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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 7: July 2018

This will be the final Federal Branch Bulletin before the 2018 Federal Conference! We are very excited to be in Canberra for this year's conference "COUNTRY KIDS in CAPITALS" which will be held at the QT Canberra, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.

It has yet again been another busy time for Federal Council since the last BB edition. Councillors attended the ICPA Qld State Conference in Winton, ICPA SA State Conference in Port Augusta, Broadband for the Bush Alliance Forum and a productive week of Council face-to-face meetings and delegations in Parliament House with Federal Members, a Senator and several Advisers.

#### **Federal Council Update**

Since the last Federal Branch Bulletin, Federal Councillors have attended the South Australia ICPA State Conference and the Queensland ICPA State Conference.

#### **South Australia – "Rural Education The Range Is Far And Wide" 18 May 2018**



Two Federal Councillors attended the [South Australia ICPA](#) State Conference in Port Augusta on 18 May 2018. L to R - Lisa Slade (representing South Australia State Council), Di Skene (Federal Council), Professor John Halsey, Sally Sullivan (Federal Council) and Kerry Williams (South Australia ICPA State President). Professor Halsey addressed Conference on the progress of the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education (IRRRRE) – follow this [link](#) to view the final report. Click [here](#) to view all motions presented at this conference.

## Queensland – “Way Out West At Winton” 13 & 14 June, 2018



Alana Moller (representing Clermont Branch), Federal President Wendy Hick and Federal Councillor Caroline Robinson travelled to Winton to attend the [ICPA Qld](#) State Conference. Congratulations to Tammie Irons on her election to Queensland ICPA President (pictured right, with Kim Hughes (retiring Qld President) and Louise Martin (Qld Vice President)). Follow this [link](#) to view the pre-conference Media Release.

### Membership News

Federal Conference Registrations close 20 July 2018.

If your Branch is planning to send delegates and/or observers please check their memberships are current across the three tiers: Branch, State and Federal.

Looking forward to meeting up with members in Canberra.

Please come and say ‘hello’, I would love to meet you in person!

Safe travels.

Jane O’Brien

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



### Federal Conference 2018



Registrations are **now open** for the 2018 ICPA Federal Conference with the closing date of Friday 20 July, 2018. 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](#), 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August. QT is centrally located close to major attractions including Parliament House, the War Memorial & the

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

Conference discount accommodation rates have been secured, subject to availability. Follow this [link](#) to view those rates and venues.

### 2018 AGM Notice

The Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia Incorporated will be held on **Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 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 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. Check out our 2018 Federal Council [video](#) – we do have a lot of fun in amongst doing the best possible job we can for our members.

### 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](#). At the 2017 Federal Conference a motion was passed asking ICPA (Aust) trial "conjoined motions" in an effort to streamline the motion process at Federal Conferences. A document has been created explaining how the conjoined motions will be implemented at the 2018 Conference which can be found [here](#).

### Partner Tours

A Partners' Tour will take place on Wednesday 1 August from 9.00 till 4.00pm. This will be a great opportunity to explore some of Canberra's iconic locations, with a great lunch and coffee stops! A view from the best lookout in the capital will begin your journey, which will include visits to the Arboretum, Parliament House and other local attractions.

Your tour guide is a congenial local with heaps of knowledge, who will entertain and inform you.

Cost: approximately \$40 (will depend on final numbers)

Please contact [Caroline](#) on 02 6236 3200 if you would like to book a place or for more information about the day. Numbers will need to be confirmed ASAP to arrange an adequate bus to cater for numbers.

## **Pedals**



Members would have received the July edition of the ICPA Federal magazine [Pedals](#). Packed full of Federal Conference information, updates from the [Connellan Airways Trust](#), details of the new In Home Care model and plenty of news from ICPA branches across Australia. This is a bumper edition that should not be missed!

A reminder the October issue deadline for articles is 15 August 2018.

## **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. Federal Council has produced a synopsis of this most useful survey which can be found [here](#). Results from the survey have been shared with the Department of Human Services, current Federal Human Services Minister and Shadow Human Services Minister.

## **Tertiary and Training**

### **Useful Tertiary and Training Websites**

As year 12 students get closer to the end of their schooling, the following websites will assist parents and students navigate the plethora of information available to assist them in decisions about their future plans.

#### **My Future [www.myfuture.edu.au](http://www.myfuture.edu.au)**

My Future is an easy-to-use website with career information, assisting people to make career decisions, plan career pathways and manage work transitions. It includes:

- A career profile tool to help discover occupations and plan your future
- Information about a broad range of occupations and industries
- Up-to-date details of education and training providers, scholarships and courses Australia-wide

#### **Student Update Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/StudentUpdate/>**

This Centrelink, Medicare and Department of Human Services' Facebook page contains up-to-date information about news, support, services and payment specific to students including Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY.

