



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

MEDIA RELEASE

22 June 2020

Long-Standing Campaign Finally Pays Off for Rural Uni Students



The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia, ICPA (Aust) welcomes the recent announcement by Minister for Education the Hon Dan Tehan MP outlining the implementation of measures from the *National Regional, Rural and Remote Education Strategy* to assist students from rural, regional and remote Australia to participate in and attain a tertiary education.

Relocation costs to access a tertiary education have been a major obstacle for many rural and remote students. The tertiary education access payment announcement addresses this long-standing issue. Other regional, rural and remote education reforms announced will further promote the ability of rural and remote students to access and attain a tertiary education and ICPA (Aust) also welcomes these announcements. These are positive steps in closing the rural and remote-urban divide that currently exists and these commitments will level the playing field for rural and remote tertiary students across Australia.

ICPA Federal President Alana Moller said in response to the announcement, "The reforms announced by Minister Tehan are a positive and encouraging step towards ensuring that rural and remote students who wish to participate in tertiary education are supported to reach their potential."

ICPA (Aust) is extremely pleased that the Federal Government has acknowledged the difficulty rural and remote tertiary students face in gaining access to the educational opportunities that their urban counterparts currently enjoy.

Concerns have been raised about elements of the Job Ready Graduates Plan specifically regarding the increase in some course costs and the implications of this for rural and remote students. ICPA (Aust) acknowledges the challenges and unease this has caused and will endeavour to express these concerns where possible.

ICPA (Aust) is cautiously optimistic following on from the Government's announcement and will continue to advocate for rural and remote tertiary students to ensure they are not disadvantaged by where they live.

The full media release on the reforms announced by Minister Tehan can be found here.

<https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/tertiary-reforms-unleash-potential-regional-australia>

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