



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 5: March 2018

A very full month since the February Branch Bulletin has seen New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory ICPA State Council's hold their annual conferences, along with Tasmania conducting their Annual General Meeting. Representatives from Federal Council attended each of these forums and congratulations goes to the convening committees, as to host such events is an immense but extremely necessary task.

Federal News

Representatives from Federal Council have spent the past month travelling across Australia to attend the various State Conferences and Annual General Meetings. A quick overview:

New South Wales – “NEVER aLONE – Accessing Education Together” 14/15 March, 2018



Four Federal Councillors attended New South Wales ICPA State Conference in Mudgee. L to R – Jane O'Brien representing Walgett Branch, Wendy Hick (Federal Council), Judy Sinclair-Newton (Federal Council) and Caroline Robinson representing Brewarrina Branch.

Catching up at the Conference were four Walgett ICPA Branch Life Members - L to R Rory Treweeke NSW State Life Member, Federal Life Member; Judy Sinclair Newton; Jane O'Brien; Margot Church former NSW State Vice President.

The 2018/19 New South Wales State Council – absent Bruce Paynter and Kate Herring. Click [here](#) to read the post conference media release.

Western Australia – “Our Land: A Great Place To Learn” 16 March, 2018



Assistant Secretary Jane Morton and Secretary Suzanne Wilson travelled to Fremantle for the Western Australia ICPA State Conference. Congratulations to Pedals Editor Raelene Hall for her WA ICPA Life Membership – an extremely worthy recipient. Middle picture is the new WA State Council. Jane Morton presented the ICPA Federal report to conference delegates and guests.

Read the WA pre conference media release [here](#).

Northern Territory – “Special Needs In Isolation” 21 March, 2018



Federal President Wendy Hick and Councillor Alana Moller (right picture) travelled to Alice Springs for the Northern Territory ICPA Conference. Left picture – NT ICPA President Tiani Cook, Head of nbn local for SA and NT Tim Saul, Wendy Hick and Hon Warren Snowdon MP. Middle picture - this year's NT State Council with Federal and State Life Member Mrs. Pat Elliott AM and State Life Member and Patron of NT ICPA Mrs. Jan Heaslip. Not pictured: Secretary Suzanne Wilson & NT State Councillor Anna Weir.

Membership News

- Thank you to all the wonderful members who have renewed for 2018.
- If you are yet to renew please either follow the links to renew online or contact your Branch Treasurer.
- If you are unsure if your membership is current or not simply email Jane O'Brien fedmembership@icpa.com.au who will give you an update.
- From 1 April 2018 members who have not renewed for 2018 will not be current and not receive any publications until their membership is renewed.
- If you would like to renew online, go to the website www.icpa.com.au and either click on 'Website Login' on the top right hand side, OR click on the slide 'Online Membership is now available, click on and renew', OR click on the link down the bottom of the page 'Online Membership Now Live! Click here to renew for 2018.

If you would like assistance with renewing online simply email fedmembership@icpa.com.au
Jane O'Brien
Federal Membership Officer

2017 Federal Conference Motion Update

Since the 2016 Federal Conference held in Alice Springs, Federal Council has undertaken a variety of actions to pursue the issues that were raised through members' motions. Recently members would have received a Motion Update email outlining the progress report. Click [here](#) to view that document. Federal Council hopes branches find the update useful and that it will assist in the preparation of this year's Federal Conference motions.

Federal Conference 2018



This year's ICPA Federal Conference will be held at the [QT Canberra](#) on August 1st & 2nd. QT is centrally located close to major attractions including the Parliament House, War Memorial & National Gallery of Australia. This will be a conference not to be missed, with time needed either side for some sightseeing. We will be constantly updating the [ICPA website](#) and [Facebook](#) page as announcements come to hand. #ICPAconf18

2018 AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia Incorporated will be held on **Thursday, August 2, 2018 at 8.30am** at the [QT Canberra](#). During the AGM, elections will be held to establish the 2018/2019 Federal Council. Have you considered 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. Click [here](#) to view contact details for current Federal Councillors.

Federal Conference Motions

Click [here](#) for the **Motion Template** to use, along with further information.

Agenda Motions are to be in the hands of the Federal Secretary by **midnight Tuesday June 5, 2018**. A reminder that 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 to Suzanne Wilson, [Federal Secretary](#).

