of need in Central Australia.</p>
Miscellaneous	
<p>17. Katherine Branch:</p> <p>That ICPA NT implores the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to increase maintenance of roads to ensure safe conditions for families travelling to attend for educational purposes and school staff.</p>	<p>Noted – no action for the department.</p>
<p>18. NT State Council:</p> <p>That ICPA NT make urgent appeals to relevant Ministers and Senators of the absolute importance of the need for the speedy installation and activation of the Tennant Creek BOM Radar.</p>	<p>As noted at the 18 June 2024 School Education Advisory Group (SEAG) meeting, the department will raise the issue of installation and activation of a new Tennant Creek weather radar at the Territory Emergency Management Council.</p>
<p>19. Alice Springs Branch:</p> <p>That ICPA NT be acknowledged and congratulated in their ongoing efforts throughout the year in attending delegations and lobbying Government on our behalf for a brighter future for our children in rural and remote Australia.</p>	<p>The department acknowledges and gives thanks to the ICPA NT for their ongoing advocacy and support to isolated children and their families.</p> <p>The department will work with ICPA executives to determine an appropriate public acknowledgement that responds to this motion.</p>

Boarding and Allowances Portfolio

Portfolio Team - Melissa Kerr, Kerrie Scott, Bec Osmotherly

Eight motions were carried under the Boarding and Allowances Portfolio at the 2024 State Conference, with lots of discussion around enrolment funding models, allowances, back to school vouchers and the Student Assistance Scheme (SAS).

The Student Assistance Scheme policy and guidelines was simplified with the introduction of GrantsNT in 2023, and allowances have been grouped to decrease the burden on applicants. With the vast distances families travel in the NT, the way the zone allowance is calculated still remains an issue for some families in 2024.

The mission statement of the Education Act 2015 is -

“An Act to provide for the availability of education in the Northern Territory and in particular to provide for the access of all children and young persons to education programs appropriate to their individual needs and abilities, and for related purposes.”

ICPA NT advocated that the NT Government’s position that it is “preferable all students should attend school within the NT, including boarding school”, is untenable and that instead their policy should work to keep families in the NT. We are aware many NT boarding students receive significant and ongoing NT Government support under the (Indigenous) Transition Support Unit to attend education opportunities across Australia. This should be available to all GI students in the NT, indigenous and non indigenous.

ICPA NT advocates that ALL geographically isolated families should be supported to choose a school with the best fit and necessary support for both the student and family.

In April 2024, after the ICPA NT State Conference, Council met with the Department of Education and Training to discuss the review of the Student Assistance Scheme (SAS) policy and guidelines, and the internet subsidy.

The SAS review was to be completed by the end of May, with no new grandfather clauses after the end of March. There was to be a 1 year review and another review within 3-5 years. ICPA NT asked if the SAS could be reviewed annually and allowances indexed to CPI. Other issues raised for the review were:

- greater clarity on criteria
- definitions of GI
- relationship to other subsidies
- contractor family eligibility
- remote transit
- attendance at school
- split parents

If contractor families are eligible for AIC, then why are they not eligible for the SAS?

We have been informed since the simplification of the SAS through GrantsNT, uptake of the interstate boarding allowance has increased from 13 family applications to 40, and over 90 for distance education. The DE allowance does not include high school or online school if you are not enrolled in a SOA.

The internet subsidy is in isolation to the SAS, and has been increased to \$174/m. Contractors with no fixed address are required to complete a statutory declaration. (Also see Distance Ed & Communications Portfolio)

Back to school vouchers are not available to students who board interstate. ICPA NT continues to challenge this ruling.

A discussion was had about resident fares, with capped affordable concessional airfare to travel to and from boarding school, within the NT and interstate. Currently, only residents of Alice Springs can access the resident fares for return flights to Darwin or Adelaide.

ICPA NT continues to advocate for concessional travel intrastate and interstate for GI boarding school students.

Federal Motions

Update from Federal Council:

ICPA Federal Council has 3 key issues for boarding and allowances:

1. Restoring the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance (BBA) to its original intent of 55% of the average cost of boarding and align it with the CPI Sub Education Index
2. Removal of Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) on accommodation provided by boarding schools for essential live in staff
3. The extension of the AIC Distance Education allowance to 3-4 year old geographically isolated children accessing an approved distance education early learning program.

ICPA Federal Council had numerous meetings with Ministers, Senators and Members of Parliament in 2024 advocating on behalf of all State Councils on these matters. Leading into this Federal election cycle, the Federal Council submitted their budget briefing papers to all MPs to move forward with solutions and reform that ensures equity to access for education for ALL geographically isolated families living in rural and remote Australia.

Communications & Distance Education Portfolio

Portfolio Team - Amanda Murphy, Danyelle Haigh, Constance Woods

At the 2024 NT state conference there were five motions carried by delegates. Most motions are expressing concern over reliability and speed of internet connection as well as the ongoing and increasing costs of providing reliable communications for our Distance Education Classrooms.

There has been traction with the increase of the Internet Subsidy Scheme for Distance Education Students but it still isn't covering the costs for a majority of families. Then there are still the costs of installation and maintenance for educational communications that are not covered by the subsidy amount either.

Given that adequate and equitable access to reliable telecommunication and internet service is a vital part of distance education for GI families, NT State council continues to work with government departments and relevant organisations to ensure that children accessing Distance Education in rural and remote areas have the best possible connections. As the world of technology moves fast, we need to ensure that education being delivered in geographically isolated areas is moving with it.

10. Katherine Branch *That ICPA NT ensures the NT Department of Education subsidises the full amount of school room internet to families and remains a key participant and advisor to the Department of Education regarding the provision required for distance education.*

In 2024 the Department of Education and Training (DOET), after consultation with principals from ASSOA and KSOTA developed new policy and procedures. The subsidy was increased to \$174 per month, but will not be implemented until Term 1 2025. For the remainder of 2024 the internet subsidy payment was facilitated by the Schools of the Air with the plan being to shift the subsidy being claimed via the Grants NT for the invoiced amount of the internet subscription with a cap of \$174 per month. The DOET also commented that additional assistance for internet and other related costs carried by families for the provision of distance education may be accessed via the Federal Government's Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance and the NT Student Assistance Scheme - Distance Education Allowance which doesn't seem fair.

11. Alice Springs Branch *That ICPA NT direct the Minister for Education and NT Government to ensure that Schools of Distance Education are funded appropriately for permanent and adequate Information & Communication Technology (ICT) positions within each School of Distance Education.*

Response from the DOET: Funding is allocated to government schools using the "School Resourcing Model methodology." This model gives distance education schools with additional funding through the distance education weighting in the student needs based funding model. The schools have autonomy about the use of school managed resources, including staffing and operational expenditure. ICPA NT are putting forward a motion re the SRS model at this conference.

12. Katherine Branch *That ICPA NT continues to relay the importance of Northern Territory Schools of the Air to all relevant Ministers and Government departments.*

The NT State council continues to advocate for all GI families, particularly Distance Education through delegations with NT policy makers and all relevant organisations. Government departments and the Education Minister are well aware and fully supportive of the importance of Schools of the Air for geographically isolated children in the NT.

