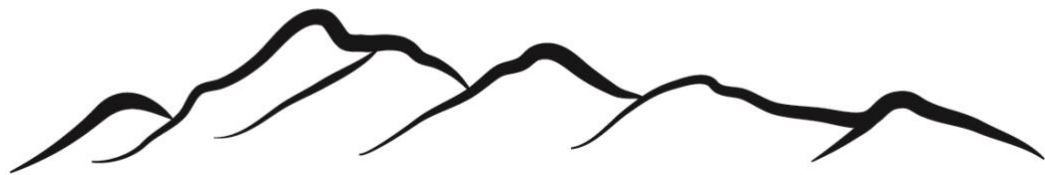




ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Advocating for rural and remote education

SA ICPA
47th Annual State Conference
Minutes
2018



RURAL EDUCATION THE RANGE IS FAR AND WIDE

FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH - SA ICPA

Contents

President’s Welcome	5
Conference Attendees	7
Conference Attendees	8
Apologies List	9
Conference programme.....	10
MOTIONS	12
Boarding School and Hostels	12
Communications	13
Distance Education	14
Early Childhood Education	17
Rural Schools and School Travel	19
Specific Education	21
Administration	22
Supplementary Motions	22
SAICPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2018	23
AGM Motions.....	23
Election of State Council Executive 2018-2019	24
Appointment of Branch Delegates to State Council Committee.....	24
PORTFOLIO REPORTS	25
Boarding Schools and Hostels.....	25
Communications	27
Curriculum	29
Distance Education	30
Early Childhood Education	32
Specific Education Needs.....	34
COUNCIL POSITIONS REPORTS	35
President’s Report	35
Treasurer’s Report	38
Lone Members Report.....	39
Newsletter Report – The Pipeline.....	39
Publicity Report	40
Open Access College Governing Council	40
SACE Board Parent Associations Report.....	41
GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS	43

Federal Council Report: Mrs Sally Sullivan, Federal Vice President.....	43
Opening address: Mr Keith Slade	46
Key note speaker: Dr John Halsey FACE, FACEL(SA)	48
APPENDIX.....	51
Allowances for remote and isolated families	51
Financial Report	
Audit Report	

President's Welcome

Kerry Williams



Members and guests of the South Australian Isolated Children's Parent's Association.

On behalf of the SAICPA State Council I'd like to welcome you all back to Port Augusta for the 47th South Australian State Conference, hosted by the Flinders Ranges Branch. We have a unique organisation where almost everyone here has travelled vast distances to come together for the common goal of advocating for rural and remote education. Our range of supporters and members is indeed "Far and Wide".

A key purpose of our conference is to allow branches from across rural and remote South Australia to present motions for discussion and debate. Today you have an opportunity to have your voice heard and to help form the work of SAICPA over the coming year. Motions passed at conference are acted on throughout the year and also taken to our annual delegation in Adelaide. Comments and further information on motions as well as personal experiences are always welcome and really help council to understand the issue, so please speak up and have your say. An information leaflet on presenting and debating motions is on your tables and in a moment we will play a brief video created by Lisa and Max Hunt, to demonstrate how it all works.

Educating children in isolated areas is at times a lonely struggle, feeling disconnected from the wider community. It can be weeks or months between sharing a drink and enjoying casual conversation with a friend. Some families may have access to a local school, yet are isolated from the many services and opportunities of larger towns and cities. Despite the distances, our community remains strong and the success of ICPA over the years is a testament to that strength.

Our range is far and wide and yet when we do get a chance to come together we seem to pick up where we left off, catching up on news, having a laugh, or lending a sympathetic ear. It is wonderful to be able to bring our ICPA community together again today and this would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and the generous support of our sponsors. Thank you all for taking the time to support ICPA.

As always, we have a busy day ahead with several speakers and representatives from various organisations, followed by our AGM later this afternoon. So let's get on with the day and in no time at all we'll be kicking back at the dinner, being entertained by country music star, Adam Harvey!

ICPA's Flinders Ranges Branch and SA State Council
would like to thank the following sponsors
for their generous support of the
2018 State Conference:

Major Sponsors

**Outback Communities Authority
Oz Minerals
Connellan Airways Trust
Australian Boarding Schools Association
Telstra**

Sponsors

**Building Solutions SA
Elders
Dan van Holst Pellekaan
Rowan Ramsey MP
Willow Springs Station
Willippa Pastoral Company
Moolooloo Station
The Oaks Business
Office National
Flinders Bush Retreats
Flinders Ranges Council
Hawker General Store
Emily Jean Designs
Blinman Heritage Mine
Cradock Hotel
Woodsoak Wines
Reliable Petroleum
Oxted Enterprises
Chris's Mechanical Services
RJC Evans
Jeff Morgan Gallery
Hawker Hotel Motel
Teague's Hawker Motors
Stefanie Teague**

Conference Attendees

SA ICPA State Council

President: Kerry Williams
Vice-President: Belinda Hatcher
Secretary: Frances Frahn
Treasurer: Jill Greenfield
Immediate Past President: Lisa Slade
Publicity Officer: Mijanou Reynolds

Councillors: Sonya Fels
Jodie Keogh
Lynly Kerin
Petie Rankin
Helen Williams
Kirsty Williams
Lisa Hunt

Conference Convenor: Belinda Hatcher

SA ICPA Branch Delegates

Flinders Ranges: Michelle Hilder, Linda Haydon
Marla Oodnadatta: Kirsty Williams, Paulaine Vermeulen
Marree Air: Jess Bell, Jodie Keogh
North East: Leisa Breeding, Kristina Crawford
North West: Lynly Kerin, Petie Rankin
Port Augusta: Kate Greenfield, Amanda Michael
Lone Members: Lisa Hunt

SA ICPA Branch Observers

Flinders Ranges: Sonya Fels, Luke Frahn, Daniel Hatcher, Keith Slade, Emilee Warnest
Marla Oodnadatta: Helen Williams
Marree Air: Fiona Loudon-Shand
North East: Roslyn Breeding
North West: Edwina Bowie, Candice Brown, Joanna Gibson, Jo Ridsdale
Port Augusta: Colleen Manning, Stefanie Roeske

Conference Attendees

POLITICIANS

Mr Dan van Holst Pellekaan	Member for Stuart, Minister for Energy and Mining, representing the Minister for Education
Mr Rowan Ramsey	Federal Member for Grey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Mr Robin Harkin	Education Director, Far North
Ms Karen Humphries	Assistant Director of Business Services
Ms Julie Taylor	Executive Principal, Open Access College
Ms Casey Hall	Senior Leader, Open Access College
Mr Daren O'Neill	Principal, Hawker Area School

ICPA

Mrs Sally Sullivan	Vice-President, Federal Council
Mrs Diane Skene	Federal Council

ICPA LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Jane Gloster	Federal Life Member
Mr Bob Baker	SA ICPA Life Member

INVITED GUESTS AND ATTENDEES

Mr Richard Stokes	Australian Boarding Schools Association (sponsor)
Mr Thomas Dunsmore	Australian Boarding Schools Association (sponsor)
Mr Mark Bolton	General Manager SA, Telstra (sponsor)
Ms Sue Lamshed	Corporate Affairs Manager, Telstra (sponsor)
Ms Jessica Le	Community Engagement, Telstra
Ms Colleen Grove-Jones	Elders (sponsor)
Ms Lalla Mackenzie	Senior Manager National Stakeholder Relations, NBN Co
Mr Mike Hayes	In2IT
Ms Trish Ellin	REVISE
Ms Georgy Ewing	REVISE
Mrs Mary Hook	REVISE
Mr Rob Kay	Executive Officer, RICE
Ms Kimberly Brown	Pre-school teacher, RICE
Ms Samantha Mundy	Operation Manager, RICE
Ms Renata Hackett	Secretary Management, RICE
Mr Bernie Dean	Immanuel College
Mr Paul Tosch	Lincoln College
Mr Eugene Evans	Rostrevor College
Ms Libby Twigden	Pembroke School
Mr Darin Betro	Westminster School
Ms Paula Osborn	Regional Development Australia Far North
Mrs Lyn Baker	SA ICPA Guest
Ms Sue Light	SA Lone Scouts
Ms Emma Wake	The Green Economy
Mr David Turnbull	Australian Scholarship Group
Mr Kevin Fernandes	Australian Scholarship Group

MEDIA

Ms Elizabeth Anderson	Stock Journal
Marco Balsamo	Transcontinental
Garth Burley	Southern Cross News

Apologies List

POLITICIANS

Premier Steven Marshall	Premier of South Australia
The Hon John Gardner MP	Minister for Education & Child Development
The Hon John Dawkins MLC	Parliamentary Secretary to Liberal Leader
Mr Peter Treloar	Member for Flinders

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Mr Rick Persse	Chief Executive Officer
----------------	-------------------------

ICPA

Mrs Wendy Hick	Federal President
Mrs Emily Gardner	President, TAS ICPA
Ms Elyce Donaghy	President, WA ICPA
Ms Kim Hughes	President, ICPA QLD
Ms Gillian Semple	Secretary, ICPA QLD
Mr Bruce Paynter	President, ICPA NSW
Ms Lisa Edwards	Marree Air Branch
Alan and Linda Harbour	Flinders Ranges Branch
Ms Di Thomas	Eyre Branch
Ms Jacki Matthey	Eyre Branch

ICPA LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs Glennis Crawford	SA Life Member
Mrs Sharon Nutt	SA Life Member

INVITED GUESTS

Brendan and Kat Bevan	Hawker General Store (sponsor)
Chris McCourt and Di Schories	Chris's Mechanical Services (sponsor)
Professor Martin Westwell	CEO, SACE Board
Ms Carolyn Grantsklans	CEO, Association of Independent Schools SA
Mr Mark Sutton	Director, Outback Communities Authority
Ms Cecilia Woolford	Chair, Outback Communities Authority
Ms Sandy Russo	Director, SPELD SA
Mr Robert Holtham	Centrelink
Mayor Sam Johnson	Mayor of Port Augusta

SA ICPA 2018

Conference programme



8:15	Registration Central Oval Complex, Port Augusta	
9:00	Conference Commences National Anthem School of the Air Song Welcome to Country President's Welcome Conference Convenor – Housekeeping Introduction of Guests	Hawker Area School Choir SOTA Students Kerry Williams Belinda Hatcher Frances Frahn
	Official Opening of Conference	Keith Slade
	State ICPA President's Report	Kerry Williams
	SAICPA Motion Debating Presentation	Max and Lisa Hunt
	Agenda Motions	
10:00	GUEST SPEAKER – Professor John Halsey	
10:30	Morning Tea	
10:50	Flinders Ranges President's Report/Presentation Agenda Motions	
	Communications Q&A panel Telstra, NBN and IN2IT	

SA ICPA 2018

Conference programme



- 11:45** **ICPA Federal Council Report/Presentation**
Agenda Motions
North East President's Report/Presentation
- 12:30** **Lunch**
- 1:30** **Port Augusta President's Report/Presentation**
Agenda Motions
Off the Track Training – Wake Up Session! Joy McClymont
- 2:00** **Secondary and Tertiary Boarding Q & A Panel**
Lincoln College, ABSA, Westminster School
- 2:45** **Agenda Motions**
Maree Air President's Report/Presentation
- 3:00** **Afternoon Tea**
- 3:20** **North West President's Report/Presentation**
Agenda Motions
Marla/Oodnadatta President's Report/Presentation
- 4:00** **AGM**
- 4:30** **Close of Conference**

MOTIONS

Boarding School and Hostels

Motion 1 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA thanks the former Minister for Education and Child Development, Susan Close, for extending the State Education Allowance to families receiving the AIC Second Home Allowance who have children in secondary school.”