Supplementary Motions are to be with the Federal Secretary by **midnight Tuesday July 24, 2018**. Supplementary motions are designed to address an issue that has arisen since the agenda motion cut-off date. Supplementary motions will only be accepted onto the

agenda if they pertain to an issue *not* already covered in the main agenda. Please contact Suzanne Wilson, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

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 Suzanne Wilson, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

- **Branches are reminded that a motion does not have to be presented at a State Conference to be accepted as a Federal Agenda Motion.**
- **Motions should be approved by the branch and submitted after a majority decision.**
- **Full explanations are to be sent with your motions for printing in the booklet, however please note, only a short summary of the explanation to be presented at conference in a maximum of 2 minutes (or about 250 words).**
- **Branches - please prepare your summaries before conference and have the shortened versions ready to read instead of the full written explanations.**
- **Federal Council and the relevant portfolio leaders can be contacted for assistance with motion wording and writing. Contact details [here](#).**
- **Previously carried motions do not have to be presented every year. Once a carried motion is in policy, it remains part of the lobby until resolved or modified.**
- **Branches do not have to submit a motion in order to attend Federal Conference.**

A motion should be directed to someone and ask the organisation to carry out a specific course of action. It's important that a motion is worded in a way that clearly reflects the Branch or State Council's intention. If you are not sure who you should be directing your motion to, the following may be of some assistance:

- **Boarding (AIC)** motions can be directed to the Minister for Social Services and the Minister for Education and Training or use alternate general wording – relevant Ministers.
- **Communications** motions should be directed to the Minister for Communications and/or Minister for Regional Communications unless the matter relates to the service provider.
- **Early Childhood Education** motions should be directed to the Minister for Education and Training
- **Child Care** policies and program motions should be directed to the Minister for Education and Training.
- **Distance Education**, including the DETA lobby and any increases to the AIC should be directed to the Minister for Social Services and the Minister for Education and Training or use of the wording - the Federal Government or relevant Ministers, is also acceptable.
- **Youth Allowance** motions relating to changes to YA, increases in rent assistance and the relocation scholarship should be addressed to the Minister for Social Services.
- **Tertiary Access Allowance** either Minister for Education and Training or Federal Government.

Conference Workshop

Federal Conference Motion Process

Federal Council will hold its “**Conference Procedures Workshop**” and all conference attendees, whether they are first time delegates or not, are invited to attend. 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](#).

Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Survey

ICPA is aware that there have been a number of issues surrounding the application and renewal process of the Assistance for Isolated Children Allowance (AIC) resulting in delayed payments and causing concern for affected rural and remote families.

Federal Council meets with the Department of Human Services regularly and to strengthen our lobby to resolve these issues, ICPA needs input from families who have applied for or receive AIC for boarding, distance education and/or second home. ICPA (Aust) has compiled a survey to gather information regarding ICPA families experiences with the AIC application or renewal process. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information around the application and renewal process for AIC and does not focus on other areas of AIC concern such as eligibility criteria.

Click [here](#) to complete the survey as your input will assist Federal Council with data to continue conversations seeking improvement in the AIC application/renewal process. This survey closes April 20, 2018.

Curriculum Update



Federal Council has represented members as a major stakeholder at Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) meeting for many years. Our Curriculum Leader, Judy Sinclair-Newton attends quarterly teleconferences which allow Federal Council to have input into discussions as well as hear firsthand the plans for the future and the latest developments. Click [here](#) to view the latest news regarding NAPLAN online.

In Home Care (IHC) Update

As was mentioned in the Federal Conference Motion Update, ICPA (Aust) was recently informed by the Department of Education and Training, and we have had this confirmed by Minister Birmingham's office, that even though the IHC National Guidelines still states that IHC educators may not supervise distance education, they can continue to supervise distance education students outside of 'formal schooling hours' (i.e. on-air lesson hours) as the rest of the schoolwork is classified as 'homework' by the Department. These 'homework' hours can be used by distance education families from 2 July 2018 to access the new [Child Care Subsidy](#).

The Department has recommended that a private arrangement between a family and the IHC educator be made to ensure continued care during those 'formal schooling hours' as the teacher is not in the same room as the student, but the family will not be able to claim the Child Care Subsidy during that time.

As IHC educators will need to have a relevant Certificate III qualification or working towards one, this may be problematic initially. The Department has now provided two ways for families

in rural and remote areas where IHC educators can be exempt from having their Cert III in ECEC, but only up to 18 months from 2 July 2018.

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

Parent Guides

Eileen Berry from [Parent Guides](#) wants to provide the best information and tools for young people to help them build resilience to cope with everyday life.

BIRRR Landline Survey



Due to the amount of responses still coming in, BIRRR have extended their Landline Survey until Monday 9th April, 2018.

This is an important survey which will help with the lobby to keep working fixed landlines in rural and remote areas. Please, if you have not completed this survey yet, follow this [link](#) and have your voice heard.

Parent Tech Survey

Our children's use of technology at home and in schools is becoming more prevalent and being introduced at younger and younger ages. The Australian Parents Council has released the "Parenting In The Digital Age" survey where our rural and remote members can have their say on their child's use of technology at home. To view the survey click [here](#).

Submissions

Federal Council has lodged two submissions in the past month.

Click [here](#) to view the submission to the National School Resourcing Board on the Review of the SES score methodology

Click [here](#) to view the submission to the Department of Education and Training Higher Education Group on the Implementation of Regional Study Hubs 2018

2018 Conferences

ICPA SA – Port Augusta, May 18, 2018 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA QLD – Winton, June 13 & 14, 2018 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA FEDERAL – Canberra, August 1 & 2, 2018 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

ICPA TAS – [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

ICPA NSW – [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

ICPA WA – [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA NT – [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