Early Childhood Portfolio

2024 Early Childhood Portfolio Team - Jacinta McInnerney, Julianne Vlach, Danyelle Haigh.

There was one Early Childhood motion at the 2024 State Conference from Alice Springs Branch – that ICPA NT lobbies the relevant NT Government Department to ensure registered Early Childhood Services operating in the Central Australian region are financially supported to implement their program into the geographically isolated areas of Central Australia, which are not receiving such services. The Education Department continues to liaise regularly with ICPA NT regarding access to early childhood programs and we extend our thanks to the Department for their support. ICPA NT has been pleased that there has been expanded access to supported playgroups in Central Australia through Families as First Teachers (FaFT), including establishing an ICPA specific supported playgroup for families when attending Alice Springs School of the Air in-school events.

Playgroup NT is supporting RAISEducation (a business that provided isolated families with resources to support distance education) to deliver face-to-face and online early learning playgroups across Central Australia under the federally funded Helping Families Learn and Grow with Playgroups (FLAG) stream of the Children and Parenting Support (CaPS) program. The program commenced in 2024 and will run until 2026. FaFT has supported RAISEducation through offers of training (Abecedarian, ASK-TRAK, participation in regional forums and online mentoring), materials and scoping of areas of need in Central Australia.

ICPA has lobbied the department for mobile playgroups for Central Australia for many years. The department has raised this with the Australian Government, as the primary funder for these programs.

KICS Playgroup (Katherine Isolated Children's Services) continues to offer quality Early Childhood Services to the Katherine and greater region. This mobile model is one which we consider best practice for GI students. It is currently funded Federally under a 5 year programme but consistent long-term funding is still difficult and stressful.

Miscellaneous

2024 Rural & Remote Schools Portfolio - Moira Lanzarin

At the 2024 AGM, 3 motions were carried under the Miscellaneous heading. The need to increase maintenance on our regional road network to ensure safe travel for families and educators; urgency for the installation and activation of the BOM station at Tennant Creek; and THANK YOU to ICPA NT State Council.

These first two motions were taken to relevant ministers and raised with whoever might be able to assist - in particular, NTCA (Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association). The more people that log a complaint about a road, the more traction possible for the issue to be expedited. All please REPORT A ROAD FAULT - by using NTCA's [reporting form](#).

The Barkly Electoral office informed us that progress was happening for the Tennant Creek weather station and that the early hurdles of land title clearance were finally dealt with and installation could go ahead. An independent review of the Barkly Regional Deal was being requested to understand why key projects like the weather radar were being delayed.

On behalf of ICPA NT State Council, it is our privilege and honour to advocate on our member's behalf.

Rural and Remote Schools Portfolio

2024 Rural & Remote Schools Portfolio Team Melissa Kerr, Jacinta McInnery

There were no Rural and Remote Schools motions at the NT State Conference in 2024, however Rural and Remote School informal discussions were held with the Department of Education, Principals, families, and NT Council of Governments Schools Organisation (NT COGSO) as opportunities arose.

On 27th November 2024 a Rural Schools Joint Council zoom meeting was held. Nikki Mahony, Federal Council Rural Schools, hosted the meeting. All states were online except New South Wales and Tasmania.

The main issues discussed were:

1. School Resource Standard – has 7 items including disability and Indigenous. ICPA advocated to include Geographically Isolated as a separate item. States deliver the education, but at a Federal level, they need the awareness to include GI as one of the SRS loadings.
2. Paid practicals for teachers.
3. Extend the skilled worker visa to include primary schools.

Rural and remote schools across Australia are disadvantaged in a number of ways and in particular by being located in geographically isolated areas. These schools are challenged to educate children and to retain experienced teaching staff often with heavy workloads in these rural and remote communities.

Adelaide River Primary School has implemented year 7 in 2024 and year 8 in 2025 to try and encourage students to remain in the school system, particularly geographically isolated students and Indigenous students from our local community. This is distinct from the dual enrollment with a Distance Ed/School of the Air which occurs in some rural schools for their secondary students. This has been successful in retaining students in the community and alleviating them from travelling hours each day to and from school.

Yarralin school in the Victoria River district was excited to welcome secondary-aged students in Term 4 of 2024. The school was proud that their high attendance and dedicated students led to the expansion of the school to five classes. Six students started in the Giduwa (Goanna) class in October last year. Well done to the principal, teachers, students, families and community in Yarralin.

Special Needs Portfolio

2024 Special Needs Portfolio - Jacinta McInnerney

The Katherine Branch moved a motion at the 2024 State Conference requesting the Department of Education and the Department of Health provide targeted support to 'Special Needs Teachers' at Schools of the Air. The Department of Education confirmed that Katherine School of the Air and Alice Springs School of the Air each have an allocated Key Contact in Student Wellbeing and Inclusion Programs and Services (**SWIPS**) Client Services team that is available to provide advice and support to the school.

The schools are able to request a service for support and this has been discussed as part of the School Service Plan. This includes planning for support to special education teachers, home tutors and students through professional consultancy, professional learning sessions and individual support (e.g. assessments and counselling) as required. The School Service Plans are reviewed regularly by the key contact and school leadership to ensure that needs identified by the school are supported. ICPA NT welcomes the allocation of the SWIPS Key Contact in each School of the Air as our geographically isolated students deserve the same opportunities as their urban peers when needing support for additional needs.

One family attending Katherine School of the Air has shared that they have received good support for their child from their inclusion support teacher while other parents in other locations have identified that there are still gaps in the support for their children. ICPA NT will continue to follow up with families to see if their children are receiving the support they need through training, coaching and mentoring of teachers and educators, adjustments to the curriculum, SWIPS team working with students (as appropriate) and referrals to other services. ICPA NT will continue to lobby for equitable access for education for all our children including children with disabilities, developmental delays, additional needs and the gifted and talented.

IICPA NT has recently shared on our socials information about the **Envisage Families Program**. This is a fully funded program for parents and caregivers raising children aged 0-8 years with developmental concerns or disability. Children do not need to have a diagnosis or be on a NDIS Plan. Families can join the program at selected locations in the NT or choose the online option for the workshops, making this program one that is really geared to our ICPA NT members being in geographically isolated locations. In the Envisage Families Program, families connect with other caregivers where they can share their experiences, learn effective strategies and access practical tools for supporting the child and family.

Tertiary & Training Portfolio

2024 Tertiary and Training Portfolio Team - Kiya Gill and Catherine Atkins

Training is vital to continue to grow and build the agriculture and rural industries. We are committed to working with stakeholders to develop programs that specifically improve our home classrooms across the Northern Territory.

No new tertiary and training motions were presented at our 2024 State Conference.

Over the past two years, ICPA NT has been working with Charles Darwin University to gain better recognition and training opportunities for Home Tutors across the Northern Territory.

