



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 15, Number 4: December 2016

The last Federal Branch Bulletin 2016. This edition will give you an update on memberships, early childhood services, scholarships, tertiary and boarding, plus much more. Grab a cool drink and enjoy.



FEDERAL COUNCIL NEWS

We have much to look forward to in the New Year. Federal Council are working on a number of lobbies that have gained ground recently and we will certainly be looking for favorable outcomes, come 2017.

Federal Council will be winding down for a bit of a break and spending time with our families over the holidays beginning December 19th and we will return in full force February 6th 2017. In the interim, some of our council executive will address any matters needing attention. ICPA Federal Council would like to thank all our members for their continued support and wish you a very happy Christmas and all the very best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy 2017.

Memberships Due! - Federal Membership Officer Update

A timely reminder to our members that 2017 Memberships fall due on **January 1**.

- Membership fees are paid to your Branch. If you have not had a renewal reminder, please contact your branch treasurer for details. All details of branches are available on each state website via www.icpa.com.au.

**Membership
Renewals due
January 1 2017**

- It is important that your listed details are current especially your email address for the Branch Bulletin and important updates and address for the [Pedals](#) magazine. These details can be updated by visiting ICPA [login](#) and logging in with your previous email and password. If you have forgotten your password – just click on “forgotten your password?” and a new one will be sent to you.
- An important reminder, with many States holding Conferences early in 2017, branch delegates need to be financial members in order to attend conferences and vote.

Your membership is important to our organisation, numbers count and make a real difference as we continue our lobby for equitable access to education. We encourage our members to re-join this wonderful organisation and encourage friends, family, neighbours and anyone with an interest in rural and remote education, to join up as a member.

Any questions please contact Kate Gray, Federal Treasurer, FedTreasurer@icpa.com.au or Jane O'Brien, Federal Membership Officer, FedMembership@icpa.com.au.

Mobile Early Childhood Services Update



Federal Council has received a letter from Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, reassuring our members that BBF (Budget Based Funding) Mobile Services will be eligible to administer the Child Care Subsidy on behalf of families from July 2018. This is an opportunity that these BBF services have not had before. Additional funding will be available through the Child Care Safety Net which is recognition of the unique circumstance in which mobile services operate.

The Department of Education and Training is working to ensure the legislation supports the operation of BBF Services and these services will be able to operate for the number of hours and days per week that best suit their communities. In addition, the Prime Minister, the Hon

Malcom Turnbull MP, has given a firm commitment that alternative funding sources will be identified to support those services that do not deliver child care but do provide a vital community service, so that they may transition smoothly under the new system and will be supported into the future.

Home Educated Students and the nbn Sky Muster Education Port

Home Education Students are now eligible for nbn's Education Port. Geographically Isolated and Medical enrolment Home Education Students (K -12) who have registered with their State Education Department, are in receipt of the Federal Government's Geographically Isolated or the Medical AIC Allowance and are in a nbn Sky Muster designated area, may now apply to a Retail (Internet) Service Provider (RSP) for access to the nbn Sky Muster Education Port. ICPA extends thanks to [nbn](#), Education Department's, the [BIRRR](#) team and ICPA State Councils who have all worked collaboratively to achieve this outcome for home education students. More information can be found [here](#).

Communications Update

- **Do You Have A Good News Story?**

The Department of Communications and **nbn** are very keen to hear from you about the success of your digital connection – be it the education port or a mobile service. Please contact Joanna Gibson, [Federal Communications Portfolio Leader](#), if you are happy to share

- **Rural, Remote and Regional Communications Coalition Update**

ICPA is a member of the RRR Communications Coalition – We need our members to tell their telecommunications story highlighting the gaps at present and hopes for the future. This is

ICPA's chance to explain what is happening in our rural schools and DE classrooms. We need your stories to help promote awareness of telecommunications issues in the bush. Please contact Joanna Gibson, [Federal Communications Portfolio Leader](#) with short blogs, videos and photos.

- **[Interim Satellite Service Termination](#)**

The Interim Satellite Service is being turned off in February – Contact a Retail Service Provider (RSP) to connect to SkyMuster if you are in a satellite internet area.

Tertiary Update

- **[Facebook Student Update Page](#)**

Particularly at this time of the year, this Facebook page operated by Centrelink, Medicare and Department of Human Services has up-to-date, student specific information, advice, news, support and tips for Youth Allowance. Some recent topics have included:

- "I'm going to Uni when should I claim?"
- "How do I get a Tax File Number?"
- "Will I get paid over the semester break?"
- "Need to submit documents for your student claim for Youth Allowance or Austudy?"
- "Changing your accommodation over the semester break?"
- "Are you starting work over the semester break?"



'Like' this [Student Update Page](#) and you will receive updates and reminders about student payments. Questions can be posted and the relevant service will respond with advice, further action or comment, Monday to Friday during business hours.

