



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

MEDIA RELEASE

20 October, 2019

Senate Supports ICPA Call for Rural Hardship Education Fund



ICPA (Aust) Immediate Past President Wendy Hick (L) and ICPA (Aust) President Alana Moller (R) with Senator Pauline Hanson

ICPA (Aust) are excited to announce that rural and remote families are one step closer to the establishment of a much-needed Rural Hardship Education Fund following the passing of a motion put by Senator Hanson in the Senate on Thursday 17 October 2019.

The motion called for the Federal Government to consider putting in place a Rural Hardship Education Fund or other options to assist geographically isolated students and their families with educational expenses during times of rural hardship. It was supported by the Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries and Senator for Tasmania, Senator Duniam, and Senator Faruqi, Senator for NSW and passed in the Senate Chamber during the ICPA (Aust) delegation to Canberra this past week.

ICPA Federal President, Alana Moller said “it is pleasing to see that as a direct result of ICPA Australia’s continued call for a Rural Hardship Education Fund to be established, the Senate has supported such a proposal. To see this measure be implemented will ensure rural and remote students’ education continues unchanged in times of drought and other rural hardship whether they are boarding away from home, attending a local rural school/kindergarten or studying via distance education.”

While drought continues to severely affect many rural families in several states, in particular Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, parts of Western Australia and recently the Northern Territory, rural hardship is not limited to drought. Some rural families are facing financial crisis through no fault of their own or their ability to run a viable business, including dairy farmers across Australia and communities affected by the 2019 catastrophic monsoon event in Northwest Queensland. A Rural Hardship Education Fund would ensure that assistance could be made available for children from these families who are not able to access mainstream schooling while living at home, and those who study by distance education or at a small rural school.

ICPA (Aust) will now call on the Federal Government to further consider the motion given this strong support and endorsement from the Senate.

A full outline of the proposal put forward by ICPA (Aust) is available [here](#).

For further information and comments please contact:

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