Our vision is to;

- Support Home Tutors by equipping them with the necessary skills to work and travel safely remotely.
- Build opportunities for employment pathways for NT school leavers.
- Create career pathways in education, early childhood and agriculture.
- Connect a network of Home Tutors to support one another, share ideas and be resilient.
- Assist families to attract and retain Home Tutors in rural and remote classrooms across the NT.
- Assist geographically isolated students in receiving a higher educational standard.

Last year we asked friends and supporters of ICPA NT to please endorse this new initiative by writing a letter of support for funding. Thank you to everybody who took the time to support us! We were completely overwhelmed by your response, our inboxes and hearts were full! It highlights and reaffirms that we can achieve the impossible when we work together.

Late last year we successfully received funding from the Northern Territory Government to support the roll out of a new Vocational Training Program specifically designed to support Home Tutors.
VTP523 Gateway for Home Tutors in Isolated Areas

This new program was specifically designed as an introduction course with a safety focus. Students who complete this course will receive a First Aid certificate, learn how to operate a 4WD on unsealed roads and receive an introduction into workplace health and safety. Once completed they have the opportunity to further consider career pathways into education, early childhood and agriculture.

Late last year we had a soft launch of the program in Alice Springs with three home tutors enrolling in the program and completed the two 4WD units in December. We will continue to promote this program throughout 2025 with planned face to face training delivered during in-school weeks.

At this stage the program is only funded for Home Tutors residing in Central Australia and the Barkly Region. Charles Darwin University is meeting with the Northern Territory Government to negotiate expanding the scope of training to rural and remote Home Tutors.

Our friends at Connellan Airways continue to support and grow educational opportunities in the bush. We have partnered with them on a special grant to encourage Home Tutors to study the Vocational Training Program. The first 15 Home Tutors to successfully complete the program will be able to apply for a one off payment of \$300 to assist with the costs associated with studying this course.

Last year ICPA NT assisted three Home Tutors with a small grant to help them with some of the costs associated with travel and accommodation to complete their placement in Certificate IV in School Based Education Support. We are delighted to share that all three Home Tutors successfully completed their Certificate and are still working as Home Tutors in 2025. One of the Home Tutors has even continued studying and enrolled in a Bachelor of Education. This is a great outcome and highlights the importance of continuing to develop training pathways for Home Tutors.

Please see below testimonies from them we would like to share:

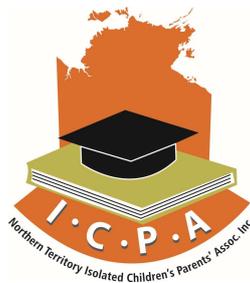
Lara *“The most interesting material has been learning about ASD and the various behaviours displayed by children and youth. This is something that I had limited exposure to previously, and I have really enjoyed furthering my learning and understanding in these areas.”*

Meeka *“I have been able to have a better understanding of child development which has helped me in my role as a home tutor on a remote station. I have learnt many new skills as well as been exposed to resources that would not have been possible otherwise.”*

Katy *“Hearing different ideas and methods from other people has opened my eyes to things I’d never even considered implementing in our own classroom, and it has been fantastic to have the support and friendship connections with other Home Tutors completing this course.”*

ICPA NT would like to grow and expand their engagement with Home Tutors in general across the Territory. As part of this new initiative we will be working towards releasing a Home Tutor specific grants program to assist them with study opportunities.

We also approached Alice and Katherine School of the Air in regards to establishing an annual rural and remote education award at each school. This award is to celebrate the outstanding contributions Home Tutors make to rural and remote classrooms across the Northern Territory with the recipients receiving a monetary award of \$500.00 sponsored by ICPA NT. Katherine School of the Air proudly recognised the outstanding contribution of Steph Mackenzie at their end of year celebrations. We hope this award continues to inspire Home tutors in the future.



ICPA NT 2025

State Conference

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2024 AGM: ICPA NT State Council President's Report

Moira Lanzarin, NT State President

Country kids count in so many ways. Not only are country kids, our kids and therefore our heart and soul, but country kids are important and valuable everywhere.

Ask any secondary school who also caters for boarders re, the value of their boarding students from the country. I know this, because I was a boarder, my children are boarders and, Richard from ABSA tells us so. Boarders are the core reliable foundation that can be counted on to participate and excel. Strong values, work ethic, responsibility, independence, resilience and ability to positively interact with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, social classes and age groups are regularly sighted as important differentiating features of country children.

Our Country kids rank highly in diverse leadership and management positions. "Country kids are born CEOs" was the headline of a Financial Review newspaper article back in 2014. Stating that "Country kids are punching well above their weight in the office towers of corporate Australia, with 21 percent of our top chief executives from regional towns."

It is for all these reasons and so much more, why the work of ICPA is so important. Why we strive every day to ensure all children have equitable access to education, regardless of their geographic location. We work so hard to ensure that NO child falls through the cracks, because of where their family lives.

Yes, I am biased, but my heart swells with pride and emotion, seeing my own sons - now young gentlemen preparing to leave home again with confidence and enthusiasm for the 2025 school year. Seeing the social media posts of our other member families as they navigate the new year - into bush home classrooms and Schools of the Air, small schools, first time away to highschool and away from home, seasoned old hands, fresh faced tertiary or trade candidates.

It is not only the polite, hardworking, gifted and pleasant kids that count. It is all of our children. Our challenging ratbags. Those that only a mother could love and all in between. The station owners' kids, the kids at the isolated road house, the fencing contractor and the cleaner's kids. Every child counts. Every child deserves the opportunity to thrive and receive a quality education - regardless of where their family works and lives.

Just as we are all about growing our children and their education – ICPA provides a personal growth journey for parents and teaching staff. I love seeing the increasing confidence and capacity as new members come through, taking their turn in leadership roles, so ably supported by those who have been before.

ICPA has helped me grow and develop. Not just in my time as State Treasurer and now President but from a much earlier time too. I consider myself a child of ICPA. My school of the air and boarding school days in North Queensland were all the better because of the advocacy and actions of my Mum and others busy working at a Branch, State and Federal level of ICPA.

My task as NT State President is to lead the State Council in our advocacy to relevant stakeholders about state related issues. I also see my task as a conduit and connecting mechanism between all three groups and our stakeholders.

As I complete my third year as your NT President, and if you so choose commence my 4th and final year I take the liberty to reflect on the journey. For those who are unaware, ICPA NT Executive are limited to a maximum of 4 consecutive years in one role. At every AGM, all positions are declared vacant and can be contested. This good governance keeps the organisation fresh and with real lived experience.

The task of ICPA NT President was not one that I actively sought. I was already on the NT State Council as Treasurer and thoroughly enjoying and becoming comfortable with that role. But the President position needed to be filled and nobody was putting up their hand. I was capable, able and felt a sense of responsibility. In truth, I felt that I needed to take it on, like I needed a hole in my head. My father - my mentor, best friend and business partner - had just passed away from Cancer; both my sons - had just left home to start boarding school. Why would I need or want this extra responsibility and workload? In reality, ICPA was exactly what I needed. I didn't hold it up - it held me. It gave me purpose and clear direction on those difficult days where my motivation was low, where I struggled to get out of bed or put one foot in front of the other.