'Like' the Student Update Facebook page and you will receive the regular updates about services and payments from Centrelink and Department of Human Services relevant to students.

#### **My Skills <https://www.myskills.gov.au/>**

My Skills website is an Australian Government initiative to ensure access to current, straightforward, independent and trustworthy information to help make choices about training options.

#### **Australian Apprenticeships <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/>**

This website is designed to provide quick and easy access to information regarding Australian Apprenticeships including programs, support and advice for people looking to start apprenticeships, whether in school, just out of school, or mature-age, and support and assistance for apprentices during their apprenticeships.

## **Study Assist** <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/>

Information for students about government assistance for financing tertiary study including:

- <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/beyond-year-12>

The section contains information on comparing courses and providers in both the higher education and vocational education and training (VET) sectors.

- Beyond School Study Guide

[https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/files/beyond\\_school\\_study\\_guide.pdf](https://www.studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/files/beyond_school_study_guide.pdf)

## **Training Update**

In June 2017 the Hon Karen Andrews MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills announced a major review of the framework which governs the regulation of Australia's VET sector.

The Report from this Review was released on Friday 15 June 2018.

The report made 23 recommendations which intend to push for continuous improvement in the quality of vocational education and training and protect the rights of the students, both of which contribute to student outcomes.

The Government has indicated 5 different themes in their response one of which is strengthening registration requirements of RTOs.

A full copy of the Review of the *National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011* can be accessed by following this [link](#).

## **Communications Update**

### **Telstra Country Wide**

Telstra Country Wide have produced a document displaying their Area Managers' contact details from across Australia.

If ICPA members are experiencing issues with their Telstra service, and after reporting faults through the usual channels have not worked, the Area Managers are there to help improve that process. Follow this [link](#) to view the document.

### **Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC)**



The Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (RTIRC) is making its way across Australia. ICPA (Aust) President Wendy Hick attended the forum in Townsville. Pictured with the committee members L to R – Paul Weller, Johanna Plante, Wendy Hick (ICPA), Kylie Stretton and Wendy Duncan

The committee will review telecommunication services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia. As part of the review, the committee will:

- ♣ consider how regional communities can maximise the economic benefits of digital technologies
- ♣ consider how regional consumers use their broadband services and how they might derive more benefits, and
- ♣ analyse the coverage outcomes achieved through the Mobile Black Spot Program, and examine the extent of the existing gaps in mobile coverage in regional Australia

Further information can be found [here](#)

### **Fred Hollows Humanity Award**

The Fred Hollows Humanity Award recognises Year 6 students who follow in Fred's footsteps by making a positive difference in their community. It celebrates students who show compassion, integrity and kindness in their everyday lives, just as Fred did. Since 2012, the Award has recognised more than 1000 primary school students across Australia. In 2017 the Award expanded nationally for the first time with students from all states and territories eligible for nomination.

Nominations for the Award open on Monday 23 July and close on Sunday the 9 September. Further information can be found [here](#).

### **Central Station Blogs**

Thank you to Central Station for the opportunity for ICPA (Aust) to feature in their popular blogs for the past two weeks. If you missed it, you can find all the blogs on the Central Station website [here](#).

Are you a DE/SOTA family and would love to tell your story? ICPA has been given the opportunity to host another Central Station blog week later in the year focusing entirely on DE/SOTA families and situations. These blog posts will give us the opportunity to raise the profile of our DE/SOTA families and their unique educational experience. It will give us the chance to highlight the distinctive nature of geographically isolated DE/SOTA and further emphasise the role of the distance education tutor.

With this in mind, Federal Council would like to request your assistance. If you would be interested in participating in this opportunity, we would love to hear from you. You would need to write a minimum of 500 words and can submit a maximum of 10 photos. We would be more than happy to give you guidance/assistance as you go along. If you would like to participate, please contact Leader of the DE Portfolio Alana Moller [alana@icpafc.org.au](mailto:alana@icpafc.org.au).

### **Submissions**

Federal Council have lodged two submissions since the last Federal Branch Bulletin.

Click [here](#) to view the submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Accessibility and Quality of Mental Health Services in Rural and Remote Australia

Click [here](#) to view the submission to the Regional Satellite Television Service Review into the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service

### **2018 -2019 Conferences**

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

ICPA NSW – Wentworth, 6 & 7 March, 2019 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#)

ICPA SA – Online Conference, 22 March 2019 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA NT – Katherine, 2 April 2019 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA QLD - Charters Towers June 2019 – [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

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

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

