



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

MEDIA RELEASE

2 May 2019

Break the Education Drought for Isolated Students



With three weeks remaining until the Federal Election on 18 May, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association is looking to see the education drought broken with commitment from political parties to address the inequity of access to education in rural and remote Australia.

Top issues in the ICPA election campaign are four high priority topics that have been brought to politicians' attention during meetings with Federal Council for some time:

- The Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance to be extended to the 200 preschoolers studying by distance education.
- Financial recognition of Distance Education Tutors for their supervision of the 1500 families studying by distance education.
- An increase in the AIC allowances to help rural and remote families afford compulsory education for the 11,000 children who have no daily access to face-to-face schooling due to distance and a Rural Hardship Education Fund set up for assistance through prolonged drought or other times of rural hardship.
- A Tertiary Access Allowance is required to allow rural and remote students' access to further study to address the inequity in Australia where more than 45% of people aged 25-34 years in our cities have a bachelor degree or higher qualification, yet this drops to 21% in the regions.

ICPA President Mrs Wendy Hick said, "ICPA (Aust) is adamant that families in rural and remote Australia must have affordable access to education and the incoming Government needs to take action and offer a commitment which will ensure viability for the future of outback communities."

Further information regarding the above can be found at this [link](#).

For further information and comments please contact:

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