We have had a very stable State Council. They are an amazing and special group whose support and assistance means so much.. I am so proud of you all and thank you does not seem enough. Kiya Gill, Vice-President; Bec Osmotherly - Treasurer; Catherine Atkins - Secretary, Julianne Vlach - Assistant Secretary; Amanda Murphy - Publicity Officer; and Councillors - Connie Woods, Danyelle Haigh, Mel Kerr, Jacinta McInnery and Kerrie Scott. A huge round of applause please.

After 10 years of voluntary service to ICPA as NT Councillor, including the first 7 of these as Katherine Branch President, Kerrie Scott is standing down. It is with the uttermost respect and admiration that we acknowledge the tremendous contribution that she has made. It is with sadness that we are not able to do say that to her in person. Last minute change of dates and new work commitments meant she was not able to be with us today - we know she will also be in spirit and advocate for our bush kids at any and every opportunity.

Our last conference – Leaping into Learning, Feb 29 – so capably hosted by Alice Springs Branch in Alice Springs - seems like a world ago - and was certainly under much wetter & cooler conditions than this year!

We followed a slightly different process post conference with our motions. The full motion document was formally sent to the Education Dept CE, Karen Weston both privately and at the SEAG (School Education Advisory Group) meetings. The formal response to our motions are found at the beginning of this year's Portfolio reports. With the change of NT Government in August also came a change in the Departments. We welcome Susan Bowden to the role of CE and the creation of the Dept of Education and Training.

Individual meetings and delegations plus extensive follow up to your motions occurred throughout the year. The in-depth portfolio reports in your conference bags and available electronically from our Conference website, will give a comprehensive overview of some of our work to date. Further sessions

today will expand on these. The program has been designed so that there is also ample opportunity for networking, questions and sharing information. So please, make good use of that. Do not be shy - make a point of introducing yourself to someone you haven't met before. If something you wish to know hasn't been covered, ask.

The thorough and democratic process of our motions is a key attribute of ICPA. Taking this through to the next step of updating our actual Portfolio Policies is something that had not been occurring with our Policy Document last ratified at Conference in 2002. Constitutional clarity to this procedure has now been achieved and we sought and contracted interstate expertise from ICPA Qld Life Member and past federal Secretary, Kim Hughes to work with us and update these documents. It is with pride that we present these for you today. Each Policy objective is referenced by a carried Conference motion.

Attending Queensland's State Conference in Townsville last June was a huge privilege and a great eye opener for me. This cross-state collaboration, in person or virtually via, messenger, Zoom and emails is so productive. The annual Joint Councils meeting (Federal and State President and Secretaries) was hosted by ICPA WA in Perth early Feb. Treasurer Bec represented the NT in my stead with Secretary Catherine.

On a cheeky note, a huge shout out to an off-farm small business - Em at Saltbush Stretch - who sponsored an annual subscription to her online exercise tribe at the Federal Conference in Sydney. I was the final winner of the hotly contested auction item and have been thoroughly enjoying the benefits of regular mindfulness, exercise and stretching.

After an eventful bus trip via a very flooded and damaged Stuart Highway last March, we once again flew the ICPA flag at the NT Cattlemen's Annual Conference in Alice Springs, with an information booth. This exposure and interaction creates such an important connection and link between our combined membership base. We look forward to attending again this year and are so pleased to have NTCA President Henry Burke speak today and Executive Officer, Romy Carey here with us too.

I was back in Alice Springs for the third time in 2024, strengthening relationships and speaking at the Local Government of Northern Territory annual conference in November. There and at every opportunity possible, I reinforced that one cannot achieve economic development and advancement of the regions without looking after families. And to look after families, one must consider access to EDUCATION (and medical, communications and roads).

I would like to publicly acknowledge and unreservedly thank our ICPA fathers - our husbands and spouses. They most certainly are involved. But in the majority, their involvement is hidden from the public eye. In many instances, it is simply not possible for both parents to leave home, business and classroom, to attend conferences and the like. This practical sharing of tasks, of covering for each other, of moral support and sounding boards all contributes and enables us to do what we do. So please, on our behalf, thank your spouses, but also let them know that they are welcome with open arms to not only our social events but also, core business.

Please, enjoy the conference - take the time to learn something new from the people in the room - together we can make a difference. Together, we can make: Country Kids Count.

Thank you for entrusting me with the task of NT President.

2025 AGM: Katherine Branch Report



Constance Wood – Branch President

“What is the bravest thing you’ve ever said” asked the boy.

“Help” said the horse.

2024 was a hell of a year for almost everyone it seems, a year of incredible heartbreak and loss, a year that has highlighted more than ever, the trials and tribulations of living remote, not only the physical challenges, but the mental isolation so many feel. 2024 was also a year that has shown me the great strength and love of our community here in the North. I am often so thankful for the advocacy of the ICPA, but overarchingly what I am most thankful for, has been the friendships I have made through this organization and the support networks inherent within the ICPA that span all facets of bush living.

So, on to the good news stories of 2024!!

The Nutrien Auction held at the Katherine Show in July was an absolute roaring success raising over \$200,000. We had a new venue this year which enabled us more room and had the beautiful humans of ICPA Katherine keeping everyone fed. It is always an exciting feeling at this event and again, on behalf of the Katherine Branch I thank all the Katherine and extended territory community for their donations on both sides of the auction.

A special mention to events coordinators Meg Watters and Liz Cooke, a huge thankyou all the Katherine branch members who helped to facilitate this event, and as always we are grateful and honoured to be the recipients of the proceeds of this Auction – huge heartfelt thankyou to Ben Coutts and the team at Nutrien Ag Katherine for all of their hard work in coordinating this very special event.

With Lauren Hoare at the helm for her second year as sport camp coordinator and assisted greatly by Amanda Murphy 2024 saw another very successful sports camp in Mataranka, with approx. 80 children accompanied by their parents and home tutors. This is not only a wonderful opportunity for the children and their grown-ups to socialise with their peers, but also to engage in team sports and build on those important skill sets such as resilience, hand eye coordination, leadership and at times, compromise! All are valuable life lessons that are facilitated in a fun dynamic environment with their mates!

Sports participated in included soccer, dodgeball, netball, gymnastics ruby, boxing and softball. As always we must give a huge thanks to our volunteers keeping the camp well organised and everyone fed. This very special event would not be possible without the generous support of all our sponsors – but namely Santos, Plasson, Mataranka Roadhouse and Roper Gulf council and of course the funds raised by Nutrien Ag auction. Thank You all for your generous support enabling this opportunity for our bush kids.

