



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

FEDERAL COUNCIL'S BRANCH BULLETIN Volume 16, Number 2: November 2017



Since the 2017 Federal Conference, ICPA Australia has been busy. Between a whole Council Face to Face meeting in Canberra, an invitation to a consultation session to discuss the current thinking for new Home Based Education and Care (HBEC) care type, an In Home Care survey was sent out, two submissions lodged, online membership becoming live and another mention in the QANTAS Spirit magazine (above picture).

The November Federal Branch Bulletin is a must read, full of information that pertains to current issues within our organisation and rural and remote education.

Federal Council F2F



While in Canberra for Face to Face meetings recently, Federal Council met with representatives from the Department of Human Services, Department of Social Services and Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Much was discussed including the Independent review into regional, rural and remote education, rollout of recent Youth Allowance

changes, reassurances that mobile early childhood services will continue and recent upgrades to the Department Human Service website.

Membership News

- Our online membership option is **now open**, thank you to those who have already used this option.
- For members renewing their membership please click on either slide on the ICPA Aust home page and follow the links to ***Renew My ICPA Membership***, or use the **Website Login** tab at the top of the page.
- Login using your current email address, if you have forgotten your password click on the link and a new one will be sent to your email address.
- If you experience any difficulties with this process please email fedmembership@icpa.com.au
- The ***Join ICPA*** tab is for new members only.
- Members can still renew memberships through their Branch.

Pedals

Thank you to members who have sent in their updated mailing details, your details have been updated on the website and your next copy of Pedals will go to the correct address rather than forwarded on.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jane O'Brien fedmembership@icpa.com.au with any membership enquiries.

Website Changes – A message from Sue Shotton ICPA Aust Website Manager

October was Cyber Security Month which coincided with some very important security changes made to our ICPA websites. Over the past year ICPA has been the target of some very sophisticated email fraud scams. The scams were an attempt to get treasurers to send funds in payment of false invoices. Contact details were taken from the 'Contacts' page on the ICPA website which had previously been open to all viewers.

Federal Council has taken extra steps to minimise our organisation's exposure to this fraud.

All ICPA websites are now HTTPS with SSL certificates, a lock will appear on the address bar of the site you are visiting which indicates a secure website. To limit these fraud emails, Federal Council has decided that no treasurer's contact information will be displayed on the websites.

Please be assured member's details have not been accessed through the ICPA website and member information remains secure.

FAQ's -

How do I notify State and Federal if a member changes their details? A member can change their own details by logging into the website and updating their details. If a branch treasurer or a member needs to notify their State and Federal Treasurers of their changes this can be done by emailing the Federal Membership Officer (fedmembership@icpa.com.au). This position has been created as the Federal contact who deals with memberships and this email is displayed on the Federal website. In the future, all State pages will have their State Council contact list in a locked down form which you must log in to access. Another quick way to get the email address is to just write nswtreasurer@icpa.com.au for NSW and qldtreasurer@icpa.com.au for Qld. The treasurer email addresses are all the same eg. "State"treasurer@icpa.com.au.

What about my branch page? The Treasurer's contact details are missing. Over the next few months your state webmaster will be working with your branch executive and updating your branch page to display what you want displayed.

Federal Conference 2018



Tertiary

- **Horizon Scholarship Applications Opening Soon**

AgriFutures in partnership with industry sponsors, offer this scholarship to students enrolled in their first year of an agricultural-related university degree. It provides a \$5,000 bursary per year for the duration of a student's course, professional development workshops and mentoring, industry work placements and the opportunity to network and gain knowledge at



AgriFutures
Horizon
Scholarship

industry events. Applications for the 2018 Horizon Scholarship open in January 2018. More information on eligibility, how to apply and contacts can be found on the [AgriFutures Australia](#) website.