Moved: Lisa Hunt

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

CARRIED

Motion 2 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA work with the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) to consider relocating the State Education Allowance (SEA) from the Transport Services Department to an area within DECD that more appropriately reflects the intention of the allowance.”

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Jill Greenfield

Explanation:

The SEA assists geographically isolated parents with children at secondary level who board away from home to attend school. It is intended to assist with travel, boarding and other expenses associated with the education of their children. Moving it to another area within DECD would allow for more flexibility in delivering the payment.

QUESTION: Karen Humphries, Assistant Director of Business Services, DECD

Could you please define the flexibility you are looking for?

COMMENT: Jill Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch

This allowance was not just designed for travel historically but for boarding cost. If not in the transport unit

COMMENT: Karen Humphries, Assistant Director of Business Services, DECD

The administration of this allowance is one thing, the payment process in another – a grants process.

Do you mean the needs/wellbeing of students should be taken into account or just the payment process?

COMMENT: Lisa Slade, Immediate Past President

Knowing the DECD Transport Dept has a limited budget we thought a different Department might be a better fit and open avenues to get that funding increased.

COMMENT: Karen Humphries, Assistant Director of Business Services, DECD

Happy to explore and work together on this. We can liaise with other areas of the Department. Comes down to resources available across the Department.

CARRIED

Motion 3 – North West branch

“That SA ICPA lobby the Department for Education and Child Development, Transport Unit to streamline and update the State Education Allowance for geographically isolated parents’ application form.”

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

The State Education Allowance is available to geographically isolated parents with children at secondary level who board away from home to attend school. The allowance assists with travel, boarding and other expenses associated with the education of their children.

The allowance can only be claimed by printing out the online form and posting it to the Transport Unit in Adelaide. The form currently available is out of date and has not been amended to remove the Remote Travel Allowance component (removed in 2016) and incorporate the inclusion of those families who are eligible for the Second Home Allowance.

COMMENT: Karen Humphries, Assistant Director of Business Services, DECD

The State Government ran a “Rip It Up” programme last year to look at abolition of paper-based forms. This form should now be pdf writable, but still has signature and declaration requirement from Centrelink. The database was updated last year so students should now receive letters either prompting for the application, or notifying of data received.

CARRIED

Communications

Motion 4 – Flinders Ranges branch

“That SA ICPA lobbies the Department for Education and Child Development to ensure **all** rural and remote children studying via Distance Education have access to the NBN Education Port where the family home is reliant on the NBN Skymuster Satellite for internet connectivity.”

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Linda Haydon

Explanation:

Currently children studying Kindergarten externally through the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) are not eligible for the NBN Education Port. We are asking for them to be included in this scheme. Students studying via Distance Education require a reliable internet connection and substantial amounts of downloads to successfully engage in their learning.

While the Skymuster Satellite has improved the reliability, connectivity and speed of internet access to families in rural and remote South Australia, the cost of plans and access to data still lags a long way behind what is available to those in urban centres. Access to the education port for all families with students learning via distance education will help ease the financial burden of families who pay exorbitant prices for comparatively substandard internet compared to those in the metropolitan areas.

CARRIED

Distance Education

Motion 5 – North West branch

"SA ICPA lobby the Minister for Education and Child Development to instigate the reinstatement of the Port Augusta School of the Air to be a stand-alone school."

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

Our members have strong concerns that the current arrangement of Port Augusta School of the Air coming under the umbrella of Open Access College is no longer beneficial or manageable. At the very least we are requesting that an investigation to the merits of the changes we propose be looked at by the Minister. We believe that it would be in the best educational interests of our students, staff and school community.

SPEAKER FOR: Colleen Manning, Life Member Port Augusta Branch

Requesting the Minister to investigate this motion is fair and reasonable. Over the course of its 60 years, SOTA has been both a campus of a much larger school and a standalone school in this Port Augusta District with full autonomy. Those changes occurred so that they could best meet the educational needs of the students at that time. Consideration of this motion is timely. This arrangement would best meet the needs of students

SPEAKER FOR: Petie Rankin, North West Branch

2027 is the final year my fourth child will be going through school, so I have a long road ahead of me. All we want is the absolute very best for our children and their education. This is definitely the best way to begin that process.

SPEAKER FOR: Joanna Gibson, North West Branch

Fully support the motion, just asking that the matter be looked at by the Minister.

SPEAKER FOR: Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch

A 2016 visit to Alice Springs School of the Air showed how important the central location of staff is to maintaining links to the local community.

CARRIED

Motion 6 – Marla Oodnadatta branch

"SA ICPA lobby the Minister for Education and Child Development to investigate the feasibility of making Port Augusta School of the Air autonomous."

Moved: Paulaine Vermeulen

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Explanation:

Our members feel that SOTA students are being disadvantaged in terms of available resources and the overall stability of the school. Whilst Open Access College has worked hard to accommodate our needs, it too often feels that SOTA is a minority that is overshadowed by the larger Marden. If SOTA was an autonomous school within the Port Augusta Region, it would allow greater involvement for students in community events, access to local student support services and allow staff to access local professional

development (PD) and networks. SOTA is the only educational service for our students and they are entitled to stability, continuity and a great educational service.

SPEAKER FOR: Jodie Keogh, Marree Air Branch

Since beginning with SOTA, a lack of consistent leadership has been a significant concern. It is very important that appropriate support is provided to very remote families.

SPEAKER FOR: Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch

Often SOTA students were unable to contact their teachers for support during school hours, particularly on Monday afternoons, as teachers were involved in school meetings at Marden. Unfair that students were missing out on essential support.

SPEAKER FOR: Colleen Manning, Port Augusta Branch

Investigating the feasibility of SOTA becoming autonomous is a very positive thing. It may assist with recruiting and retaining staff locally. The amount of travel involved might be a negative to staff when applying for the job through the bigger Marden campus.

COMMENT: Dan van Holst Pellekaan, as Member for Stuart

As the local member for Parliament, I recognise the importance of SOTA and support looking into this issue.

COMMENT: Rob Harkin, Education Director, Far North

A brief explanation of process from here, this goes to the Minister, the Minister would send it back to our Executive Director, we would prepare a briefing, Julie Taylor & I would both be part of that response as well as several other people. It would be worth looking at, I understand the frustrations with leadership and trying to fill leadership roles. If this came about SOTA would transfer to Port Augusta DECD partnership

COMMENT: Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch

The SOTA community has acknowledged the support of Open Access College and its Executive Principal, Julie Taylor, during this difficult time for SOTA without any leaders on campus.

COMMENT: Jane Gloster, Federal Life Member

ICPA should ask the Member for Stuart to request the Minister for Education keep the SOTA community involved in the process with the chance for feedback into this review.

CARRIED

Motion 7 – Flinders Ranges branch

“That SA ICPA lobbies the Department for Education and Child Development to provide dedicated, appropriate funding for School of the Air camps and face to face events.”

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Linda Haydon

Explanation:

Costs of school camp are increasing, and parents have to fundraise large amounts to subsidise the costs of attending the school’s main face-to-face event, which provides an opportunity for teachers to spend time with students in their classes who they otherwise do not spend contact time with. As the cost to SOTA families of attending the annual school camp is significantly greater than in many other schools, but the need for students to attend arguably greater, DECD should be able to fund a larger percentage of costs to maximise student and supervisor attendance.

While parents do not need to attend face-to-face SOTA events with students, practicalities of travel and the fact students are not familiar with their teachers and classmates in the way students at face-to-face schools

are, necessitate the majority of mothers to attend these events, often with pre-school children and governesses. Costs of attending these events can be a significant burden to families living in remote and isolated areas, as well as removing a staff member from the business for a week at a time.

Most SOTA families feel attending the face-to-face events is important to meet their children's educational needs and cannot be missed despite the costs.

CARRIED

Early Childhood Education

Motion 8 – Marla Oodnadatta branch

“SA ICPA work alongside the Remote and Isolated Children’s Exercise (RICE) Management Committee to ensure that the transition to new funding arrangements does not impact negatively on children and their families living in the remote and isolated towns, communities and stations in outback South Australia.”

Moved: Kirsty Williams

Seconded: Paulaine Vermeulen

Explanation:

RICE’s multidisciplinary service covers an area of approximately 655000 square kilometres, travelling by 4wd vehicles to visit children and their families. RICE provides the only access to a Preschool/Kindergarten Program for families living in remote South Australia, as well as hosting the Children and Family Services (CAFS) nurse, who offers child health checks and services for new mums.

There has been confusion and limited consultation with regard to the new funding arrangements taking effect on July 2nd 2018, and how this will affect the overall operations of RICE. We are requesting that ICPA and the RICE Management Committee communicate and monitor that the members of RICE continue to receive the same level and range of health, wellbeing, child care, early childhood education, and resources that they currently receive.

QUESTION: Lisa Slade, Immediate Past President

Would the Executive Officer, Rob Kay, be able to make a comment?

COMMENT: Rob Kay, Executive Officer, RICE

RICE received notice on 26th April that funding would be continued to cover existing services, but with no increase. RICE has been using accumulated funding to support services over the past few years. Current funding is where it should have been for the past few years. RICE has sent all information received out to members but there is still confusion and misunderstanding with the Commonwealth level services, especially mobile services. A meeting in Adelaide with the Department next week, hopefully final information will be provided to us, then we can provide to families.

QUESTION: Lisa Slade, Immediate Past President

Thankyou Rob. Please keep up the communication with ICPA.

COMMENT: Rob Kay, Executive Officer, RICE

NAMS, the National Association of Mobile Services is in contact with Federal ICPA.

COMMENT: Jane Gloster, Federal Life Member

This motion is asking State Council to do something, if you don’t have a State Council nothing will happen. Members should note it will be difficult for SAICPA to lobby without a complete executive.

CARRIED

Motion 9 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA lobbies the relevant ministers to support the continued provision of RICE services, so that the proposed changes under the Budget Based Funding model has minimal impact on families who utilise the service.”

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

Families are concerned that under the new funding model coming into effect in July, RICE will be unable to continue its current level of service and range of services to families. RICE is a unique organisation that provides a range of services beyond child care to remote and isolated families.

CARRIED

Motion 10 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA continues to work with ICPA Federal Council towards an appropriate and sustainable child care service for rural and remote families, including provision for home educators.”

Moved: Sonya Fels

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Explanation:

The new In-Home Care (IHC) guidelines coming into effect in July, now allow educators to supervise Distance Education out of ‘formal school hours’ (on-air with SDE/SOTA teacher). Hours outside of these ‘formal’ hours are classed as ‘homework’ and can be supervised by IHC educator with the family able to access the Child Care Subsidy. However, there are no families known in South Australia who school their children through Distance Ed that utilise the IHC scheme. Nanny SA (Hessel Group) is the main provider of IHC in South Australia and much confusion exists as to how the scheme will work if being utilized for Distance Ed (Governess). Supporting Federal Council by further investigation into how other states make the scheme work for them in a Distance Education setting is necessary.