Given that the Auction is so successful and the ICPA Katherine Branch are the grateful recipients of such a substantial amount of money, a sub committee was formed from the executive, and we were able to nut out a strategic plan for the Branches expenditure. This strategic plan has been presented to our members via the branch meeting in December 2024 for discussion and comment. The new strategic plan is still awaiting a final review and approval by our members to ensure that this money is distributed in a measurable and accountable way. It is extremely important that this money raised by our community is fairly and effectively distributed to our geographically isolated students, with the ICPAs policies and mission at the forefront of our intentions.

The Katherine branch is very proud to be able to offer a number of grants tailored to the varying needs of geographically isolated families. In 2024 we were able to pay out a total of \$85,000 in grants over the categories of ICT, Boarding, Personal Development and Extraordinary Opportunities.

The Katherine branch was also able to support a number of organisations and events via the form of donations and sponsorship.

During Term 4 of Katherine School of the Air in-school week, ICPA Katherine Branch were able to take the annual Art Awards to another level. With Sally Dyer as the driving force, students' work was entered, collected and displayed at the Buntine Pavilion in the Katherine showgrounds. We had a wide range of artwork presented with categories ranging from LEGO creations, Painted Pictures, Photography, Welded horseshoe art and silhouette cut outs. Parents, teachers, govies and kids were all able to view and vote on the art as well as the thoroughly entertaining auction run by the SOTA kids, auctioning off art donated by their peers to raise funds for the 2025 school excursion to Canberra. We certainly have some young auctioneers coming through the ranks, giving the old boys a run for their money!!

It was a thoroughly enjoyable night for all and a huge thankyou to everyone involved, an event I hope will become a fixture in the term 4 in-schools for years to come.

Katherine Branch was also able to send delegates to the federal conference in Sydney, giving strength to our federal motions and our families a voice in the lively discussion and debate that is a fundamental part of these gatherings. I was one of the delegates who attended the "Bridging the Divide" Federal conference. It was sobering and inspiring to hear of the many and varied challenges faced by bush families across the nation and the historical issues that the ICPA are still advocating for. It is crucial for those of us living in seriously remote areas to attend these conferences as in the NT many of our members have very unique circumstances that most of Australia could not even dream of. I feel that it is absolutely paramount that our children who live remote in the NT are given a voice, and their stories told to those who make the decisions in our country.

I feel like the general population and dare I say many in government hold some misconception of rural families particularly surrounding our choices (or lack thereof) in sending our children away to boarding school, the lack of understanding of the challenges faced and costs incurred in simply educating our children, and the vast isolation that many of us face in accessing something as simple as a doctors consult, let alone allied health or mental health services.

Our executive and committee of the ICPA Katherine Branch donate their time and skills to our advocacy. Vice President Bec Moh-Bell, Secretary Sally Dyer, Treasurers Amanda Murphy and Hanna

Blockland, Fundraising Coordinator Meg Watters, Sports camp coordinator Lauren Hoare, Publicity officer Jess Carone's and committee members Julie Richter, Annie Craig, Kerry Scott, and Megan Robinson. As Katherine President I also sit on the NT state council with an exceptional group of women led by President Moira Lanzarin. Thankyou Katherine Branch and NT state council for your service in 2024, all of us live very busy lives and still you find the time to put your shoulder to the wheel and lead our branch in its advocacy for our children's access to education.

In closing, I want to highlight and appreciate those strong and resilient families who make up our community here in the territory. Particularly our bush mums, these women not only hold pivotal positions in our businesses, homesteads, stock camps and are the heart of our communities out bush, but further to this you manage to educate the future of the bush, our children. GI mothers undertake an increased workload when our children reach school age. We've all held frustrations around our schoolrooms, financial burdens and many the sorrow of saying goodbye at the boarding school gate.

Our children deserve every opportunity to learn and fulfil their potential and hopefully bring valuable skills back to the bush. Each and every one of our members are the reason for the articulate, loving and unwavering advocacy of the ICPA NT.

2025 AGM: ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch Report

Danyelle Haigh – Branch President



Thank you Moira. For those that don't know me, I thought I'd start by breaking the ice & telling you a little about myself & my family & how I came about being ICPA Alice Springs Branch President for the 3rd year now.

My husband Anthony & I have 2 children, Heath 10 and Theo 5. We live 190 km north of Alice Springs on the old Territory Grape Farm now known as Athelle Outback Hideaway. We also travel to remote cattle stations drilling & installing water bores. We lived the nomadic life for 10 years travelling & drilling 10 months of the year, working around the clock - all with the 2 kids in tow. 3 years ago we decided to put down stumps here in the NT, give our kids some normality & stability. We now produce fodder crops, have a tourist park & attractions & only go out drilling for about 4 months of the year. Our boys attend school through Alice Springs School of the Air (ASSOA) & are taught by a governess at home & when we are on the road. We have been attending SOA since my eldest started schooling 8 years ago. We live an extremely busy but exciting life & although it took the kids a little to adjust to this, they are now thriving.

ICPA holds a very special place in my heart. When I first heard about ICPA, 6 or so years ago it was my first in-school with ASSOA and my first preschool baby. I was still so naive when it came to education in the bush and the inequity that we will face in our years ahead. I met this lovely group of passionate people who I have since made long lasting friendships with, that all were experiencing the same or something similar to what we were. I soon found myself wanting to be a part of this revolution, this group that were making real changes to bush families.

I took the leap and haven't looked back since. Every time I attend an ICPA event whether it be a branch meeting, state conference, federal conference, a dinner or social event I walk away feeling inspired! Even though there can be some intense debates, conflicts of interest or some real tears it always comes back to each & every one of those people all feeling something, all going through something but all wanting the same outcome for our families - Equity!

As I reflect on 2024 it was such a huge year for our branch. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved and all with the help of my amazing committee Kiya Gill, Benji Quilliam, Amanda Kimpton, Katy Hayes, Georgie Hamlyn, Amanda Brown, Julianne Vlach & Grainne Martin. We delivered first aid & CPR training; the ongoing home tutor program; a sports day and colour run; lego fun days, movie night, our in-school meet & greet functions; the strong attendance from our branch members at meetings; and our exciting Christmas party partnered with ASSOA - Alice Springs School of the Air. We have welcomed so many new & old faces to our branch. Our committee brought back the annual Central Desert Christmas party, which was held at our place, Athelle where families travelled hours to enjoy the celebration. Benji Quilliam, our priest organised the Christmas carols, Kiya Gill organised the Christmas crafts, Bandi-Lee organised Santa, I organised the water activities & the most important thing according to all the kids - the slushy machine. Everyone bought all this yummy Christmas food & we had the biggest feast. It was the most magical day with so many memories made. Even though it was a lot of work it was so worth it, to see all the kids & even the adults smiling faces playing & mingling with each other. Looking forward to celebrating each year with all the locals.

We have tried new things for our families: all having successful feedback & number turnouts. We were able to offer these events because of the amazing amount of support we have received from sponsors, donations and grants. We have continued to support RaisEducation and KICS in 2024 and hope to continue our contribution to them in 2025.