- **Connellan Airways Trust Award 2018**



CONNELLAN
AIRWAYS TRUST
OUTBACK GRANTS

The Connellan Airways Trust will open the EJ Connellan Award for 2018 on 1 December 2017 and close on 31 January 2018. The EJ Connellan Award provides an opportunity for individuals living in outback Australia to undertake further study or research that otherwise may not be available to them. The EJ Connellan Award provides financial support in two categories: Junior 16-25 years of age and Senior 26 years of age and above. Details of the application process, eligibility, award categories, contact details and general information can be found on the Connellan Airways Trust website [here](#).

- **Country Education Foundation**

The Country Education Foundation (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation helping rural and regional youth access education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, support services and resources. The [Scholarship Guide](#) contains *Top Tips for Applying for Scholarships* to maximise your chances of gaining a scholarship and *Search for a Scholarship*. A scholarship can assist in covering the costs of textbooks, course fees, equipment accommodation and living costs. This Scholarship Guide is well worth a read and as CEF scholarship page says **"And remember, you'll never know if you don't give it a**

go!" The [University Survival Guide](#) contains information on accommodation, finances & employment, getting started, health & support, parents & Families and study.

- **Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships (STEM Scholarships)**

The Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships will be commencing in 2018 and will support 1200 regional and remote students to undertake STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) studies. The scholarships will be for vocational education, undergraduate and postgraduate students (Certificate IV to PhD). The application period will be from late November 2017 to early January 2018. For more information on the scholarships, visit <https://www.education.gov.au/rural-and-regional-enterprise-scholarships>. The Department of Education and Training has advised that the website will be updated soon with information on scholarship application round opening and closing dates, and instructions for applying.

- **Youth Allowance Overview 2018**

The aim is to summarise the lengthy Youth Allowance website. This information relates to rural and remote students planning to study full time and who intend to apply for Youth Allowance. The Youth Allowance Overview 2018 is on the ICPA (Aust) website [here](#). It is a guide only. For more information, advice, clarification and further assistance please visit www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/youth-allowance or phone **132490** (dedicated Youth Allowance phone number). ICPA (Aust) would like to thank the Department of Human Services for their invaluable assistance with clarification of information for this document.

- **Youth Allowance Changes**

From January 1, 2018, Youth Allowance (YA) changes :- the reduction in the time regional and remote students need to be employed under the self-supporting criteria (Part time work or earnings for rural and remote students) from 18 months to 14 months to qualify for independent Youth Allowance (YA) and ABSTUDY living allowance will come into effect. This criteria will allow students to finish Year 12 and start university after the equivalent of a gap year and at the same time be eligible for independent YA if they have fulfilled all the criteria. The 2016 school leavers will be eligible for this consideration as of January 1, 2018. For more information on the eligibility criteria of dependent and independent Youth Allowance visit [here](#).

- **Facebook Student Update Page**

The Department of Human Services [Student Update](#) Facebook page is operated by Centrelink, Medicare and Department of Human Services. It has up-to-date, student specific information, advice, news, support and tips for Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY recently it has covered topics including:

- Payments available for tertiary students and Australian apprentices
- Income bank
- Changes in circumstances requiring notification
- Claiming Youth Allowance
- Updating Parental Income details
- Important dates
- Travelling overseas while studying
- Claiming travel costs back home if you live away to study



'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.

Preparing For Boarding

If you are working towards the end of January to have your child ready for boarding school, then this helpful document may assist with a few questions that have popped up. Follow this [link](#) to view.

AIC Update



The [Department of Human Services](#) are currently posting out the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) 'continuing' claims to parents/guardians/carers which will allow families to reapply for their child(ren) for 2018. If parents are expecting one of these questionnaires and haven't received it by the end of October, it is suggested they contact the Department on 132 318 so a replacement may be arranged. Parents are encouraged to complete and return these questionnaires before 1 January 2018. For families intending on claiming AIC for the first time in 2018, forms can be downloaded [here](#)

There is an enormous amount of information on the new look DHS website including AIC eligibility and a comprehensive list of "bypass" or "limited program" schools across Australia. To find out more follow this [link](#).