SPEAKER FOR: Mija Reynolds, Flinders Ranges Branch

High fees under Nanny SA might be the reason people don’t use it, I really think we need a different service provider.

COMMENT: Kirsty Williams, Marla Oodnadatta Branch

Having spoken to Nanny SA, the carer would have to be employed by Nanny SA and we would be invoiced an hourly rate. As a family who live 80km from the nearest town, which is an Aboriginal community, the rules of IHC can be problematic. A carer can’t travel home every day and has to live with the family; Nanny SA couldn’t give us an answer to how this would work. Would we have to charge them an appropriate rent and board, it is too complicated.

CARRIED

Rural Schools and School Travel

Motion 11 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA continue to seek concessional airfares for rural and remote students who rely on air services to access an education.”

Moved: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Lisa Slade

Explanation:

For many students in rural and remote areas, the only option for secondary schooling is boarding away from home. Often flying is the most practical form of transport when returning home for an exeat weekend or school holidays. In some cases it is the only option to ensure the student has adequate time at home, without spending an entire weekend travelling. However, the cost of regional flights are prohibitive for most families. Rex has a “bush to boarding” scheme in some states in Australia, offering reduced airfares for students travelling to and from school. We would like to see this type of scheme extended to SA regional airlines.

CARRIED

Motion 12 – Port Augusta branch

“That SA ICPA request the Minister for Education and Child Development that they review the car allowance rate for transporting students to a school or school bus route on a daily basis if they live more than 5km from the nearest public school or school bus run.”

Moved: Kate Greenfield

Seconded: Amanda Michael

Explanation:

Our understanding is the rate is increased each year in accordance with CPI, however the current rate at around the 20c per km is not adequate considering vehicle costs today. We request that the rate be reviewed and increased to ensure that the rate is realistic with costs.

QUESTION: Mija Reynolds, State Council

ICPA learnt at previous delegations that there are a huge number of people claiming this allowance. I'd like to ask Karen Humphries, would it help ICPA's lobby to propose an increased rate for those who live a greater distance from a school or bus route? Change the 5km to a greater distance, to 30-40km for example.

ICPA to get specific information on how many families that would utilise that allowance to Karen Humphries.

COMMENT: Karen Humphries, Assistant Director of Business Services, DECD

This allowance is meant to be a contribution towards travel costs, not a full reimbursement. Changes are prohibitive as there are too many claimants under current rules. Increasing the rate for families a greater distance from the school might create a more substantial argument/submission to the Minister. The more information regarding the number of children, the distances required would be very helpful to further this forward.

COMMENT: Sally Sullivan, Federal Vice-President, ICPA

The Northern Territory has a rate of 45c/km, which is half the public service rate. Queensland pays 44c/km.

COMMENT: Lisa Slade, Immediate Past President

Could Port Augusta branch please help find out more information about this motion to help State Council at delegation?

COMMENT: Kate Greenfield, Port Augusta Branch

Port Augusta branch could work with Karen Humphries if required.

CARRIED

Specific Education

Motion 13 – Marree Air branch

“That ICPA State Council SA lobbies the appropriate ministers to include travel and accommodation allowances as part of the NDIS and PATS scheme for rural and isolated families travelling to access face to face allied health services.”

Moved: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Jess Bell

Explanation:

As part of early identification and intervention of special needs and learning difficulties, rural and isolated children require allied health services such as Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Mental Health services. These children have limited access to such therapies as distance allows only the use of technology, such as Skype or Telehealth, for regular therapy sessions. However it is necessary that the children and the therapist come face to face on a regular basis. The face to face sessions provide an opportunity for the therapist to perform assessments and gain a better standing on the child's needs and abilities, which then give accurate direction for therapy to go to meet the child's learning and developmental goals. To attend a session in person is extremely costly for families having to travel great distances, accommodation and living expenses while away. For children with special needs and/or learning difficulties, early intervention with allied health professionals is vital for the child to have a successful education. Current funding does not meet the needs of rural and remote families.

COMMENT: Sally Sullivan, Federal Vice-President, ICPA

This is a good motion. It is a national issue but a state responsibility. There is a glaring gap between health and education systems which special needs kids just fall in to. We have the same issue in the NT, if it is a medical issue the PATS scheme helps deal with it, if it is education related, travel & accommodation with that for special education needs and allied health needs, there is nothing. No Medicare rebate for accessing speech pathology via telephone even though there is for occupational therapy and mental health.

COMMENT: Edwina Bowie, North West Branch

Very fortunate several years ago, I applied under the NDIS scheme, an OT has been visiting my child at the station for three years. We have been very lucky to access this. The NDIS has come under cuts so I think this is really important to support the motion.

CARRIED

Administration

Motion 14 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA State Council host the 2019 State Conference via a web-based platform.”

Moved: Mija Reynolds

Seconded: Jill Greenfield

CARRIED

Supplementary Motions

Supplementary Motion 1 – North West branch

“That SA ICPA lobby the Minister for Education and Child Development and the Minister for Agriculture to implement post-secondary agricultural training targeting the Pastoral areas of SA.”

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

There used to be an On-Farm training course delivered out of Port Augusta where young people who were working on properties could attend and receive qualifications for the pastoral areas. This was abolished more than 10 years ago and since then there has been no formal training based in the Pastoral area for our young people. We are aware of substantial funding being used to educate Indigenous people in the North West of SA however we feel that this is leaving out young staff on pastoral properties.

There is an urgent need to up skill employees on pastoral properties so that they can be retained in the industry.

SPEAKER FOR: Colin Greenfield, Chair of Northern Branch, Livestock SA

There have only been ad hoc services for 10 years, and currently there is no formal certification for young pastoral employees. There is an urgent need for this in Port Augusta and Far North region.

SPEAKER FOR: Lisa Hunt, Lone Member

My husband completed a pastoral course years ago and found employment from it. My son has learnt a lot from employers but has no formal certification.

SPEAKER FOR: Keith Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch

It's important for young employees to have good habits from the beginning of their employment. Networking with their peers is also important. The old course helped develop basic skills.

COMMENT: Rowan Ramsey, Federal Member for Grey

TAFE is facing some difficulties at the moment. Suggest taking lobby to Minister Tim Whetstone. We need some reinvestment in the rural industry.

COMMENT: Keith Slade, Flinders Ranges Branch

This might be a good time to lobby for a new training scheme, with the change of Government, and a chance to seek reinvestment in rural education as it's such a good time to be in agricultural business.

CARRIED

SAICPA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2018

AGM Motions

1. "That the minutes of the 2017 conference be accepted."
Moved: Frances Frahn
Seconded: Mija Reynolds

CARRIED

2. "That the Financial Report be accepted."
Moved: Jill Greenfield
Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

3. "That the SA ICPA State Affiliation fee remains at \$22.00."
Moved: Jill Greenfield
Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

4. "That SA ICPA Lone Member Subs be \$45.00."
Moved: Jill Greenfield
Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

5. "That the SA ICPA financial records be audited by Ben Jenkin CPA."
Moved: Jill Greenfield
Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

6. Election of SA ICPA State Council Executive
All positions were declared vacant and the Chair was taken by Bob Baker.

COMMENT: Bob Baker, SA Life Member
*It's 29 years since I visited SA and very happy to be back.
A qualification in agriculture is more important than ever before, and I hope this can be restored.
As a former Chair of the South Australian Correspondence School, I well remember the issue of Home
Tutor burn-out.
Participation in ICPA has taught me more than I learnt at school, and stood me in good stead. I
encourage everyone to consider taking on executive roles.*

Election of State Council Executive 2018-2019

President: Kerry Williams
Nominated: *Frances Frahn*
Seconded: *Lisa Slade*
CARRIED

Vice-President: Belinda Hatcher
Nominated: *Sonya Fels*
Seconded: *Linda Haydon*
CARRIED

Secretary: No nomination received.

Treasurer: Jill Greenfield
Nominated: *Joanna Gibson*
Seconded: *Lynly Kerin*
CARRIED

Publicity Officer: Mija Reynolds
Nominated: *Belinda Hatcher*
Seconded: *Emilee Warnest*
CARRIED

Immediate Past President: Lisa Slade

7. Appointment of branch delegates

Appointment of Branch Delegates to State Council Committee

Eyre:	No delegate advised.
Far West:	No delegate advised.
Flinders Ranges:	Sonya Fels, Belinda Hatcher
Marla Oodnadatta:	Kirsty Williams, Helen Williams
Marree Air:	Jodie Keogh, Kylie Morton
North East:	Roslyn Breeding, Leisa Breeding
North West:	Petie Rankin, Lynly Kerin
Port Augusta:	Katrina Morris, Kate Greenfield

General Business: Nil.

It was noted that State Council would need to discuss the Secretary role at the next meeting.

Kerry Williams resumed the Chair and declared the **AGM closed at 4.20pm.**

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

Boarding Schools and Hostels

Jill Greenfield

It is with pleasure that I present my second Boarding Schools and Hostels report as portfolio leader.

I still have two children at boarding school in Adelaide, with one in year 10 and the other in year 12. My husband and I are on the downhill slope of boarding fees, leave forms, school formal chatter and frantic calls for more phone credit!

A great achievement of SA ICPA in 2017 was an increase in the State Education Allowance (SEA). We are also delighted to announce the SEA will be extended to include families who qualify for the AIC Second Home Allowance. There are many reasons why families choose to set up a Second Home to educate their children through their secondary education and the setup, living and travel costs can be substantial. This is a fantastic achievement for SA ICPA and we would like to thank the former Minister, Susan Close MP for listening and acting on our concerns.

In September last year, ICPA WA received notification that their State Boarding Away from Home Allowance would be reduced every year for the next 4 years. This disappointing news makes us realise that our members should not take any allowances for granted and SA ICPA will continue to advocate strongly for the allowances that we do receive.

SA ICPA are providing information to the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) regarding the process of how the SEA is administered. The Federal Assistance for Isolated Children allowance (AIC) is streamlined so that every year a 'continuing' renewal letter with your child's information prefilled on it is sent out. This currently does not happen with the SEA so it is up to the individual to reapply every year. Hopefully this process can be streamlined and updated.

ICPA (Aust) has been busy advocating for increases in the AIC Boarding and Second Home Allowances with the Federal Government, through submissions and delegations, along with recommendations for the division of the Election Commitment funding for regional, rural and remote students.

They have also written to the Minister for Human Services, advocating for an online option for AIC applications. To date there has been no response.

An AIC survey has been circulated by ICPA (Aust) regarding the Second Home and Basic Boarding Allowances, the renewal process and how it can be better administered. ICPA (Aust) meets with the Department of Human Services regularly to look at ways the allowances can be improved.

National Boarding Week is on again this year: 13 – 19th May 2018. It is a week of fun activities designed to celebrate and promote boarding schools and communities. The boarding school that my girls attend joined in last year and this year they have a boarder/buddy concept where boarding students are invited to 'day students' homes for dinner and vice versa where 'day students' have the chance to come and either stay overnight at the boarding house or come in and join the boarders for a meal.