In term 4 of 2024 I was flung back into the school room after 6 years out of it. So much has changed since I first taught the kids through Alice Springs School of the Air. We use Zoom now instead of React, I have 2 kids in the school room now, we have reliable internet & up to date resources/electronics not like when we first started - we were all paper based and mailed out. It was fantastic to see how much has changed & improved with all the new technology & different ways of teaching and learning. It certainly made it easier on me trying to get my head around it all and transition back into the classroom. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching my 2 boys and how they have thrived with having mum as their teacher. Watching them learn and grasp concepts made my cup fuller every day. I've realised since being thrown back into the school room in term 4 that it is very important for the parent to be actively aware and involved with their child's schooling. I've been so lucky to have had such amazing and fantastic governesses over the past 6 years that I entrusted them with my children's education & that I never bothered learning the new and up to date ropes of the schooling system. I'm so glad I'm all over it now, not only did I enjoy my time in the school room and watching them learn but the kids loved it too. It was also a good way to make sure the kids are at the level they need to be for their ages and if all the work is being completed etc. As we embark on a new adventure in 2025 we are so excited for what lies ahead with my eldest in his last year of primary school, year 6 and my youngest about to start his journey in primary school, year 1. I have hired a more mature governess, Paula this year to take the reins and educate my eldest as it is his most important year before boarding school and leaving home. Paula has just celebrated her 70th birthday with us and is working out to be the perfect fit for our family. I've already seen an improvement in Health. I've decided to take my youngest under my wing this year so we can concentrate on building the right foundations for him from the beginning! We are all pumped for a successful year!

I'm fortunate enough to sit as President of our branch but also as a councillor on the NT State Council. This in turn has helped guide me through my president's role and kept me informed, up to date and helps link me in so I can report back to my branch with what's happening on a state level. It has been great being part of the bigger picture. I anticipate some great delegations when we attend in Darwin later this year.

Looks like 2025 is panning out to be another big year for our branch and with another amazing team behind me - Amanda Kimpton, Katy Hayes, Kiya Gill, Amanda Brown, Benji Quilliam, Brandi-Lee, Grainne Martin, Sally Muenster and Lara Grocke.

We are incredibly grateful that NTCA (Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association) have once again allowed our branch the opportunity to auction off items at their conference gala dinner in Darwin on the 21st of March. This is our biggest fundraiser for our branch, we are filled with gratitude that NTCA gives us this opportunity. Myself along with my amazing committee member, Kiya Gill have managed to source 6 unreal items, even a 'drive the NT' package showcasing some of the wonderful destinations from Alice to Katherine. We are so blown away by the generosity of our sponsors and how big their hearts are when it comes to supporting our GI families. Thank you to Grundfos, Discovery Parks – Katherine and Alice Springs, Elders Alice Springs, Bordin Bros, McArdles Freight, Athelle Outback Hideaway, Heli-Muster NT, Hastings Deering, Jervois and Senturion Steel.

We will have more first aid training; the newest home tutor course starting this year; a sports day and colour run; more lego masters; pizza & movie nights, more grant offers; and so much more.

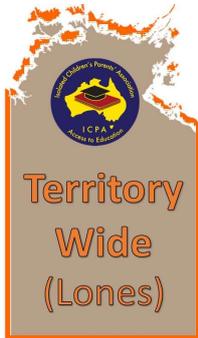
Due to the amazing support our branch has received from sponsors and donations we were able to award some well-deserved grants out for 2024. The Junior Personal Development Grant was won by Beau Costello. Beau will be using his grant to attend Scienceworks in Sydney in April this year. The Senior Personal Development grant was won by Hayley Nicolle, who will be using her grant to purchase a new laptop for school. The ASSOA grant was awarded to Ashlee Saint for her future schooling. We also had 2 runners up, for the Junior Personal Development Grant it was Alice Quinn who will be using it towards circus school & for the ASSOA grant it was Aaron Hayes going towards a Macbook laptop for boarding school.

As I embark on my third year as Alice Springs branch President, I am excited for the year that lies ahead and focused on making it another successful year for our branch and our families!

Thank you.

2025 AGM: ICPA NT Territory Wide (Lones) Branch Report

Member Officer - Jacinta McInnerness



The Territory Wide Branch is the 'Lones' branch which means it is for those members that do not associate with the main branches of Alice Springs or Katherine or for those members who do not want to be actively involved with branch meetings or committees.

Territory Wide Branch is proud to have a current membership of 28. The branch had three members attend the 2024 State Council Conference in Alice Springs in February with Clair O'Brien and Sue Wilson as delegates.

Sue and Annie Hesse represented the branch as delegates at the 53rd Federal Conference in Sydney in July 2024. Sue commented that it was a pleasure and an honour to represent Territory Wide at the Federal Conference and that having ten (10) Northern Territory representatives from NT State and all three NT Branches was a significant milestone. Jacinta McInnerness from Territory Wide Branch attended as a delegate for NT State Council.

Jacinta has also been fortunate to fly the flag for our Territory Wide Branch when attending the 2024 Delegation to Darwin in October to meet with NT Government Ministers and other important stakeholders.

Territory Wide Branch is thrilled to have six members here at our 2025 State Council with Clair O'Brien and Sara Barker as delegates. We are honoured to have Clair as our most senior and experienced ICPA member attending today's Conference. Clair has been an ICPA member since 1980, is a Life Member of Far North Queensland Branch and has served on Queensland State Council and Federal Council. New ICPA members are in good hands to be mentored by Clair.

Territory Wide Branch would love to welcome new members, so please feel free to reach out if you are interested in joining our small but very active 'Lones' Branch.

2025 AGM: ICPA NT Treasurer's Report

Treasurer - Rebecca Osmotherly

I am able to table the 2024 audit report, completed again by Venissa Mather, Your Local Audit, Darwin. The 2024 audit has been completed with no issues. The net surplus for the year was \$24,193. The surplus is similar to 2023. We again received one-off income related to the Federal Conference held in Darwin in 2023. Venissa Mather has been the auditor for several years. It is good governance to change auditors regularly. This year I approached three accounting firms in Darwin for quotes and received no responses.

On behalf of ICPA NT I offer our appreciation of support from the Department of Education and the grant we receive.

We received some lovely donations from members, thank you very much. Thank you to Katherine Branch for your generous donation of \$5,000. Thank you to Alice Springs Branch for your generous donation of \$10,000.

The council was able to support its members through grants.

In 2024 we were able to award a new grant to Home Tutors to support their travel for placements.

Membership

Katherine Branch – 67

Alice Springs Branch – 56

Territory Wide (Lones) Branch – 23

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

MOTION: That the 2024 Audited Financial Report be accepted.

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

MOTION: That Venissa Mather, Your Local Audit be appointed the auditors for 2025

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

MOTION: That the NT component of annual membership fee for 2025 remain at \$25

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

2025 AGM: ICPA NT Website

NT Webmaster - Susanne Wilson

www.icpa.com.au/nt

This report summarises the ICPA NT website maintenance and update efforts throughout 2024 - 2025. The primary focus has been ensuring the website remains a reliable and up-to-date resource for our users.

