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## Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

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### FEDERAL COUNCIL'S BRANCH BULLETIN

Volume 16, Number 6: May 2018

As we prepare for Federal Conference in Canberra on August 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, this Federal Branch Bulletin contains important information for Branches and State Councils on motion writing and necessary dates to ensure the motion process is adhered to. Federal Conference registrations are now open and the [Conference website](#) has been launched.



### Federal Council Update

As this goes to print, ICPA Federal Council is preparing for a week of delegations in Canberra and two Councillors head to Port Augusta for the South Australia State Conference. Since the last Branch Bulletin, two submissions have been lodged, the Federal Budget has been handed down and Councillors have attended meetings in Brisbane and Sydney. The pace of Federal Council is not slowing down which is very exciting as headway is being made! Invitations to this year's Federal Conference have been sent to all members via email. If you have not received this invitation please alert us via this [link](#) and another will be mailed out.

## Membership News

- Thank you to all members who have renewed for 2018
- Members are the life blood of our organisation, your issues are our issues to take forward as we continue our lobby for equitable access to education
- Why don't you check with family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours, schools if they have received this Bulletin
- If not, suggest they join our wonderful organisation or if past members renew their membership
- It is not too late to join or renew
- Remember Branch delegates and observers for Federal Conference need to be members across the three tiers, Federal, State and Branch levels

Looking forward to meeting up with many of you at Federal Conference in August.

As always I welcome feedback and any questions.

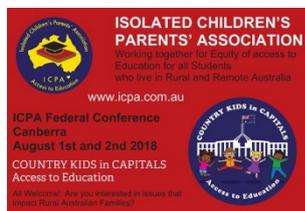
Jane O'Brien

[fedmembership@icpa.com.au](mailto:fedmembership@icpa.com.au)

## Phone/text spoofing and Scams

Please be diligent and look out for unknown callers from within Australia or overseas calling landlines and mobiles. Incidences of these calls are becoming more prevalent with each year and we encourage members to be informed through handy tools such as [Scamwatch](#) and the [ACCAN tip sheet](#).

## Federal Conference 2018



Registrations are **now open** for the 2018 ICPA Federal Conference. All the information and registration details are conveniently located on the **Federal Conference Website** which can be viewed [here](#).

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 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](#), [Federal Conference Website](#) and [Facebook](#) page as announcements come to hand. #ICPAconf18

## Accommodation

A special accommodation rate has been sourced for Conference delegates who are intending to stay at QT Canberra.

To access these special rates please visit

<https://www.qthotelsandresorts.com/canberra>

1. Click on "BOOK NOW"
2. Under "MORE BOOKING OPTIONS" in the "CORPORATE ID" field enter your **corporate ID: QTCONF**
3. Click "UPDATE BOOKING"

4. Discounted rates will appear on the rates screen
5. Available for stays between **Sunday 29th** and **Friday 03 August 2018** (inclusive)

### **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 and [here](#) for a Federal Councillor Nomination Form.

### **2017 Federal Conference Motion Update**

Branches are currently forming their motions to present at this year's Federal Conference. An important document which members would find beneficial through this process is the Motion Update which gives a progress report following on from the 2017 Federal Conference. Click [here](#) to download the 2017 Motion Update. If help is needed please contact the ICPA Federal leader of the portfolio your motion pertains to.

### **Federal Conference Motions**

Click [here](#) for information on Motion writing for Federal Conference including a **Motion Template** to use. Further information on Federal current lobbies and Federal Portfolios can be found here.

**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.**
- **No late motions will be accepted.**

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** to either the 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](#).

### **Branch Financial Hardship**

Financial support may be available to Branches who wish to send a delegate to Federal Conference but are experiencing financial hardship. A written application together with a copy of your latest bank statement should be sent to the [Federal Secretary](#) by Friday 1 June 2018, for review by the Federal Council. The Federal Council will advise the result asap.

## Pedals



Deadline for the pre-conference [Pedals](#) is now due. If you or your Branch have something that you think everyone would like to know, please send Pedals Editor [Raelene Hall](#), an email with your story. Raelene loves to fill Pedals with rural and remote news from all over Australia and it is great to see so many businesses offering their support through advertising. The April edition featured a touching tribute to ICPA icon Eric Charles "Bunny" Powne MBE who was a founding member of ICPA, along with stories about governesses, bush to boarding, distance education milestones and the lovely Pat Elliott receiving her Queen's Birthday honour.

## Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Survey

A total of 331 responses and hundreds of comments were received during our recent AIC survey. We also had numerous calls and messages from members who were seeking assistance with their renewal and application. We are currently collating the information received and we look forward to sharing this information with our members.

## Child Care Subsidy Update

The Government's overhaul of the child care and early learning subsidies includes an extra \$2.5 billion to ensure more families get more support. The reforms are set to benefit nearly one million families by retargeting subsidies towards families earning the least and families working the most, introducing hourly rate caps to put downward pressure on fee increases, and abolishing the annual rebate cap for most families.

From 2 July 2018, one new Child Care Subsidy will replace the two current child care payments. Please be aware that this transition does not happen automatically. To transition, you will need to complete an online Child Care Subsidy assessment using your Centrelink online account through [myGov](#). You will be asked to provide some new information and confirm your current details, including: 1. Combined family income, 2. Activity level of parents and 3. Type of child care service.

## Curriculum Update

Federal Council represents members on the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority's (ACARA) Parent and Principal Peak National Bodies Briefing group which meets quarterly via teleconference. It was a welcome change meeting face to face in Sydney. The morning started with a thought provoking forum led by world renowned, curriculum writer Charles Leadbeater. During the afternoon session the group was updated on the latest news around NAPLAN online and curriculum development.



## **Connecting Up Conference**



ICPA Federal Publicity Officer Nikki Macqueen attended a two day conference hosted by Connecting Up in Brisbane along with a one day social media workshop by "Take 10 Social" with Kate vanderVoort. An enormous amount of technology information was shared with speakers and delegates travelling from all over the world to be there.

## **Budget News**



ICPA Australia welcomed the acknowledgement of a national focus for regional, rural and remote education in this year's Federal Budget announced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

The Parental Income cut-off for the regional workforce independence criterion will increase from \$150,000 to \$160,000, plus an additional \$10,000 increase to the

cut-off for each additional child in the family.

To view Minister Birmingham's media release follow this [link](#). ICPA media release is available [here](#).

## **Submissions**

Federal Council have lodged two submissions in the past month.

Click [here](#) to view the submission to the Education Council National Review of Teacher Registration

Click [here](#) to view the submission to the Economics References Committee Inquiry into Regional Inequality in Australia

## **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](#)