There have been no closures to boarding schools or hostels in South Australia. I am happy to report that the Burra Hostel has 7 students.

Last year there was an upgrade to the boarding house at St Joseph's School, Port Lincoln. The Federal Government contributed \$1m towards the \$2.7m upgrade. This boarding house is a seven-day co-educational boarding facility.

SA ICPA received the following information regarding the Orroroo Area School Boarding concept;

In relation to questions and answers around the Orroroo Area School Boarding House concept; information is limited due to the fact we are still attempting to source funding to conduct a feasibility study.

- We have looked at a variety of avenues to keep progressing the concept; however these have been unsuccessful thus far. (meeting with local / state organisations, local government and politicians)*
- In addition, over the past few years we have presented our submission to DECD and the Minister of Education and our local Government (Council).*
- As I mentioned we are still trying to find avenues of funding support to at least conduct a feasibility study; which would provide direction to parents of ICPA (School of the Air); as well as our community and efforts to provide what we believe is a fantastic opportunity to support parents and children from remote and isolated communities, stations or towns, as well as grow and enhance our school.*

Useful websites and resources:

The Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA): www.boarding.org.au

Boarding Australia: www.boardingaustralia.edu.au

"The Australian Boarder Parent Handbook" by Dr Kate Hadwen.

"Preparing for Boarding": follow the below link

https://www.icpa.com.au/module/latestNews/item_attachment/14/preparing-for-boarding.pdf

Communications

Helen Williams

The Communications portfolio has once again been a busy one. Most of the portfolio issues are dealt with under the Federal Communications Portfolio which has been actively and extremely well led by Joanna Gibson until August 2017 and our ICPA Federal President Wendy Hick since then. We sincerely thank them for their efforts this past year.

There were two Communications motions passed at the 2017 State Conference. One asking for a suitable internet service for students studying via Distance Education and the other requesting a DECD Education Port be put in place.

Our students are now able to access NBN's SkyMuster Education Port once DECD confirms the student's enrolment with a DE school. Currently this means that the Education Port application is lodged by the family with the chosen internet provider, who then send it DECD for approval. The ISP then 'turns on' the port, and SOTA/OAC families can apply for the school's internet rebate by sending their invoices to the school for reimbursement. Families who have another internet service (eg mobile, other satellite) apply for the rebate in the same way.

Access to the Education port has alleviated a lot of the angst for families, as before it was all from the parents or business connection - now school use can be separated.

As part of the Federal Government's Mobile Blackspot Program funding Optus has switched on its small cell technology to provide mobile coverage to the townships of William Creek, Marree, Oodnadatta, Blinman and Innamincka. The small cell utilises Optus' satellite services and backhaul, with each small cell providing mobile phone coverage to up to 3km surrounding the cell.

Last year there were 27 motions presented at the Alice Springs Federal ICPA conference in relation to Communications issues, all of which are being actively followed up.

In June 2017, the Productivity Commission's (PC's) report into the telecommunications Universal Service Obligation (USO) was released

The Government's recent response to the Productivity Commission report on the USO acknowledged that existing arrangements are out of date and in need of reform. The Government is committed to providing universal access to voice and broadband services through a new Universal Service Guarantee (USG) once the NBN rollout is complete.

The report indicated that the USO (which ensures a phone service for all customers regardless of where they live, and for rural and remote customers that basically covers our landline phones) could possibly be removed and phone service provided by a combination of mobile service or VOIP to deliver voice services for those in the bush. Federal ICPA has been advocating that two types of communication service need to be available to all customers for safety assurance (i.e. in cities it might be mobile and fixed wireless internet, in the bush it may be landlines and satellite internet, etc....) so that all of our 'eggs aren't in one basket' and customers have a backup service to use if one service is down.

A communication to ICPA from Telstra indicates that they support the concept that any change to the USO cannot result in those living in rural and remote areas being worse off. Retaining landline services and ensuring they are adequate is a primary focus of ICPA lobbies at present.

Joanna Gibson presented on behalf of ICPA (Aust) at the Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network in Port Augusta in July 2017

In February 2018, ICPA received an invitation to submit evidence to a Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network – Inquiry into the rollout of the National Broadband Network in rural and regional areas

NBN doubled the amount of data available to rural and remote Australians receiving services on Skymuster in October.

ICPA (Aust) has regular meetings with **NBN** as part of the satellite stakeholder roundtable and enjoys a good working relationship with them. One strong message is that **nbn** cannot fix a problem if they do not know about it and we encourage members to contact us if they are experiencing difficulties with their service in relation to their students' schooling.

Curriculum

Sonya Fels

I am pleased to present my report on curriculum related issues and informing families educating their children living in rural and remote areas.

NAPLAN has moved closer towards being delivered online. Majority of states and Territory's schools will deliver NAPLAN testing online this year 2018. All schools across Australia will be online for NAPLAN 2020.

Parents of children studying by distance education are still asking why go online. Many are very concerned about their data usage increasing and their data allowances not coping.

Benefits of going online are:

-Better assessment and more precise results

-Faster turnaround for results

-More engaging from the students

NAPLAN has a new window of 2 weeks which allows schools that don't have enough computers for all students to complete over the time frame. The time frame is only for the reading test, language test and numeracy test. The writing test is still only the 2 days.

NAPLAN is using a tailored test method which allows students who are having difficulty answering questions. These students will be directed to lesser complex questions. This method will also be for the students who are finding questions easy they will be directed to more complex questions.

If internet drops out or devices stop, the test are not lost the NAPLAN online has been designed to save every 30 seconds.

Results for 2018 have flat-lined in most areas since testing started in 2008. There is no significant achievement across the domains of testing and year levels. There were some pockets of improvement and persistent between younger people from different backgrounds.

SACE has gone online with submissions of work from their students. The online service is to replace paper base work. It will make marking much easier, faster feedback and moderation of work. Students will not have to wait too long for feedback or a marked piece of work.

SACE will have all exams online by 2020, the English exam will be online in 2018. It raises concerns with rural and remote schools not having enough technology or internet data for these online exams.

An increase in country students completing their SACE for 2017.

Thank you for your time, with all these reports and motions I do hope we can make a difference for our children studying through distance education. We need to keep up with our city partners so our children don't miss out in any way.

Distance Education

Petie Rankin

Welcome all to my 2018 DE report for our annual State Conference. Distance Ed certainly got a shake up when we heard that the Western Australian Government was closing its SOTA schools and other rural campus's. This had enormous ripple effects across all distance ed providers in the rest of the country, leaving us all feeling vulnerable. The government of WA had no idea what they were dealing with when they were hit full on with the sheer force of a group of passionate, proud and persistent school families and staff. Very quickly, they reneged on parts of their decisions, reinstating SOTA schools. This then reminded everyone in similar schooling situations very aware of how delicate our rural and remote education is. It really could be taken away at any moment. This instils a stored away enthusiasm in those that have a connection with our small SOTA community and helps build a thick skin, to prepare for the worst, on the chance we are next.

We begin this year at Port Augusta School of the Air with a healthy 49 students after welcoming numerous new families at the beginning of the year. We also welcomed one new full-time teacher and one new Itinerant teacher. 3 teachers are continuing from last year with 2 Itinerants also staying on. The Information Technology role that was filled last year remains with our ever helpful 'tech guy' keeping everybody connected. We said goodbye to 2 of our office staff and welcomed a fresh new face to man the phones and support the families by providing help and direction.

On the downside, our school is about to enter its second term without a Head of Campus, with team leaders coming up from Open Access college to oversee the running of staff. It goes without saying that this is NOT an ideal situation but that every effort has and is being made to rectify this. Staff retention at SOTA has always been a huge issue and not having a Head of Campus makes it less attractive for teaching staff looking at applying. If there's a reason we cannot find nor retain staff long term, then it eludes us. It just seems people use it as a stepping stone to something else and it's heartbreaking to see the kids go through teachers before even getting to know them. Let's hope this year is a good one for our kids and their teachers. One thing will always go without saying-our community of SOTA families and staff are passionate about their students and education and doing the very best they can when they can. And with SOTA celebrating 60 years this year, it's come a long way in technology but its goals remain the same.

Our portfolio held a Distance Ed phone link up in December after Federal Conference to introduce new portfolio holders, connect with those who have more experience and just to break the ice between us all. It was a great way to get up to speed on other states and their issues and to be encouraged by hearing the voices of long time portfolio holders. Both Lynly and I, as portfolio holder and proxy for the DE in South Australia, were shocked and partly relieved to hear that they experience so many of the same issues that we do. It seems technology, staffing, curriculum, work return, feedback and funding are all major issues nationwide for SOTA's, not just here.

The education port that rolled out in 2016 was widely well received and I found out there are cases of families with more than 3 students in their schoolrooms that can receive the 50gig per student instead of the maximum originally being 3. With four kids heading into school in 2020, this was a concern of mine.

The Distance Education Teaching Allowance continues to be lobbied for, with our motion at Federal Conference in Alice Springs last year being replied to by Federal Councillor Alana Moller. She assured us that this continues to be a hot topic with motion letters sent out to the relevant ministers after conference. No replies have been received yet, but as this has been an ongoing issue, we are good at waiting.

Speaking of allowances, many of us received letters from the AIC section of Centrelink at the beginning of this year saying payments will be cancelled or payments simply not being made. It's a frustrating thing when

you know it's a solid 40 minutes on hold to Centrelink trying to rectify this. It's not hard to fix and they are most apologetic but it's not the type of letter you want to receive at the beginning of your year!

Lastly, ICPA has compiled a list of contacts to help you find a governess or for governesses in turn, to find a job. This can be a difficult and time-consuming task and it's daunting for those who have never had to do it before so to have a handy go-to checklist is a great place to start. This can be found on the ICPA website and by contacting most ICPA members.

Congratulations to the Flinders Ranges branch for hosting the 2018 State Conference here in Port Augusta and here's to a rewarding and goal achieving second half of the year.

Early Childhood Education

Kirsty Williams

The changes to the Budget Based Funding (BBF) on Mobile Playgroups and other related services such as the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) has continued to be a contentious issue this past year. RICE received their report from consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) with recommendations for their transition to the Jobs for Families Child Care Package. The transition will involve some large changes for RICE including charging families for services such as crèches and activity days. Administration of the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will be carried out by RICE on behalf of families from July 2018 and the subsidy will be paid directly to them in order to reduce out of pocket costs. RICE plays a pivotal role in offering developmental opportunities for children and parents in small rural and often isolated communities. They also provide the only kindergarten/preschool program for those of us living in remote areas. There continue to be a lot of unknowns as to how exactly the transition will look until July 2018 when the exact changes are known and come into effect. For further information visit <https://www.education.gov.au/Childcarepackage>

Including 4-year olds taking part in early learning programs to be eligible for the Assistance for Isolated Children's Scheme (AIC) Allowance too has continued to be an issue. Whilst the delivery and accessibility of early learning programs for kindergarten/preschool children has improved thanks to the Federal Government's commitment to the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Program, rural and remote families cover the entire cost of administering this vital stage of their child's education.

