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## Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

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### **Important In Home Care (IHC) Update - COVID-19 5 April 2020**

ICPA (Aust) has had numerous members raising concerns over the recent COVID-19 [ECEC Relief Package](#) announced last Thursday, 2 April 2020 with its 50% reduced funding implications for IHC service providers and educators.

After speaking with a representative from Minister Tehan's office this morning, ICPA (Aust) has been advised to forward the following information to our member families so that their IHC educators can also access one of the supplementary funds indicated below:

- Examine the JobKeeper information at <https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper> to check with your IHC educators that they are eligible to receive this upcoming payment (which will start from 1 May 2020 and be backdated), and for them to confirm this with their service provider.
- If they are not eligible, IHC educators should be able to benefit from the upcoming Exceptional Circumstances payment which will be available for their service provider to apply for, on their behalf, from this Thursday 9 April 2020, on the Dept of Education, Skills and Employment website at <https://www.dese.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19>. This will also be backdated.
- In the meantime, child care services will be paid double this coming week. They will receive their arrears payment as usual plus their payment for the following week, which would be forwarded to their educators.

This package will enable IHC member families to receive free child care similar to Long Day Care and other Child Care Centres during the COVID-19 crisis after which the regular Child Care Subsidy will apply. Families are not allowed to subsidise the educators in any way and in fact, educators should be better off accessing one of the above extra payments during this pandemic.

Please encourage your IHC educators to keep in contact with their service provider at this time and if there are any further concerns about this contact Jane Morton, ICPA Federal Early Childhood Portfolio Leader at [jane@icpafc.org.au](mailto:jane@icpafc.org.au) and we'll see what we can do to help.