Throughout the year, as webmaster I earnestly addressed various tasks, including:

- Regular content updates: I ensured timely News postings to keep information current and relevant.
- Content update and maintenance: I updated content as new content became available and endeavoured to update the website with historical information.
- Updated the Conference website with relevant information as it became available.
- Liaised with Branches regarding their wishes for their web pages.

This report will elaborate on these efforts, highlighting key challenges, and solutions, for a high-quality website experience. I will also outline suggestions for the coming and subsequent years, emphasising continuous improvement and providing a robust online platform for our users.

Regular content updates

While the current job description specifies monthly website updates, a more frequent approach is necessary to keep our members fully informed of the latest news and events. To that end, I have frequently monitored social media channels for relevant content published by our State and Branch Publicity Officers. When appropriate, I've proactively added this content to the State and/or Branch websites, carefully considering placement and priority to maximise visibility.

To further enhance the timeliness and quality of website updates, I encourage Publicity Officers to share original copies of their social media posts with the Webmaster upon publication. This will allow for quicker posting and ensure the use of high-resolution images for optimal viewing.

Naturally, content continues to be submitted by State and Branch Councils for website inclusion, and I've made every effort to publish these submissions promptly.

Content update and maintenance

I've made good progress in revitalising the website over the past year, bringing its content up-to-date and enhancing its value to our members. Initially, I prioritised updating the "Our Team" section with profiles of the newly elected State Councillors. Building on this foundation, I've systematically enriched the site with new resources and refreshed existing content.

Key accomplishments include:

- **Resources:** I've added several important documents, including the 2024 Constitution, our Values & Vision statement, the 2023 ICPA NT Conference Minutes, and the 2022 and 2023 Federal Conference Minutes. I've also created and updated records for motions from 2021 through 2024, ensuring accuracy and proper categorisation by removing incorrectly allocated items from the Motion Update section. Furthermore, I've compiled and added editions of "Down The Track"

since

2022.

- **Website Enhancements:** I've refined the Home page text for improved grammar and resolved a broken link to the Memberships section, enhancing user experience.
- **Profile Updates:** I've proactively updated Portfolio pages with new content as it becomes available, notably these were the key areas of Allowances, Early Childhood, and Tertiary and Training.
- **Branch Updates:** I've worked with the Branches to update their respective pages with new content, including the Alice Springs Branch Grants information and the Past & Present Councillor photo. Following the Branch AGMs, I've updated Branches "Our Team" profiles with supplied information and photos. We are currently awaiting some councillor photos to complete this process.

These improvements represent a substantial effort to ensure the website serves as a current and valuable resource for our members.

Conference & Conference Website Highlights

In mid-2024, ICPA NT launched our "Save the Date" campaign, complete with "Country Kids Matter" branding, and I developed the compelling "Calling all Champions of Country Kids!" promotional piece to accompany the announcement.

We encountered a minor technical hiccup with the "Save the Date" link in the News section. A quirky software issue occasionally redirected clicks to the ICPA SA website due to the "SA" in "Save." With the invaluable support of Mark and the Tech Team, the issue was resolved effectively and the campaign effectively engaged our target audience.

The dedicated 2025 Conference website, launched in January 2025, has become a central hub of information and engagement for attendees and stakeholders. Maintaining up-to-date and engaging content remains a top priority. I extend my sincere gratitude to President Moira for her invaluable guidance and meticulous proofreading throughout this process; her collaboration has been instrumental in creating a user-friendly, accurate and informative resource.

To further enhance the website's functionality and user experience, at the time of writing this, behind the scenes, I am implementing a dedicated "Motions" tab. This improvement streamlines access to critical information for our members, eliminating previous dependencies on the Tech Team and empowering users with direct access.

Branch Website Collaboration

Recognising the importance of strong branch representation, I initiated contact with all branches via email, requesting updated content such as Council group photos and suggesting engaging additions like AGM promotional materials. Understanding that our councillors are volunteers with limited time, I offered support throughout this process, understanding that not all priorities are the same and items may be expedited at different paces.

A productive phone conversation with Amanda K. from the Alice Springs branch provided valuable insights into their specific needs and aspirations for their branch page. Their innovative ideas, including a dedicated space for advertising 'govvie' vacancies, a "Supporters" tab to acknowledge diverse contributions, and an "Upcoming Events" section maybe even similar to the NT page carousel, demonstrate a commitment to enhancing their online presence. While these specific initiatives require further development, progress has been made in updating their existing information.

Following the Branch AGMs, I prioritised updating the 2025 Councillors' information in the relevant "Our Team" tabs, ensuring accuracy and reflecting the current leadership structure. This ongoing effort ensures our website remains a reliable source of information for our members and the public.

Recommendations for Enhancing Webmaster Effectiveness

My onboarding as state Webmaster has been an opportunity to identify ways to enhance our online presence through streamlined processes and improved communication. I'm grateful for the Tech Team's helpful resources, especially the initial login credentials and State Councillor profile tutorial, which were invaluable in getting me started. While a more detailed handover from the outgoing Webmaster would have been beneficial, I understand that this isn't always feasible due to competing priorities. This makes it even more important to develop a robust introduction and orientation program for new Webmasters, ensuring everyone has the support they need to succeed. Discovering the Webmaster Manual four months into my tenure, while helpful, underscored the need for more proactive knowledge transfer. The Manual is a valuable resource and the creator of this should be congratulated. While I had independently acquired some of the manual's content knowledge through practical experience and Tech Team consultations, its limitations in Section 2, such as the lack of detailed information on Configuring Layouts, demonstrate the need for expanded resources. Therefore, I strongly recommend formal training, ideally from the outgoing Webmaster or through dedicated Tech Team sessions, particularly at the beginning of a new Webmaster's term. I appreciate that we all learn in different ways but I would appreciate demonstration by video or in-person, followed by practical application, rather than learning from text.

Effective communication is crucial for a successful web presence. While communication between the Tech Team and State Executive appears established, this information rarely reaches the Webmaster. The infrequent use of the Facebook Messenger group and the single teleconference I attended over the past year highlights a communication gap. To address this, I propose the establishment of regular Tech/Web group meetings to ensure everyone is informed and aligned.

Based on my experience attending Presidents' & Secretaries' meetings, I firmly believe a similar forum for Tech Team and Webmasters would be highly beneficial. These meetings, ideally scheduled after most state AGMs to accommodate potential new Webmasters, should be led by the Tech Team and focus on training, Q&A, and future planning. This would provide a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing and proactive problem-solving.

Furthermore, I recommend periodic invitations for the Webmaster to attend State Council monthly meetings. This would foster a closer working relationship with the Council, providing valuable insights into upcoming plans, initiatives, and events. It would also create a dedicated space for the Webmaster to proactively solicit website content and ensure timely action, while simultaneously allowing Councillors to express their website-related needs and preferences. These measures would significantly enhance collaboration and ensure the website effectively serves the organisation's strategic goals.