The In-Home Care (IHC) scheme has continued to gain a lot of attention since ICPA Federal Council recommended last year that the Federal Government review the guidelines in relation to rural and remote families. An IHC survey was conducted in November 2017 which showed that the future model needed to be more flexible and affordable to suit our families' needs. New guidelines have been released and a new webpage (<https://www.education.gov.au/in-home-care>) will be added from 2 July 2018 where further information can be found. A positive step forward has been that families will be able to utilise the CCS for educators under the IHC scheme inclusive of care during schooling hours. However, 'formal school hours' (on-air with SOTA teacher) cannot be claimed, it must be only those hours classed as 'homework' where the child is not on a lesson. Additionally, IHC educators are exempt from having or working towards Cert III in rural and remote areas for up to 18 months after 2 July 2018 in 2 ways:

1. 20% of the time is spent with a suitably qualified person i.e. by emailing, skyping or through phone calls (if gap year youngster for example)
2. If having had 15 years' prior experience in Child Care

Families employing governesses/nannies under the scheme will be able to choose their own applicant for the role however, they must then have that person employed by the Hesse Group (Nanny SA). Having spoken with Hesse Group, there will need to be further clarification as to how this would look with an educator (governess) living with a family full time.

On the topic of governesses and staff, ICPA is still working to add Distance Education tutors and Child Care workers to the 'specified work' list for second year working holiday visas, to enable visiting overseas workers to return to rural and remote families the following year, particularly as these workers are in such short supply.

The issue of a Nationalised Working with Children Check (WWCC), has continued to be followed by ICPA. Currently checks are not transferable between states and territories with each of the eight schemes operating independently of each other. Since the Royal Commission into Child Abuse report which

investigated WWCC was released, a national working group has been established and recommendations for any decisions are likely to be made in the first half of 2018.

On behalf of the SA ICPA State Council, I would like to thank the Federal Council for all of the hard work that they have put into the Early Childhood focused submissions and discussions this year.

Specific Education Needs

Kylie Morton

Over the past 12 months there has been a familiar theme, in special education and that is early identification and support services. This is seen on a state level and federal.

In 2017, SA ICPA representatives took a motion on early identification to delegation and have since received a reply from the Minister of Education, Hon Susan Close. She informed that Open Access College is to follow the same standardise testing, data analysis and reporting schedules as all other schools. If there is an indication of a learning difficulty, this is then passed onto the student support services, where a Special Educator can assist further. The same motion was taken to Federal conference and was carried.

Prior to delegations, SA ICPA made a submission to the Independent Review into Rural Regional and Remote Education. A large section of the submission was formed from a collection of stories from past and present SOTA families about their experience with learning difficulties and distance education, it displayed that students and home tutors were not receiving the support and modifications they need to access the curriculum for a successful learning outcome.

On a senior secondary level, the SACE Board, has reviewed their special provisions policy to ensure it aligns with the Disabilities Discrimination Act. Previously, students with disabilities would get to senior school, only to find that the accommodations they had accessed throughout school were taken away. It is now up to the individual schools to documents usual student accommodations and determine reasonable adjustments such as extra time and use of assistive technology. This does raise issues of equity as some schools will be. More accommodating than others. The SACE Board aims to raise awareness and if necessary support families in negotiating with the school.

The Education and Child Development Minister, Susan Close, as asked that SA ICPA to provide input into a professional development program for teachers to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. This issue is currently ongoing.

Another area for rural and remote families who have a child/children with special needs are having difficulty with is obtaining and maintaining access to allied health services. It is crucial that children receive early intervention. This could be in many forms, but mostly require allied health services such as Speech Therapy, Occupational Health, Physiotherapy and Mental Health. Families are left to resort to the use of Skype or Telehealth to access these services. While progress can be had accessing therapy via these sources, it is also beneficial that the children and therapist come face to face on a regular basis to ensure they are on the right path and meeting the developmental and learning goals for the child. To do face to face is a costly operation with long travelling distances and then the cost of accommodation and living expenses while away. National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) does not cover the cost of travel and accommodation to access these services face to face. Such a financial burden on the family, though one, that if the children did not receive such services, has the potential to have a detrimental impact on their development, learning and social abilities.

COUNCIL POSITIONS REPORTS

President's Report

Kerry Williams

As always, the main events on the State Council calendar are the State and Federal conferences and our annual delegation to Adelaide. State Councillors were also kept busy throughout the year collecting case studies and writing a submission to the Independent Review into Rural, Regional and Remote Education (IRRRRE), attending meetings as representatives on various committees, following up from delegation, attending to portfolios and portfolio meetings, navigating the new online payments system, submitting grants, conducting interviews with media, updating the website and forward planning. It's been another busy year!

SA had a very positive start to the year with the announcement by the SA Minister for Education and Children's Development, Hon Susan Close, to extend the State Education Allowance to include more of our families. This year, families receiving Centrelink's AIC Second Home Allowance also receive the State Education Allowance for children in secondary school. This decision was on the back of a substantial increase to the payment the previous year. We are very grateful for the support of former Education Minister Susan Close on this issue and for her genuine interest in rural and remote families during her time in office.

Delegation

The State Education Allowance was one of many issues taken to delegation in September last year. Four state councillors attended in Adelaide: myself, Lisa Slade, Kylie Morton and Jill Greenfield. It was a very successful two days and we were kept busy at meetings with Karen Humphries from the Department for Education and Child Development, Open Access College Principal Julie Taylor, the then Education Minister Susan Close, Shadow Minister John Gardner and the Hon John Dawkins. Delegates were once again treated to dinner at Parliament House with member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan and his wife Rebecca.

The main issues and topics discussed were:

- The State Education Allowance
- Private Car Allowance rate
- Support to encourage the Federal govt to extend the working holiday maker visa from 6 to 12 months
- Continued funding assurance for RICE services
- Identification and intervention for learning difficulties
- Learning technology support
- Daymap, Moodle, feedback and work returns at SOTA
- Attracting and retaining quality teaching staff

Delegation is the most effective way to ensure the motions from conference are delivered to those who are best placed to act on them and we are grateful for the continued relationships we have formed with these stakeholders over the years. Particular thanks to Dan VHP who provides continued advocacy and support, including helping to organise our delegation meetings.

2017 Federal Conference Alice Springs

Eight South Australians travelled to Alice Springs for the 2017 Federal Conference. 11 motions were presented and carried from SA State Council and branches. These included motions on Assistance for Isolated Children, removing the Fringe Benefit Tax for employers who help with education expenses of their remote and isolated employees, Skymuster faults repair processes, the introduction of a Distance Education Tutor Allowance, funding assurances during child care reform, Working Holiday Maker Visa extensions for home supervisors and educators, concessional airfares for students accessing education, early identification and intervention for learning difficulties, financial assistance for undergraduate tertiary students relocating for work placements, and that SA host the Federal Conference in 2019. Over the year, Federal Council have worked hard on our behalf and we have appreciated their updates via email and portfolio meetings. I hope many of you are able to attend the upcoming conference in Canberra.

Congratulations to our Immediate Past President, Lisa Slade, who accepted the role of ICPA Federal Treasurer at the Alice Springs conference. It was exciting for us to know that SA would continue its active involvement at federal level after the excellent work of Joanna Gibson, who stepped down last year. Despite taking on this substantial role, Lisa continues to be an active contributor on State Council.

Newsletters

In September 2017 SA ICPA introduced a State Council Update, emailed via Mailchimp directly to all members, to keep them up to date with State Council news and other relevant information. We hope this will improve communication to all members without relying on the forwarded email chain of the past.

Our printed newsletter, The Pipeline, has been reduced to two issues per year, post state and federal conferences, as we move towards more instant online information via email updates and Facebook. Lynly Kerin took over the Editor's role with continued support from our Publicity Officer and graphic designer Mija Reynolds. Both editions under Lynly's lead were excellent and jam packed with articles.

Federal/State Councils Face to Face

In February I joined State and Federal ICPA Presidents and Secretaries for two days of meetings in Sydney. Day one was held at the NBN building, where we were hosted by Lalla MacKenzie, the Senior National Stakeholder Relations Manager and also met with NBN General Manager, Rocco Nuzzo. Although the technology showcased at the NBN Discovery Centre seemed a world away from the experience of outback towns and stations, it was reassuring to hear their genuine interest and understanding of the needs of rural and remote families, including the many issues around internet services over the years and currently. It was apparent that Federal Council have done a great job keeping NBN Co informed of the needs of our members. During our two days of meetings, each state had the opportunity to share what they have been up to and answer questions. It was an excellent opportunity to network, solve problems and generate ideas – I definitely came away feeling re-motivated.

2019 Federal Conference

SA will host the Federal Conference in Adelaide in 2019. Katrina Morris has offered to be convenor with an enthusiastic committee already on board. We are confident that Katrina and her team will do a great job! To reduce workload in a Federal Conference hosting year, SA is intending to trial an online state conference next year. During the year we have been investigating how to make it happen, including speaking with NT Council, who have previously had a web conference.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the Outback Communities Authority who have offered us an annual grant of \$5000 for executive support. As well as supporting conference costs, it is hoped that this funding will enable us to outsource some of our more arduous tasks and will be used to purchase software and equipment if necessary. We are also well supported by the Minister for Education and Child Development with an operational grant, which enables us to meet face to face, and pay any costs associated with running the organisation.

We were also successful in obtaining a grant from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). The 2018 FRRR Back to School Program provided SA ICPA with 64 x \$50 target vouchers that were distributed to our members with school age children and used for costs associated with school uniforms and materials. Thanks to Jill Greenfield for administering and distributing the vouchers.

Thank you to our many conference sponsors for enabling us to run this day with minimal cost to our families. Despite all this support, ICPA could not run without the many, many hours of time donated by our volunteers, all of whom are busy with a multitude of other tasks! Congratulations and thank you to our Vice-President Belinda Hatcher and the Flinders Ranges Branch for convening the conference this year and bringing the Ranges to us here today.

There are so many people to thank for their contribution, but I'd like to especially thank Frances Frahn for agreeing to go on last year as our very organised and competent Secretary, it has been a pleasure working with you Frances. Lisa Slade for upholding her promise last year of being "the most supportive Past President ever". Jill Greenfield for persevering through the many changes this year as Treasurer and taking on several other jobs outside of her role. Thanks also Lisa Hunt for coming back to us as Webmaster and revamping our website, our now very experienced Publicity Officer Mija Reynolds and Pipeline Editor Lynly Kerin – great job! Special mention to Petie Rankin who is always the first asked to throw an article together. Thank you to all state councillors for attending meetings, managing portfolios and for your many contributions throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to the many volunteers who give up their valuable time to keep the cogs of ICPA turning and continue advocating for the best education we can get for our rural and remote children, from pre-school to tertiary. We are all juggling multiple other commitments, running businesses, working, raising families and keeping our communities going with various other voluntary roles. Whatever role you take at branch, state or within other committees in your local community, your contribution makes an enormous difference and lightens the load for those around you!

Treasurer's Report

Jill Greenfield

Madam President, fellow ICPA members, guests and visitors;

It is with pleasure that I present my second Treasurers report for SA ICPA.

My report includes the audited Financial Statement for the year 2017 and the unaudited Interim report from the 01/01/2018 to the 30/04/2018. You will find these reports in the appendix of your conference book.

