



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

Advocating for equitable access to education for students in rural and remote Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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Stronger Together, Even When We Are Apart, 50 years on



In a milestone year for the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, the iconic town of Longreach in the heart of Queensland will host the 50th Anniversary annual ICPA Federal Conference on Wednesday 28 July and Thursday 29 July 2021.

Over 200 past councillors, delegates and guests will gather at the Civic and Cultural Centre, both in person and virtually to do what ICPA does best - consider motions, discuss current and longstanding issues and ensure the pathway to equity for all rural and remote students at a federal level is armed with the most relevant, grass roots advocacy possible. The 'Stronger Together' Conference theme will be aptly emphasised with many 50th Anniversary activities weaved into the program, including a Panel presentation featuring a number of the very early ICPA (Aust) pioneers, which will be facilitated by Professional Communicator and Podcast Host Jayne Cuddihy. Attendees will also be treated to various displays and presentations celebrating 50 years of ICPA along with a special line of anniversary souvenir merchandise.

ICPA (Aust) President Alana Moller is confident delegates and guests will leave this year's Conference informed, empowered and inspired with a strong line up of Branch and State Council Conference Motions to be tabled relating to geographically isolated students access to education. Mrs Moller says, "Longstanding issues such as the need to increase the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) along with implementing a Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) feature on the Agenda. Motions around rural and remote connectivity and the need for a uniform approach to COVID-19 border restrictions for interstate boarding school students will also be heavily discussed."

Keynote speaker, internationally renowned Australian poet and MC Rupert McCall will no doubt entertain and energise the audience with his unique and spectacular talent. The Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC) will also conduct a panel providing the opportunity for attendees to give feedback on their rural and remote communications experience. The Outback Alliance, nbn Co, Telstra and a variety of education stakeholders will also feature in the program. Federal Council is optimistic that various Members of Parliament and Senators will also be in attendance to hear members' experiences first-hand.

With the ongoing unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions, Federal Council will implement an online voting platform and conference live streaming. Mrs Moller says, "We are committed to ensuring attendees who are no longer able to travel can still participate virtually. Federal Council are extremely grateful for the amazing assistance of the Queensland Convening Committee, who have gone above and beyond to create what is sure to be an outstanding Conference in these erratic times."

More information can be found on our [Conference website](#), [ICPA website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) with the hashtag #ICPAconf21.

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