Conclusion

As my year as State Webmaster draws to a close, I reflect on a journey filled with both challenges and triumphs. From navigating technical hurdles to celebrating the successful launch of key initiatives like the conference website, the past year has been a dynamic learning experience. The thrill of swiftly responding to urgent requests, the satisfaction of seeing projects come to fruition, and the occasional frustration of unforeseen obstacles have all contributed to a rich and rewarding period. Looking ahead

to 2025, I approach the possibility of continuing in this role with a blend of anticipation and grounded optimism. I am eager to build upon the progress made, address the remaining challenges, and further enhance the organisation's online presence. I believe the experience gained this year, coupled with a proactive and collaborative approach, will allow me to contribute even more effectively in the coming year, should I be entrusted with the Webmaster position once again.

2025 AGM: ICPA NT Down the Track Report

(Written by Moira Lanzarin)

Annie Hesse of Katherine eagerly answered the call to take on both Editor and Publisher of Down the Track magazine at the 2024 Conference and AGM after the social media campaign advertising the opening. Annie is a practicing free-lance journalist and a long-time friend and supporter of ICPA. She became a Territory Wide member and attended the ICPA conference in Alice Springs and represented Territory Wide as a Delegate at the Federal Conference in Sydney.

President, Publicity Officer and State Councillors spent considerable time with Annie in-person and virtually, bringing her up to speed. Past Editor, Annika Bell completed the post 2024 Conference edition #94. All email and electronic file access was handed over.

The advertised and distributed Job description with terms and conditions is as below. Both editions were late getting to members. A beautiful 64-page electronic flip-book, edition #95, was produced by Annie Hesse and distributed to members from the Secretary via email in December. Annie was due to print and post out a slightly modified edition early in the new year. This did not occur as Annie resigned from the position. The President and Treasurer took this edition through to print and mail out stage so that members and stakeholders could receive their hard-copy edition.

In light of this, a motion has been developed to review what members would like to see for the future of Down the Track magazine.

Position Description

Down the Track is the member magazine of ICPA NT. It is to be published two times a year. April and October are the months for publication with the themes as "Dry Season" and "Wet Season".

The role of the Editor/Publisher is:

- 1. Contact members for stories/photos and other contributions*
- 2. Organise and promote advertising for magazine. Correspond with Treasurer to ensure invoices are distributed promptly.*
- 3. Publish magazine for distribution electronic and hard copy*
- 4. Liaise with ICPA NT committee for up to date mailing list supplied by Treasurer in a specific format ready for labels*
- 5. Liaise with printers*

6. Organise distribution of magazine by post and electronically including labelling. Pages must be taped closed to negate use of envelope.

Conditions of Contract

The Editor/Publisher of the magazine is renewed annually at the ICPA NT Annual General Meeting which is held February/March. The terms and conditions of the contract are as follows:

1. The magazine will be published at least two times per year, April & October.
2. The April edition must include Branch AGM updates & President's reports, NT AGM update & President's reports, Grant stories (children's acquittals). October edition must include a federal conference report.
3. Editor must report to President and Secretary or Treasurer on a monthly basis prior to State Council monthly meetings to advise progress of publications.
4. Source advertising income to assist with the costs of publication
5. Notify and work with Treasurer for invoicing and payment of advertising
6. The magazine should have between 20-40 pages of content.
7. All editions need to be proofed and approved by ICPA NT nominated person prior to publication (default to President unless otherwise said)
8. Distribution list must be checked and updated prior to distribution of each edition (list supplied by Treasurer in specific format ready for labels).
9. Organise printing and distribution. (Currently the magazine has its pages taped together prior to distribution and postage labels applied)
10. Post magazines
11. Printing and postage invoices are sent to Treasurer for payment or reimbursement
12. Editor to generate invoice for agreed fee per edition once each edition is completed and distributed
13. If work is being done on a PRO BONO basis, the individual or business will be acknowledged as a key SPONSOR (in print and web material)
14. Sign and abide by ICPA NT Confidentiality Clause.
15. Ideally the recipient would be a member of ICPA with a proven record or interest and understanding in the Association and advancing the interests of "Equity in Education Outback". If you are not yet a member but keen to be one - The Territory Wide Branch is probably the most appropriate. Joining is very simple through our online portal. www.icpa.com.au/nt/membership

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Archivist Report

NT Archivist - Ruth Woerle

Since 2008 I have held much of the ICPA NT Archives.

What we have is mainly early days (beginning of NTICPA) – State Records, Alice Springs Branch, and Katherine Branch, past Gulf, and some (limited) Ashburton and Barkly Branch records. Thankfully, in the past our records were compiled and saved in quite meticulous order. Obviously events such as

floods, vermin and general wear and tear, have challenged that a little, however, organisational planning was great, which is a tribute to our founders.

I have some material from more recent years; however, I have received very little of recent times. One of the reasons will be that much of what we have now is held on our computers – a first world issue all archives must be facing. However, there may be printed matter with members which could be forwarded to me – if in doubt of its relevance please contact me and we can decide what is appropriate.

Ideally, if everyone who has held an ICPA position in the last few years could forward me whatever they have – if it's in a digital format, Liz Bird and Moira recently created an nt.icpa.archives@gmail.com Google account with lots of space to store any of our stuff we have stored electronically.

- **Relevant are Audit reports** – which each branch will have had to submit each year to the Department of Business after official audits took place – usually at the beginning of the year.
- **Minutes of Branch meetings** – particularly the **AGMs** with details of the incoming committee members etc.
- **Minutes of State council meetings** - particularly the **AGMs** with details of the incoming committee members etc.
- **Photographs** of events, fundraising activities, incoming new committee members group photos etc

2025 AGM: ICPA NT Grants Report

Grants Officer - Helen Harding

Post Secondary Applicants \$1500

Closing date extended - NOW DUE Mon 17th March 2025.

Zoetis Applicants \$1500

Closing date extended - NOW DUE Mon 17th March 2025.

Home Tutor Award \$500

Steph MacKenzie (Katherine School of the Air)

A review of the NT Grants is being undertaken to ensure grants offered are more relevant and useful to members.

Keynote Speaker

Merryn Hughes

Currently Clinical Operations Manager at headspace Darwin, Palmerston and Katherine, a youth mental health service for 12 -25 year olds. Merryn holds a Bachelor of Social Work and has lived and worked in the Northern Territory for the past 20 years. Merryn has extensive experience across both Government and Non Government organisations, within the mental health sector, Family and sexual Violence domain and Child protection fields. Merryn spent several years in private consultancy bringing social and emotional wellbeing programs to isolated and remote students, teachers and families.



The MindUp program, building stronger healthier brains for a better future, is an evidence based program that Merryn has utilised within her work and continues to do so.

MindUP - developed by neuroscientists, educators, psychologists and researchers, helps children self regulate and understand their own emotions, moods, and behaviours; reduce stress and anxiety; sharpen concentration; increase empathy; and improve resilience and academic performance.

With a strong passion and belief that "Country Kids Count", Merryn is an advocate for mental health programs in our educational systems across Australia.

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