We made a profit of \$5353.97 for the 2017 year. At the end of 2017 we had a healthy balance of \$34982.19.

In 2017, SA ICPA was given an Operational Grant of \$9070 by the Department for Education and Child Development and was also successful in obtaining a Volunteer Grant of \$5000. This has allowed us to support State Council to attend face to face meetings, conferences and offset every day running expenses eg Insurance. In February 2018 our President met with other ICPA State and Territory Presidents and Secretaries in Sydney. Fuel and travel allowance for State Council Executives has increased to be in line with Federal Council and increasing travel costs.

Outback Communities Authority (OCA) kindly donated \$5000 for the 2018 State conference and Executive Support. SA ICPA has purchased an accounting package, Cashflow Manager. This has allowed for streamlined reporting to state council and conferences, although it does involve an ongoing, yearly subscription.

Online payments were implemented for 2018. SA ICPA has had 43 members pay using the online method, although it took me some time to work out the system, I now feel that it has been successful for members throughout South Australia.

Memberships for 2017 were 112 member families.

We currently have 106 member families for the 2018 year. The Far West branch has one-member who has joined using the online method, however this does not allow this branch to be affiliated so we have made them a Lone Member. All other branches are affiliated for 2018.

In October 2017 SA ICPA received a letter from Rowe and Partners stating that they no longer audit. I searched for local auditors and had the SA ICPA books audited by Ben Jenkin, CPA, Port Augusta.

I would like to move that SA ICPA affiliation fees remain at \$22.00.

I would like to move that the SA Lone Membership remains at \$45.00.

I would like to move that Ben Jenkin CPA, Port Augusta remain the auditor for 2018.

I would like to move that the financial report be accepted.

Thank you

Lone Members Report

Helen Williams

This year we have 11 lone member families who have joined ICPA so far, memberships still trickling in.

As the Lone Members Officer, I have kept our members up to date via email of things happening in the ICPA world.

Our members were very appreciative of the \$50 Target vouchers which were handed out to families with primary and secondary school age children.

Newsletter Report – The Pipeline

Lynly Kerin

The Pipeline is currently circulated among 173 families, individuals and groups which include government ministers, education departments, schools, rural newspapers and other ICPA state and federal councillors. 107 copies are distributed to current financial members in South Australia.

Editions have been reduced to two per year, each being compiled after state and federal conferences. As the new editor, this has worked well and has made it easier to source content to be able to produce a newsletter of great substance, keeping our members informed and sharing news from across the branches.

The Pipeline is now available for our members to view on the state's ICPA webpage. Our state and federal website managers Lisa Hunt and Sue Shotton have worked to make this available to members. Previous editions have also been uploaded to the web page. Discussions have been had as to whether The Pipeline should be viewed only as a digital copy as done by other states, but currently council is happy to continue with the printed and online availability for our members.

Digital media continues to advance and support ICPA as a way to better correspond with members. Our Facebook page serves as a 'in real time' continuous way to circulate news, announcements and information to not just members, but to the 358 followers we have. President Kerry Williams has also initiated a Mailchimp email update specifically for members which is generally sent out after a state council meeting, and serves to keep all up to date with what is happening currently within council.

Thank you to all who submitted articles, branch updates photos and general interest pieces during the last 12 months. Editing is just one part of producing The Pipeline. Layout, design and print format is what makes it go from an emailed folder of word documents and jpeg images to the hard copy received in your mailbag and letterboxes. For this I would like to thank Mija Reynolds. Mija's job is to make it all look 'pretty' and she does it wonderfully, thank you Mija.

Pedals magazine is our federal platform for news also, and editor Raelene Hall seeks content from all states for inclusion. Please assist the both of us in keeping our members and rural families in the spotlight by continuing to submit content.

Publicity Report

Mija Reynolds

Madam President, ICPA members and guests it gives me pleasure to present my 2018 SA ICPA Publicity Officer's report.

Over the past year as Publicity Officer I have attended State Council meetings via tele-link. I have written articles for the Pipeline newsletter and continue to utilise the ICPA SA Facebook page with our other administrators to inform our members and friends about relevant news, information and stories.

This year has once again seen a greater use of social media (Facebook) to promote our Conference and the advantage of this is it is free and is unlimited as to how much information we can post to a targeted audience. Councillors and members are encouraged to share SA ICPA's posts to reach a wider audience and generate more awareness and support of the Association.

Print, radio and television media agencies were sent a media release pertaining to the 2018 State Conference.

At the time of writing this report, I have arranged for television journalist Garth Burley of SCA to come and report on the upcoming conference. A number of newspapers have encouraged a post conference report including photos.

If re-elected as State Publicity Officer for 2018 I will do my utmost to fulfil the role to the best of my ability. I hope SA ICPA enjoys a successful year along with our dedicated members and wish everyone the best for 2018.

Open Access College Governing Council

Belinda Hatcher

It is my great pleasure to present my report as the community representative on the Open Access College Governing Council. This is my sixth and final year in this role as I think it is time to give someone else and opportunity to be part of the governance of the school. I believe it is very important that both the SA ICPA and the Open Access College continue to maintain their relationship and support the learning journey of all distance education students. Funding for education state wide is under constant pressure and this only highlights the ever-present need for the SA ICPA to support the Open Access College wherever it can in its quest to maintain high standards and fair access to a quality education for all students.

This year the FTE (full time equivalent) students studying through the OAC was 1240 and of those there were only around 40 students enrolled under the Distance Education banner at SOTA. The 2017 AGM was held on the 22nd of March, which saw Lynn Kelly elected as the chairperson once again, as well as Sonya Fels continuing in her role as treasurer and chair of the Finance Advisor Committee. The Governing Council also welcomed a full membership of the governing council with the addition of Darren Delaney in the role of Deputy Chairperson. As in the previous few years, attendance at meetings remained static and there was good community representation from SA ICPA and Autism SA. A full and engaged committee is vital in supporting the college to continue to provide the highest standard of education to all its students. The uniqueness of all students learning environments, capabilities and direction is what makes the Open Access College the school it is and the fact that there is such a broad range of representatives on the governing council is how all voices are heard and important decisions are made with impartiality.

Issues of interest from the last 12 months were:

- Ongoing progress of the OAC Site Improvement Plan, with valuable feedback being provided for the key areas of our strategic objectives.
- Wellbeing and Engagement survey information that has shown ongoing challenges as well as growth for identified OAC goals.
- Refurbishments to the SOTA building including upgrades to the studio, meeting rooms and display areas and the inclusion of a new library area. Work completed at the Outback Centre include new furniture, new air conditioning and repainted facilities.
- An increase to the current Materials and Services charges was long overdue and it was agreed to align this with latest CPI changes.
- Updates to the college's Anti Bullying and Harassment policy included a focus on student feedback and was considered sufficient.
- Improved unexplained attendance numbers (1% compared to 9% in previous 2 years) due to introduction of the SMS service for parents to report absentees.
- Playing host to the Australasian Association of Distance Education School biannual conference, which saw over 300 attendees (60 OAC Staff) participate in a highly successful 2 day program.

SACE Board Parent Associations Report

Kerry Williams

The SACE Board is focussed on modernisation and connecting with stakeholders, including students, parents and schools. They have updated their logo and persona and will be commencing a Facebook page. Orange is the new blue!

There was a new Chief Executive appointed as of January, Professor Martin Westwell from Flinders University.

Teachers are now able to access information, collaborate with colleagues and conduct benchmarking online. PLATO is an online platform for professional learning and collaboration between school staff and the SACE Board. It also allows for the online submission of materials for marking and moderation rather than the endless bags of exam materials being posted. It includes detailed subject information, marking guidelines, examples of grade samples and teachers can test their marking on various samples. This is great news for rural teachers who may be isolated from subject-specific colleagues and training opportunities.

Online submissions will replace paper-based, making it much easier and faster to moderate work. 15,000 uploaded documents were received this year in a range of approved formats with very little issues such as viruses.

The English Studies exam will be online from 2018 with an additional seven subjects to go online by 2020. Minimum tech skills are required and electronic exams are presented identically to paper based, which will also be provided in case of tech failure and students can seamlessly move between the two.

The online exams do raise issues of resourcing schools to be online ready, requiring a certain number of computers, suitable work spaces and network capabilities. This raises equity issues, particularly for small and rural/remote schools, which are being considered. Also some students may perform better on a device than on paper or vice-versa, and this may put pressure on schools to present exams in a particular format. Online exams will provide opportunities for greater creativity within the exam, e.g. Video text analysis.

Electronic exam examples were released on the SACE website in February.

Special Provisions – SACE has been through a review of Special Provisions to ensure their policies line up with the Disabilities Discrimination Act. The SACE Board will be informing and supporting schools to implement appropriate accommodations. In most cases this will be determined by the school as they are best placed to know what an individual student may need.

Current focus areas:

- Strengthen Communication and consider the reputation of the Board within schools and communities.
- Inclusive learning policies – consider accommodations and expectations within the SACE for students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Ensure the board reflects the needs of the workforce.
- Shift away from formal exams and consider alternate ways to demonstrate learning.
- Shift towards electronic exams and assessment.
- Teacher training that is available to all – historically teachers have had to attend training in Adelaide where now they have an extensive online platform for teacher training and collaboration.
- Need to think internationally – there are many overseas students studying the SACE as well as Australian students going on to attend overseas universities.
- Increasing new technology in SACE subjects – move towards diverse programs that cater for the changing world.

Throughout the meetings the Board made it very clear that they were considering the rural/remote perspective, including how to better train and support rural teachers and making allowances for potential technology fails. There is also a lot happening in the area of special provisions.

GUEST SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Federal Council Report

Mrs Sally Sullivan, Federal Vice-President

Madam President, Federal Life Member Jane Gloster, Federal and SA Life Member Bob Baker, fellow ICPA members and guests, thank you for the opportunity to update you on the work of Federal Council. It has been an encouraging time for ICPA as there seems to be a rejuvenated focus on regional, rural and remote education in many areas – as evidenced by the number of inquiries into rural and remote issues over the past 12 months.

Federal Conference was in Alice Springs in August 2017. Federal Council set to work actioning the 100 motions that were carried at the conference. With numerous federal government position changes over the past few months, it has at times been challenging, as we try to keep our foothold and maintain the momentum that we had achieved on several issues. ICPA (Aust) continues to work closely with numerous other organisations as well as the various Commonwealth Departments and we have a good working relationship with many in government. The Federal Motion Update, which outlines how Federal Council has been actioning motions, outcomes achieved and our future plans, was distributed to members in mid-March and can be found on the ICPA website.

Besides the meetings, delegations, letters and consultations we have been involved in, Federal Council has worked on numerous written submissions. In the current climate, the federal government has been seeking input and discussion in many areas and there seems to be a submission available for comment on just about any topic imaginable. Attending to these submissions is keeping Federal Council very busy and also honing our proofreading and editing skills. We've completed 13 submissions since the Federal Conference. Our largest submission undertaking by far was the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education or IRRRRE as it's become affectionately known by.