- **[Youth Allowance Overview 2016](#)**

This information relates to rural and remote students intending to study full time and who intend to apply for Youth Allowance. Visit [here](#). This document was also printed in the October edition of *Pedals*. It is a guide only.

Please visit www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/youth-allowance or phone 132490 (dedicated youth allowance phone number) for more information and assistance.

Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Update - REPOSTED

- **[Avoid Interruptions to your AIC payments](#)**

If you are currently receiving AIC entitlements and will continue to qualify for these boarding allowances in 2017, please be on the lookout for your **AIC Continuation Review Form** which will arrive via post. By returning this questionnaire, within the timeframe specified, your AIC payments will continue without interruption and you will not be required to complete a new claim form.

- **[New AIC Applications](#)**

The current AIC claim form (SY040) is available on the Department of Human Services [website](#) and can be used for families claiming for the first time in 2017. Changes for 2017 have been made in this form to allow parents/guardians to reclaim the Additional Boarding Allowance for 2017. Forms can be posted by calling AIC on **13 23 18** and eligibility criteria is available on the [AIC website](#).

- **[Less download for future AIC applications](#)**

The Department of Human Services is working on splitting the AIC form and "Form Notes" into two separate PDFs to enable easier download. The updated form and new separate form notes SY040/Ci023 should be available by January 1, 2017.

Connellan Airways Trust Award 2017



The Connellan Airways Trust has opened their EJ Connellan Award for 2017 with applications closing **January 31, 2017**. The Award provides an opportunity for people living in outback Australia to undertake study, research or invention that might not be possible otherwise. The Award provides financial support of up to \$20 000 in two categories: Junior 16-25 years of age and Senior 26 years of age and over. For more details, click [here](#).

Rural Bank Scholarships

Rural Bank is offering nine scholarships in 2017 for first-time undergraduate university or college students enrolled in studies that will enable the student to contribute to the Australian agricultural industry. Each successful student applicant will be provided with funding up to the value of \$5,000 to assist with his or her tertiary studies. Applications are now open and the closing date is Friday 27 January 2017. More information is available [here](#).



2017 Des Murray Scholarship

Expression of interest are now being sought from ICPA members for the 2017 Des Murray Scholarship.

The Des Murray Scholarship was established by the [National Rural Health Alliance](#) to recognise Des Murray's contribution to the rural and remote health community, and as a reminder of the man and his work. The Scholarship is awarded every second year to enable a young person from a more remote area to attend the National Rural Health Conference. In 2017 the Scholarship will cover the cost of registration, airfare and accommodation for the 14th National Rural Health Conference in Cairns, 26-29 April 2017.

Please forward your interest to Judy Sinclair-Newton judynewton5@outlook.com by January 15, 2017 for consideration, outlining your commitment to improving the health status of people in his/her region.



ICPA benefits from Ridley Promotion - REPOSTED



ICPA will benefit directly from all Ridley Rumevite and LNT Wet Season blocks with 1% of sales achieved being donated straight back to our organisation. We thank Ridley, Elders and CRT for this initiative and their support of ICPA.

This campaign started on September 1, 2016 & will run until March 31, 2017 so we look forward to a great wet season in the northern part of Australia and we ask that our members and friends consider Ridley when considering the purchase of wet season blocks.

Store locations can be found at:

CRT- <http://www.crt.com.au/store-locations/>

Elders - <https://eldersrural.com.au/locations/>

Media

Recently ICPA was approached by the extremely popular blog site "Central Station" to contribute a blog a day for the week 5-9 December, 2016. We put the call out to our members and we were fortunate to receive stories from Sam Dillon, Nikki Elezovich, Kirsty Williams, Lynly Kerin and Donna Donaldson each telling their own story of education in rural and remote Australia along with the benefits of belonging to an inclusive and supportive organisation such as the ICPA. To find the blogs click [here](#) or alternatively you can find Central Station on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).



ICPA Australia has entered the insta world. If you are an avid Instagram user, we would love to have you come over and follow us at [icpa_aust](#)

Upcoming State Conferences

Below are links to each of the State's ICPA Website, Facebook and Twitter pages. ICPA Australia encourages our members to support the vital work that ICPA undertakes at Branch, State and Federal levels. Up-to-date information is constantly being uploaded to each of the below platforms and by following one or all of these links, you will be kept abreast of current issues and developments regarding rural and remote education in Australia.

ICPA WA – Perth, March 17, 2017 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

ICPA NSW – Bourke, March 29 & 30, 2017 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

ICPA SA – Port Augusta, March 31, 2017 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

ICPA NT – Webinar, March 28, 2017 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA QLD – St George, June 8 & 9, 2017 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA TAS – to be confirmed, 2017 - [Website](#)

ICPA FEDERAL – Alice Springs, August 2 & 3, 2017 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)



May the spirit of Christmas gently fill our hearts and homes. In this loveliest of seasons may we find many reasons for happiness.

Merry Christmas!