



ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Working together for Equity of Access to Education for all Students who live in Rural and Remote Australia.

FEDERAL COUNCIL'S BRANCH BULLETIN

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Federal Council sincerely hopes 2016 has got off to a good start for all. With Easter and school holidays looming, families will be looking forward to having family home and a break from the classroom and school routine.

Federal Council News

At the end of February, Federal Councillors, President Wendy Hick, Immediate Past President Judy Sinclair-Newton and Secretary Jane Morton met with ICPA representatives from all State Councils at Parliament House in Canberra. After observing Question Time, the group met to discuss issues that affect all ICPA members and to debrief on their states' current situation. The following day, everyone met as a group with the Department of Education and Training to discuss among other things: In Home Care, the Nanny Pilot Programme, School Funding and also met with nbn, putting forward questions and receiving the latest update regarding the nbn rollout. This networking opportunity was very beneficial and the overall input and support will strengthen ways in which all councils can work together on common issues.

2015 Federal Conference Motions Update

Since the 2015 Federal Conference held in Brisbane, Federal Council has undertaken a variety of actions to pursue the issues that were raised through members' motions. Click [here](#) for more information.

2016 State Conferences

Upcoming State Conferences will see many branches represented, spirited debate, friendships renewed, new friends made and good times had with the common goal of achieving equitable educational opportunities.

ICPA NSW – Griffith, March 16 & 17

ICPA WA – Cottesloe, March 18

ICPA SA – Roxby Downs, March 22

ICPA NT – Katherine, April 6 & 7

ICPA QLD – Alpha, September 6 & 7

For more information on the conferences, please visit www.icpa.com.au/events

Federal Councillors will be present at each of these conferences and only too happy to answer any questions you may have, so take the opportunity, introduce yourself and catch up on the latest news.

2016 Federal Conference

This year's Federal Conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia at the Duxton Hotel on Wednesday August 10 and Thursday August 11, 2016.

- **2016 AGM Notice**

The Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia Incorporated will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 8.30am at the Duxton Hotel, Perth.

During the AGM, elections will be held to establish the 2016/2017 Federal Council. Have you thought of becoming a Federal Councillor? A full council lightens the load for all of the volunteers and the breadth of experience and talents you would bring to a council position would help to strengthen your ICPA. Contact a current federal councillor for more information.

- **Federal Conference Motions**

Agenda Motions are to be in the hands of the Federal Secretary by **midnight June 14, 2016**. A reminder that motions do not need to be presented at your state conference in order to be accepted onto the federal conference agenda. Only federal related issues should be presented at the federal conference. Explanations are very important - please remember to include them when you send your motion.

Supplementary Motions are to be with the Federal Secretary by **midnight August 2, 2016**. Supplementary motions are designed to address an issue that has arisen since the agenda motion cut-off date so supplementary motions which do not fall into this category will not be accepted.

Floor Motions generally come about as a result of discussion and debate during conference. Occasionally they cover issues that have arisen since the closing date for supplementary motions. Floor motions can only be accepted for debate with the consent of delegates, after the motion has been read to the conference by the Chair.

Please contact Jane Morton, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

- **Federal Conference Motion Process**

A full explanation of how motions are presented at conference as well as other important information is [here](#). All conference attendees, whether they are first time delegates or not, are invited to attend the Conference Procedures Workshop. Presenters will run through a variety of scenarios that arise during conference including but not limited to, motion amendments, word changes and withdrawing motions.

- **Financial assistance to attend conference**

It is important that we have a good representation from all branches. If your branch is struggling financially and unable to send a delegate to federal conference, please contact Anita Dennis FedTreasurer@icpa.com.au with relevant information about the financial position of your branch and assistance required before June 1, 2016.

Boarding Survey

Our Boarding School Survey has now closed with 1034 responses. The survey was sent out to 2500 members via MailChimp, with a response rate of 41%. The eligible participants in the survey were members who currently have children at boarding school. Once the results are collated, we will have concrete information to strengthen our lobby to have the AIC Boarding Allowance increased to more accurately reflect the cost of educating our rural and remote students.

SNAICC

Federal Councillors attended a very informative Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Island Child Care (SNAICC) presentation in Canberra. For more information see www.snaicc.org.au

Useful Information about the Sky Muster Service

Federal Council have put together some general up-to-date information regarding the Sky Muster Satellite and Education Port. Click [here](#) to read more.

ACCAN

While in Canberra Federal Councillors attended the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) forum which included the launch of their *Top Tips for Phones and Internet*. Read them [here](#).

ACCAN have produced a [Community Consultation Guide](#) to improve mobile connectivity in your community and assist communities to best understand what they can do to encourage the network providers to invest in mobile towers in their area. They will be publishing an updated guide shortly.

Telstra Unmetered sites for Distance Education

A full list of the current sites can be found [here](#)

Mobile Black spot guidelines released

The guidelines for Round 2 of the Mobile Black Spot Programme (MBSP) were released late February 2016. The guidelines list all the criteria that the Federal Government will take into account when assessing whether to subsidise a particular site and each criterion has a different weighting. Some of the changes to note in the Assessment Criteria are:

Member of Parliament Priority: in Round 2 locations that are endorsed by a Federal MP as "priority locations" will be awarded 10 points, rather than 5 as in Round 1.

Remoteness of Location: this was not part of the Assessment Criteria in Round 1 but can earn applications up to 20 points in Round 2.

Triple Zero Emergency call access Australia wide

Federal Council are supportive of this current campaign to lobby for improvement of mobile phone black spots. Click [here](#) to see how you can be involved.



SPELD SA Intensive Literacy Program FREE Trial

Specific Learning Difficulties Association (SPELD) of South Australia are offering a free trial of a literacy program designed for individual and small group teaching. The program includes the main components of a comprehensive literacy program: oral communication, phonological awareness, phonics, reading, spelling, grammar, punctuation and writing, and covers the skills taught in the first four years of school. SPELD are grateful to all the teachers, support staff and parents who trialled the program last year and sent such detailed and helpful feedback. They have taken on board the recommendations and now offer a revised version for trialling. All members of the community who are engaged in teaching the basic skills for literacy to 'students' (aged 8 to adult) are welcome to trial the program. If you are interested, please contact Sandy on 08 8431 1655 or email sandyr@speld-sa.org.au

Attention students in year 10, 11 and 12!

It is never too soon to start looking at the opportunities available for your tertiary studies. There is a wealth of information on websites about trades and university courses to help you make informed decisions about future study.

If you cannot make it to an open day, enquire about online forums and seminars as many universities are now offering this option.

Below are just a few of the many websites offering useful information.

Quality Indicators for Learning and teaching - <https://www.qilt.edu.au/>

Myfuture - <http://myfuture.edu.au/>

Country Education Foundation - <https://cef.org.au/>

TAFE Courses - <http://www.tafecourses.com.au/>