A promise from the 2016 federal election, the IRRRRE saw, for the first time in decades, government showing a significant focus on rural and remote education. Professor John Halsey was chosen to lead the Review and members of Federal and State Councils met with Professor Halsey at the last Federal Conference. We also attended various consultations around the country to bring to the forefront multiple rural and remote issues. This Review provided ICPA with an avenue to seek address for the majority of the issues and concerns that members have raised over the past years. Trying to define and compile in their entirety the many educational challenges that our rural and remote students have faced for years and fit them into one document certainly tested the mettle of our Federal Council, particularly as submissions were called for almost immediately after our Federal Conference which had seen a number of new councillors join our team. (The 'newbies' pretty much were told to buckle up and hang on for the ride as we dove headfirst into working on the submission). In the end, we ended up with a 44 page submission (which far exceeded the 5 or so pages recommended by the panel, but fortunately they still accepted it) and our council had become cohesive in working through the submission process. The final report from the much-awaited Review was released in mid-April. Federal ICPA is still digesting the detail in the recommendations and actions.

A section that we included in our IRRRRE submission referred to the Election Commitment funding pledged for geographically isolated families to help them access education by the former Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Barnaby Joyce. While a portion of the election promise has been fulfilled in the 50% increase to the AIC Additional Boarding Allowance, (and of course our families who receive this portion of the allowance are grateful), the balance of this funding has yet to be allocated and our children still wait. The need to see this funding used in the manner to which it was pledged was also raised in our Pre-Budget 2018-19 submission

and included in correspondence with the new Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack. Federal Council continues to inquire about the election promise funding at every given opportunity.

Many of the concerns that ICPA (Aust) is working on are covered in the Motion Update, so I'll only touch on a few of points of information now in my report but I encourage all members to read the motion update and please contact us if you have further questions or want more information.

Communications continues to be a major sector of our efforts. ICPA (Aust) remains a member of the Regional, Rural and Remote Communications Coalition and this has been a very welcomed forum where we can take our members issues. By being a part of the RRRCC, we have managed to strengthen our voice as the Communications Coalition now encompasses 21-member bodies and they have been on delegations in Canberra with good results. The RRRCC is calling for 2018 to be a year of action and we hope to see further improvements to communications services for those in living outside of city centres.

Our members seek adequate, affordable and reliable internet. ICPA has regular contact with nbn and we continue to put forward situations that our members bring to us. We continue to strongly advocate for the expansion of the Education Port to include all rural students who rely on a Sky Muster service at home regardless of whether they study via distance education, attend a small rural school, board away from home needing to use the service when home on school breaks for assignments, or study at the tertiary level. Federal Council has spoken to a number of other groups who now also have taken up this lobby.

There is still confusion and difficulty in reporting internet faults and Federal Council continues to advocate for a simpler, direct process along with the necessity for the creation of a Rural and Remote Communications Help Centre that understands rural and remote customers' needs and can assist them with troubleshooting problems in addition to providing correct information for securing communications products and services.

A major concern for our members has been the uncertainty of the future of landline services for voice. ICPA (Aust) and RRRCC have met with numerous government representatives and strongly voiced our members' concerns over a potential loss of landlines and the possibility of landlines being replaced by VoIP services which currently do not adequately meet the need of those living in rural and remote Australia. ICPA (Aust) also maintains that Australians living outside of large metropolitan centres must have at least two methods of accessing communications (i.e. landline and satellite internet) due to the distance to other means of communication and the implications for safety when one service fails. This message seems to have been understood and supported by many in government and we are hopeful that this consideration for voice services for those in regional, rural and remote areas will continue to be upheld.

At the 2017 Federal Conference, Telstra Country Wide offered to investigate mobile possibilities in areas containing a rural school with no mobile coverage and they asked ICPA to provide information on rural schools outside the mobile service footprint. ICPA State Councils have assisted in providing lists where possible of these schools and the lists have been passed on to TCW and we continue to have discussions with them on this.

In March, ICPA (Aust) has negotiated with Telstra Country Wide to be able to offer ICPA members a discount on the purchase of Cel Fi Go units which are transportable mobile signal boosters (often used in vehicles) similar to the discounts that have been offered to our members when buying Smart Antennae for increased mobile coverage at home. A Federal Branch Bulletin contains more information.

The last 12 months have been very busy in the area of Early Childhood Education and Care. Federal Councillor, Jane Morton has attended numerous meetings and sessions around the new program that is set to replace In Home Care and the Nanny Pilot Program. At the moment the new program seems to be keeping the name "In Home Care" and should be in place from 2 July 2018. A few things have changed with the

revised program. There are a couple of positives- The Activity Test has been widened to enable unpaid workers in the family business to receive the new Child Care Subsidy.

In addition to this, ICPA has recently been informed by the Department of Education and Training, and we've had this confirmed by Minister Birmingham's office, that even though the National IHC Guidelines still say that IHC educators may not supervise distance education, the interpretation is that they can continue to supervise Distance Education students outside of 'formal schooling hours' (ie. their air or audio lesson hours) as the schoolwork is classified as 'homework' from the Department's point of view, which should help distance education families a great deal. ICPA has welcomed this clarification, however we will be raising the safety issue of students being 'alone' or uncared for during air lessons, where the centre teacher is actually deemed to be "in control" of the child but is not physically in the room with them and therefore creating a possibly unsafe environment, and we will seek that air lesson time fall under In Home Care for this reason.

ICPA continues to monitor the transition from Budget Based Funding for mobile playgroups and other mobile services utilised by rural families to the new model.

A very positive result in our tertiary portfolio was the welcome change in Youth Allowance for those rural and remote students qualifying for independent Youth Allowance through part-time work or earnings in the reduction of the Gap Year from 18 months to 14 months. This effectively allows a student who has earned the necessary amount of income to attend study the next year instead of needing to begin during the middle of the year or following year, as was often the case previously. Members can visit the Youth Allowance website for further information. ICPA (Aust) has been lobbying for this change for many years and now these efforts have been rewarded. The May budget this year announced that the parental income threshold for Independent Rural and Remote Youth Allowance applicants will be raised from \$150,000/an to \$160,000 and will increase by \$10,000/an for each additional child. We are yet to have the detail of implementation clarified but ICPA welcomes this change.

A couple of other Federal Council initiatives are the Distance Education Tutoring Document which was created by the Distance Education Portfolio to try to help families seeking a Distance Education Tutor, as well as those interested in becoming a tutor, with information around how to go about filling those positions.

The Boarding Schools portfolio has also been very busy working on a project to follow on from Qld ICPA's "IamICPA" with a series of video clips involving the motto "Iamaboarder" and showcasing our wonderful boarding students, what they enjoy about boarding and what they miss about home. It's hoped that these videos will help highlight the challenges our boarding students face by showing details such as how far they live from school, what they leave behind and the journeys they make to access schooling.

One of ICPA's strengths is the way we unite and support each other. State and Federal councils continued to work together this year in various ways including teleconferences between the state and federal portfolios and executives. In mid-February, representatives from State and Federal Councils met in Sydney for face to face meetings and an information session at the nbn Discovery Centre. It was a very productive few days and extremely rewarding.

Federal Council thanks the South Australian State Council for their ongoing support of federal issues and their dedication and commitment. SA State Council does a terrific job in keeping the issues of SA families being talked about (I think we should show our appreciation for the work they do with a round of applause). Federal Council looks forward to continuing to work with state councils, branches and members.

Federal Council hopes to see many of you at this year's Federal Conference which is being hosted by NSW State Council and held in Canberra on 1-2 August.

I'll finish with a quote from Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." ICPA will continue to work together at all levels to bring about better educational outcomes for our rural and remote children ... together we can do so much.

Opening address: Mr Keith Slade

Flinders Ranges Branch

Madam President, distinguished guests, members, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Flinders Ranges ICPA Branch, I'd like to welcome you today to the annual ICPA State Conference.

I have lived on Moolooloo Station in the Northern Flinders Ranges all my life. I attended School of the Air from Reception until Year 7, I then continued my education at Scotch College in Adelaide as a boarder, Year 8 to Year 12. I graduated and got accepted into University, but due to economic conditions at the time I deferred and went home to work with my family. Presently, I'm still deferred! I completed a two year on farm training course through TAFE Port Augusta and gained many skills which I've put to good use over the years. That pretty much sums up my formal education.

In 2000 I married Lisa, and now have three beautiful children, Isabella, Millie and Henry. Isabella, Millie and Henry all completed their Primary Schooling at School of the Air with the help from some trusty Governesses' and of course Mum! The latter led to some, let's say 'trying times' and the odd intervention as it can be very hard for children (and husbands) to distinguish between 'grumpy supervisor' and 'loving Mum', I'm sure a lot of you out there can empathise with that situation! Being a supervising parent is an enormous and often thankless task that many of our geographically isolated families have little choice about. However, the end result, having children that attend their next stage of schooling as capable and independent learners is a testament to supervisors, Governesses and School of the Air.

Isabella, Millie and Henry all attended boarding school. Isabella graduated as a Radiographer and after working for three years, has gone back to study Medicine at Flinders University. Millie and Henry are still attending boarding school and getting towards the pointy end of their schooling.

When I was asked to open the Conference today, it got me thinking what ICPA means to me. My sister Alison and I, followed by our children, all began our education in a humble schoolroom at Moolooloo, delivered by Port Augusta School of the Air. I remember fondly teachers like Betty Just, Bill Starr, Carrie Motley, Jane McLeod and Principals like Steve Adams and Tim McLeod. They embodied the SOTA spirit, they not only became our teachers but lifelong family friends. They went above and beyond what was ever expected, and truly made an enormous impact on our lives and education. I have great memories of School of the Air, from the old HF Radio with a 12volt battery as power which often went flat at the most in opportune times. Sometimes reception was a little fuzzy due to weather conditions, the best weather event was if it rained and the creek flooded. Teachers called out to empty classrooms. I am yet to be convinced that technology has improved the delivery of education to School of the Air Students, it seems to leave behind some of those precious moments, like the morning sing along of the school anthem for which I still often recite to the kids (which I'm sure they appreciate). There could even be a rendition later tonight if Adam Harvey lets me loose on the microphone! I also remember some impromptu morning news items especially if the supervisor was out the room. One such occasion was Gerard Sheehan, who's Mum (Supervisor) had popped out the room.

Teacher: "What is your news Gerard?"

Gerard: "Our bitch has had 8 pups and now she's outside shaking like shit."

Teacher: "Is your Mum there Gerard."

Gerard: "No she's just popped out for a minute."

Teacher: "Thankyou Gerard."

The parents of SOTA were a very close knit community and also heavily involved with ICPA, ensuring we all had the best educational outcomes available to us at the time. This meant catch-ups were not restricted to school functions but ICPA meetings and Gymkhanas. I always looked forward to catching up with the Schmidts from Witchitie, Greenfields from Billa Kallina, Reynolds from Umberatana, Mitchells from Muloorina, Morrisses from Yardea or the Sheehans from Moolawatna. I may have missed a few families but as you can see our friendships spanned far and wide. Ironically many of these surnames synonymous with the bush have had their own children attend SOTA, boarding school and some form of post-secondary education. I therefore still look back fondly at the old School Of The Air days but also at the present to see so many faces here today who I shared a classroom with and know share the same passion for not only our own children's education but to any child/adult who benefits from ICPA and it's ever expanding roles. It would be remiss of me at this stage not to mention Port Augusta School of the Airs 60 year celebrations. On Wednesday a reunion was organised for past and present students, teachers and parents. I did not attend unfortunately but my wife Lisa did and said it was a fantastic celebration for the school and its achievements.