The AIC payment **rates** for 2018 are available for download [here](#)

The AIC payment **dates** for 2018 are available for download [here](#)

Centrelink Payment and Services Finder

The Australian Department of Human Services offer on their website the [Payment and Service Finder](#) to help find, estimate and compare payments and services you may be eligible for.

It should be used as a guide only. For more information of the results it generates, go to the specific page of the payment or service.

The Rate Estimator feature in the Payment and Services Finder can be used to calculate:

- Centrelink payments including allowances and pensions
- Family Tax Benefit
- Child Care fee assistance

In Home Care News

Thank you so much to those of you who completed our In Home Care (IHC) Survey several weeks ago. It has helped provide feedback to the developers of the new Home Based Education and Care (HBEC) model which takes over from In Home Care and the Nanny Pilot Program from July 2, 2018. Please be on the lookout for information about this new model from your service providers and we will forward information as we receive it.

As with IHC, the new model will be capped, means-tested and only available where there is no other child care that can be accessed in your area. Please be aware that the new Child Care Subsidy will also apply to HBEC as the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) was with In Home Care.

The new Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will apply to all child care including that in small towns. Please [click here](#) for information on the new CCS and the very useful CCS estimator which is available [here](#).

BIRRR Info

Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia has put together some very handy information documents for people who are navigating the broadband jungle. Thank you to BIRRR for allowing ICPA to provide this information to our members:

How to choose an nbn provider – follow this [link](#)

Internet provider details printout sheet – follow this [link](#)

nbn Conference Blog

After our 2017 Federal Conference in Alice Springs, attending nbn representative Ryan Williams wrote a blog on his experience which we think is worth a read.

Titled “How remote is too remote? Bringing broadband to regional and remote Australia”, follow this [link](#) to view.

Pedals



The next edition of the national ICPA magazine “Pedals” will be published in January 2018. **Deadline is 15th November 2017.** This magazine is a great form of advertising for businesses looking to get onto the coffee tables of ICPA members. We look forward to lots of input with newsy articles from members and non members alike.

More information on Pedals can be found [here](#).

AHVICE



Many people will be aware of the imminent closure of VISE (Volunteers for Isolated Education) in December 2017.

Blue card officer from VISE Lyn French, was inundated with messages from family devastated by the news. Lyn felt she could not stand by and do nothing.

Lyn made contact with Brian Egan from Aussie Helpers to see if he could assist. Without hesitation Brian jumped on board and Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Students' Education (AHVICE) has been created to replace the VISE service in 2018 and beyond. Currently Lyn and Brian are working hard to develop a new web page and have plans for it to be up and running within a few months. Lyn will keep people updated as time goes on. She is also hoping to attend the next Federal ICPA conference to spread the word. For those who may have queries or would like to offer suggestions the team would be happy to hear from you.

Lyn can be contacted at: gilberton@bigpond.com
and Aussie Helpers at: admin@aussiehelpers.org.au

Australia Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) survey



ABSA is implementing a financial life skills research project together with their partner The Wealth Academy. This project has three pillars which individually gather the perspectives of Directors of Boarding, ex-boarders and parents of current boarders.

ABSA is very keen to gather the views of parents of boarders regarding their perceptions of the importance of financial education and their schools interest and commitment toward preparing our children for the financial world in which they will live.

For the opportunity to participate in this survey follow this [link](#). All responses remain anonymous and does not identify you or the school.

Submissions

ICPA have recently lodged two submissions to the Department of Education and Training. Click [here](#) to view Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools
Click [here](#) to view Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education

2017 Conferences

ICPA WA – Fremantle, March 16, 2018 [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
ICPA NSW – Mudgee, March 14 & 15, 2018 [Website](#), [Facebook](#)
ICPA SA – Port Augusta, March 18, 2018 [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
ICPA TAS – AGM only - [Website](#)
ICPA QLD – Winton, June 13 & 14, 2018 [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
ICPA FEDERAL – Canberra, August 1 & 2, 2018 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)
ICPA NT – [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

