



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 Volume 13, Number 8: May 2016

Welcome to the May edition of the Federal Branch Bulletin. It has been an extremely busy but rewarding few weeks for many on Federal Council. May has seen the collation and production of the final report from the Boarding School survey. Federal Council wishes to sincerely thank all our members who spread the word about the survey and also took the time to complete this document. We were truly touched by many of the stories and experiences shared.

This edition of the BB has important information about the upcoming Federal Conference, updates from the Boarding Schools Portfolio, Communications Portfolio, the Nanny Pilot Program, In Home Care and information regarding Independent Youth Allowance eligibility for rural and remote students. We hope you enjoy the update.

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.

*45th Annual ICPA Federal Conference
Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th August 2016
The Duxton Hotel, St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA
Hosted and Convened by ICPA WA*

**Waves of Change,
Oceans of Opportunity**



Federal Conference hashtag #ICPAconf16

- **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 Key Dates**

Agenda Motions close 14 June 2016

Supplementary Motions close 2 August 2016

Registrations close 1 August 2016

Information on motions [here](#) and information on motion writing can be found [here](#).

- **Conference Workshops:**

Conference Procedures Workshop

Federal Council invites all conference attendees, whether they are first time delegates or not, to attend the "Conference Procedures Workshop" on Tuesday, August 9. Presenters will run through a variety of scenarios that arise during conference including but not limited to: motion amendments, word changes and withdrawing motions. A full explanation of how motions are presented at conference as well as other important information is [here](#).

Great Ideas Workshop - During conference you are welcome to participate in the "Great Ideas Workshop". This will be an opportunity for everyone to join a group discussion on a topic relevant to them. The workshops will be facilitated by Federal Council with assistance from attendees knowledgeable in specific areas. The session will be designed so everyone has the chance to tell their story and ask questions, which will lead to formulating ideas that will contribute to how issues are actioned in the future. More information will be circulated prior to conference. There is no need to register for either of these workshops.

- **Financial assistance to attend conference**

It is important that we have good representation from all branches. If your branch is struggling financially and unable to send a delegate to Federal Conference, please contact Anita Dennis [Federal Treasurer](#) with relevant information about the financial position of your branch and assistance required before **June 1, 2016**.

Boarding Schools Portfolio – Canberra Mini Delegation

A contingent of five Federal Councillors recently travelled to Canberra to present the findings of our boarding school survey. This research document supported our AIC campaign to address affordability of access to a secondary education and provided clear evidence that a substantial increase in the current rate of financial assistance is critical. Meetings with Ministers, Senators and Government Representatives provided an opportunity to present detailed discussion concerning increases to AIC allowances.

Links to relevant media releases and the ICPA Boarding School survey are included below:

[Boarding School Survey and Key Findings](#)

[Media Release: Results are in: Costs too high - for too long](#)

[The Weekly Times - School Fees Sting splitting up the outback family](#)

Nanny Pilot Programme Changes

Announced in the 2016 Federal Budget were some changes to the Nanny Pilot Programme (NPP) which has now been extended until 30th June 2018. From the 1st June 2016, the subsidy rate will increase and participating families will receive between \$5 and \$8.50 per child per hour towards the cost of using a nanny. Rural and remote families who were previously eligible for the pilot, but did not take it up, had until 20th May 2016 to advise if they would like to re-join the programme. More information [here](#). ICPA is keen to receive feedback from our members, prior to the NPP evaluation, regarding this programme as it is happening: what worked well, what did not, difficulties you faced, successes... Please contact [Early Childhood Portfolio Leader](#) Tracie Blair

In Home Care News

Earlier this year, Federal Councillors met with representatives from the Department of Education and Training and were informed that although the application process to be part of the Nanny Pilot Programme has closed, places are still available in the In Home Care Programme. If you have had any problems with finding an IHC provider or becoming registered please contact [Early Childhood Portfolio Leader](#) Tracie Blair.

Education Port

Details [here](#) regarding the education port have been released by **nbn**.

As soon as we have more information on the actual plans available we will forward them on.

Independent Youth Allowance - Independence through part-time work or earnings for rural and remote students

Students classified as inner regional, outer regional, remote and very remote can apply for Independent Youth Allowance, if they fulfil the requirements since leaving secondary school:

- have earned at least 75 per cent of Wage Level A of the [National Training Wage Schedule](#) included in a modern award, in an 18-month period, **OR**
- have worked part-time (at least 15 hours each week) for at least 2 years

AND

- Parental income was less than \$150 000 in the base tax year (for example, in May 2016, the base tax year is the year ending 30 June 2015) or in the current tax year if their income has changed substantially.
- You must be a full-time student and must need to move away from home in order to study.
- Family home is in an area is considered to be inner regional, outer regional, remote, or very remote. Find out which area your family home is in using the [Student Regional Area Search service](#).

Evidence and Information required to be provided with application includes:

- [Proof of Identity](#) to register for the online account services
- Income
 - Proof of cumulative earnings that total at least [75% of Wage Level A of the National Training Wage Schedule](#) within an 18 month period since leaving secondary school - payslips, payroll reports, letter or payment summaries (group certificates) OR
 - Proof of part-time employment of at least 15 hours per week for at least two years since the person last left secondary school - letters from all employers including all hours worked for the entire assessment period
- Study details including course details and name of institution
- Accommodation details including current home address and semester address
- Proof that their parental income in the appropriate tax year is less than \$150,000
- The date the applicant last left secondary school - letter from the school.

For more information on Independent Youth Allowance

- **132490** Youth Allowance dedicated line for information and assistance with application
- [Human Services Youth Allowance Website](#)
- Other useful websites [Student Update - Facebook](#) 'Like' this Facebook page and you will receive updates and reminders about student payments. [Study Assist](#) Information for students about government assistance for financing tertiary study

2016 Upcoming State Conference

ICPA QLD – Alpha, September 6 & 7, 2016

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

"A child without education is like a bird without wings" Tibetan Proverb