I mentioned earlier that ICPA was a connection to School Of The Air with my education however I understand that the role is ever expanding. Not only benefitting School Of The Air students but Correspondence learning, Rural Schools(school bus routes), Tertiary Education, Plane and Bus Ticket pricing for students, TAFE learning and many more. I think you get my Gist.

The theme of today's conference is "Education – The Range is Far and Wide" which I think can be interpreted in many different ways. Firstly the vast range of our stakeholders from Oodnadatta to Mount Gambier and all points in between. Secondly the Range of options available to our children and young adults as they strive to succeed in there given field. Lastly I'm going to add my spin on the theme and that is the Flinders Ranges. I know a bit of poetic licence but home of the Flinders Ranges ICPA branch who have put on a wonderful conference today. To all the hard working families involved in this branch who continually go above and beyond to get the best outcome for rural education along with all other branches state wide.

I am honoured and with great pleasure welcome you all today to the State Conference. I hope the day is fulfilling, engaging, inspiring and most of all worthwhile. I look forward to catching up as the day proceeds and implore we keep up the fight for education of not only our own children but all rural and remote children state-wide.

Key note speaker: Dr John Halsey FACE, FACEL(SA)

Emeritus Professor, Flinders University

Independent Reviewer Regional, Rural and Remote Education in Australia (IRRRRE)

The following notes are reproduced with permission from Dr John Halsey, from his presentation to Conference.

The recent review into regional, rural and remote education has identified the following:

Key Challenge

- The key challenge for regional, rural and remote education is ensuring, regardless of location or circumstances, that every young person has access to high quality schooling and opportunities
- To address it:
 - 4 priorities
 - 11 recommendations
 - 53 actions

Priorities

- Establish a national focus for RRR education, training and research to enhance access, outcomes and opportunities.
- Focus on four critically important resources for successful learning and building young peoples' futures - leadership, teaching, curriculum and assessment.
- Fix the patchiness of ICT in RRR locations. To adapt a saying from the early days of telephones in the Outback, 'I'd like ICT, I'd like ICT that works, and I'd like ICT that works all the time'.
- Improve transitioning into and out of school.

Recommendations

- Establish and/or refine processes for ensuring the relevance of the Australian Curriculum and state/territory assessment processes for RRR students and communities.
- Ensure RRR contexts, challenges and opportunities are explicitly included in the selection and pre-service education of teachers, initial appointment processes and their on-going professional support.
- Ensure RRR contexts, challenges and opportunities are explicitly included in the selection, preparation, appointment and on-going professional support of educational leaders.
- Ensure RRR children start school with a strong foundation for learning.
- Expand the availability, affordability and accessibility of high quality work experience placements, VET, dual VET/university options and two year associate degree programs for RRR students.
- Support RRR students to make successful transitions from school to university, training, employment and combinations of them.
- Encourage the philanthropic sector to play a greater role in raising achievements and improving opportunities for RRR students.
- Improve opportunities for RRR schools to implement entrepreneurship in education through curriculum, teaching, system and cultural changes and building on good practice.
- Improve the availability, accessibility and affordability of ICT for RRR schools, teachers, students, parents and communities.
- Support RRR communities to implement innovative approaches to education delivery designed to improve education access and outcomes for students living in remote communities.
- Establish a national focus for RRR education, training and research to enhance access, outcomes and opportunities in regional Australia.

Actions- Distance education and access

- ensure that high quality distance education services delivered by states and territories are available to every student who cannot access face-to-face schooling on a regular basis
- formally recognise using Recognition of Prior Learning processes or similar the expertise and contributions of distance education home tutors
- ensure that boarding services (including the provision of extra small scale facilities closer to the source of need), transport (including for preschoolers) and associated payments to students and/or parents optimise access to education
- examine the resourcing allocations for remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools to ensure they are authentically informed by culture and language, ceremonial obligations, the Australian curriculum, and enrolments
- investigate the impact of appointing cluster administration managers on learning opportunities and outcomes.

Actions- Early years

- ensure that early intervention trained personnel and programs are in place to help families and to connect them to relevant support agencies
- substantially reduce the waiting time (say to a maximum of three months) for specialist assessments of students with learning difficulties and disabilities and the subsequent development of specific learning plans for them.

Actions- Transitions, boarding, funding

- review current government income support policies and arrangements for RRR students from low income families who must move away from home to take up further study or training, to ensure they are able to commence immediately following school completion
- ensure that RRR schools can offer students and parents high quality career information and advice to grow aspirations and employment opportunities
- ensure schools or clusters of schools have access to dedicated personnel to case manage students at risk of not making a successful transition to further study, training, employment or combinations of them
- provide additional financial support to students and/or families for travel between university and home, in particular in a student's first year of study
- establish dedicated RRR accommodation advisers and brokers in all states and territories
- require universities to prioritise beds and clearly identify accommodation support for RRR students, especially those coming from remote areas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- improve the provision of accommodation and income support information for RRR students.

Actions- Distance Education and ICT

- establish a RRR ICT taskforce with the necessary expertise, authority and resourcing to substantially improve access to and use of ICT in education
- ensure that students and families who are reliant on distance education have continuous and affordable access to all of the teaching and learning delivered by Distance Education providers
- work with ICT providers to ensure that sufficient bandwidth on the NBN Sky Muster satellite service is always prioritised for bona fide educational purposes
- expand the NBN Sky Muster public interest premises definition to include homes in remote locations where school and tertiary students return out of term.

Response to the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education — additional support for students

2018-19 Budget Paper, Expenses

The Government will provide \$96.1 million over four years from 2018-19 to implement the Government's response to the *Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education*. The funding will support young people from regional, rural and remote communities to transition to further education, training and employment, and comprises:

\$28.2 million over four years from 2018-19 for 500 additional Commonwealth Supported Places (CSPs) annually from 2019 for students commencing a sub-bachelor degree or enabling course at university;

\$14.0 million over four years from 2018-19 for 185 additional CSPs annually from 2019 for students commencing a bachelor degree course at university through a Regional Study Hub; and

\$53.9 million over four years from 2018-19 to improve regional students' access to Youth Allowance by changing the threshold and assessment year for parental income. The new Parental Income Test threshold under the regional workforce independence criterion will be increased to \$160,000 (with a further \$10,000 increase in the threshold for each additional child) and the financial year preceding the beginning of the recipient's 14 month 'self-support period' will be used as the assessment year.

APPENDIX

Allowances for remote and isolated families

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much? (From: 1 Jan 2018)
Federal Allowances: Centrelink		
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boarding Allowance 	Parents of geographically isolated school aged students who need to board away from home to attend school. Applies to boarding schools, hostels and private board	\$10,615 per year, made up of 2 components: \$8,249 - basic \$2,366 - additional subject to parental income and actual boarding costs
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance Education Allowance 	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$4,124 per year.
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Home Allowance 	Geographically isolated and run a second home to access education.	\$6,265 per year paid in fortnightly instalments, for up to three students.
Youth Allowance	Young people from 16-24 years, studying, training or looking for work. Dependent children up to 22 years are subject to Parental Means Test. Rural and regional students can claim the independent rate by earning 75% of Wage Level A in a 14 month period.	Varies by situation. Please call or see the Centrelink website.
State Allowances: DECD Transport Services Department (08) 8226 2406		
Travel Allowance	School students living five kilometres or more from the nearest public school or school bus run.	Paid per km. Apply through school principal.
State Education Allowance (SEA)	Families in receipt of AIC Basic Boarding Allowance & Second Home Allowance	\$2250 per year.

Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)

Apply through Centrelink

- Dedicated Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Call Centre: 13 23 18
- Dedicated Youth Allowance Hotline for ICPA Families: 13 24 90

To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from an appropriate government school, or at least 16km from an appropriate state school and at least 4.5km from the nearest bus route.

Profit and Loss (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2017 - 31/12/2017

Account(s) in this report: Express Saver, Society Cheque Account

Income	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	2780.00	
Bank SA Interest Received	9.55	
Donations	4721.30	
Insurance Levy	600.00	
Interest Received	151.86	
Lone Membership	360.00	
PayPal Transfers	286.00	
State Conference	140.00	
Volunteer Grant	14932.00	
Total Income		23980.71
Expenses	\$	\$
Affiliation Fees	1239.00	
Audit & Accounting Fees	710.50	
Conferences & Meetings	7316.41	
Donation	10.00	
Insurance	1552.84	
Newsletter costs	1722.00	
Printing & Stationery	642.99	
Sponsorship	500.00	
Subscriptions	289.00	
Travel Expenses	4644.00	
Total Expenses		18626.74
Net Profit (Loss)		5353.97

Please Note: This report may require adjustment for depreciation or 'accrual' items depending on your tax or accounting requirements.

Balance Sheet (Movement) (Cash)

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of SA

WPN:

Report Period: 1/01/2017 - 31/12/2017

Account(s) in this report: Express Saver, Society Cheque Account

Column	Code	DR	CR
GST Output Tax T/fers from other Accounts	0-0000		8000.00
GST Input Tax T/fers to other Accounts	0-0000	8000.00	
Cash at Bank (Express Saver)	1-1110	2151.86	
Cash at Bank (Society Cheque Account)	1-1110	3202.11	
Cash on Hand	1-1140		
Net Change			5353.97

Please Note: This report advises the movement in each of the accounts (columns) listed and does not include opening balances. When Invoice Manager Balances are included Opening and Closing Balances are reported separately.

Note 1 to the special purpose financial report

This special purpose financial report was prepared for distribution to the members to fulfill the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia's constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act* (state). The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia's constitution and with previous years and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members:

- (a) The financial report was prepared on a cash basis of accounting.
- (b) The requirements of accounting standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia because it is not a 'reporting entity'
- (c) Capital items were expensed immediately.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia, being a special purpose financial report, which comprises the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the period ended 31 December 2017 and a note comprising a summary of significant accounting policies.

The Management Committee's responsibility for the financial report

The Management Committee of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA)* and the needs of the members. The Management Committee responsibility also includes such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report that presents fairly [gives a true and fair view] in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by The Management Committee as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Basis for qualified opinion

Receipts from donations and other fundraising activities are a significant source of revenue for the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia. The management committee has determined that it is impracticable to establish control over the collection of donations and other fundraising activity revenue prior to entry in its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to me about revenue from these sources was limited, my audit procedures for donations and other fundraising activity revenue had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. Therefore, I am unable to express an opinion on whether donations and other fundraising activity revenue obtained by the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia are complete.

Qualified opinion

In my opinion (except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation on my audit procedures referred to in the Basis for qualified opinion paragraph not existed), the financial report of Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial

statements, the financial position of the Isolated Children's Parents Association of South Australia at 31 December 2017 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the management committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the constitution and the *Associations Incorporation Act (SA)*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



.....
Benjamin Stuart Jenkin
Ben Jenkin CPA
47 Commercial Road
Port Augusta SA 5700

Dated this ...**2nd**.... day of May 2018