



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 17, Number 1: August 2018**

For those that attended the 47th Annual Federal Conference in Canberra on 1&2 August, they would have to agree what a wonderful event it was! An enormous thank you to the three pocket rockets Lindy Kitto, Sue Gordon and Caroline McDonald who all did an amazing job of convening two very productive days that was enjoyed by all. We think the Conference Dinner held at the War Memorial will be remembered for a very long time to come.

2018/19 Federal Council



LtoR - Back Row: Publicity Officer/Webmaster - Nikki Macqueen (Qld), Di Skene (Qld), Christie Goddard (Qld), Assistant Secretary - Jane Morton (Qld), Kristen Coggan (Qld), Vice President - Sally Sullivan (NT), President - Wendy Hick (Qld), Caroline Robinson (NSW), Treasurer - Lisa Slade (SA), Kate Thompson (TAS)
Sitting LtoR: Secretary - Suzanne Wilson (NT), Alana Moller (Qld).

Absent: Immediate Past President - Judy Sinclair-Newton (NSW), Membership Officer - Jane O'Brien (NSW)

At the Annual General Meeting held in Canberra on 2 August, your new Federal Council was elected. With all Federal Councillors wishing to remain on Council, there were only three positions left to fill and we were delighted to welcome to our team Christie Goddard and

Kristen Coggan. These dynamic Queenslanders have their profile on the ICPA Councillor Profile page and will feature in the upcoming Pedals magazine.



President Wendy Hick presenting the ICPA badge to incoming Councillor Christie Goddard.



President Wendy Hick presenting the ICPA badge to incoming Councillor Kristen Coggan.

Federal Acknowledgments

There were three very important announcements at this year's Federal Conference that we would like to share with you.



Former Federal and Northern Territory ICPA Councillor Sue Shotton, was recognised with an Award of Merit for her many years of service with ICPA and her tireless work on the ICPA website.

So much effort is dedicated to keep information up to date and Sue is extremely capable and selfless with what she does.

Thank you Sue.



A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the Australian Boarding Schools Association for their long-standing and ongoing support. In 2017 ICPA introduced a Corporate Membership and ABSA was the first organisation to join at this level. Thank you for all you do ABSA to raise awareness of rural and remote education



Former Federal and Queensland State Councillor Carmel Elliott received a vote of thanks for all her hard work collating the Minutes from Federal Council over many years. This is Carmel's last year as our Minutes publisher and we are most grateful for the dedication she has given to this task. We are now keen to source another willing person who would find this job rewarding. There will be training involved so if this interests you please contact Federal Secretary Suzanne Wilson [here](#). Thank you Carmel for all your efforts and help.

Membership News

What a fantastic Federal Conference and wonderful to see so many members in attendance.

Members a gentle reminder as we proceed through the membership year:

- If you change either your email or postal address, please go onto the website, log into your account and update details.
- If you do not know your password, click on *forgot password* and one will be sent to your email address.
- If you have changed your email address or are simply unable to log into your account please contact the Federal Membership Officer, [Jane O'Brien](#).

Conference Update



The relevant documents from this year's Federal Conference have been uploaded to the ICPA website. Follow the below links to view:

2018 [President's report](#)

Conference Motions and Results in one [doc](#)

2018 Portfolio [reports](#)

Post Conference [Media Release](#)

Keep an eye out in the upcoming edition of the ICPA Federal Publication "[Pedals](#)" for a full report and pictures of Conference.

Canberra Visit



Following Federal Conference, President Wendy Hick visited Canberra to discuss our members' issues with Federal Members & Senators along with their advisers in Parliament House.

A frank conversation with Senator Amanda Stoker resulted in a video being posted on Facebook which can be viewed [here](#).

In Home Care Update

- Despite previous government funding no longer being available for In Home Care (IHC) Service Providers, ICPA (Aust) has been informed by the Department of Education and Training that there is some other regional funding available for these services and that the Department would make sure that the services receive that information. Hopefully, this will help to meet the recent shortfall for IHC Service Providers and make IHC more affordable.
- Skills IQ is in the midst of a Cert III review for ECEC amongst other qualifications in Child Care with the Draft 2 Feedback Forum opening for comments soon. BBF services in regional and remote Australia are also listed as a key issue. See: <https://www.skillsiq.com.au/CurrentProjectsandCaseStudies/ChildrensEducationandCareTPD>. Feedback from Draft 1 is also available through this link.
- The Child Care Subsidy Hotline number for families that have issues with receiving Child Care subsidies, should call the Families Hotline at the Department of Human

Services: Phone number – **136150**. Centrelink is employing another 1500 people to help administer this support which should ease the current congestion.

School Travel



School travel is a hot topic across Australia with rural and remote students facing high airfares and the recent announcement from Greyhound Australia ceasing their unaccompanied minor service. ICPA is always keen to hear case studies which adds strength to our advocacy endeavours. All correspondence can be directed to Travel Portfolio Leader Di Skene - di@icpafc.org.au.

Department of Human Services Resources

The Department of Human Services, following their presentation on VET and Higher Education at Federal Conference, have provided ICPA (Aust) with some very valuable resources.

Website products

The best resource for students and customers is to use the Department of Human Services website. Customers can:

- View [online videos](#) on the Students YouTube playlist to find more information about student payments
- Use the [Payment and Service Finder](#) to find, estimate and compare payments and locate services. The tool will identify payments and services students may be eligible for, based on their situation.
- Read the [payments for students and trainees](#) page for information about the payments and support available to students, trainees and Australian Apprentices.
- Use the [Leaving school](#) page to find resources students can use to decide what to do after year 12 and get information about payments for students, apprentices and job seekers.
- Create their own brochure on our main pages, like [Youth Allowance](#), [ABSTUDY](#) and [Austudy](#), and use this to share information. Customers can create and self-print their own brochure using the 'Customise and Print' feature in the top right corner of your screen.

Social media

Students are encouraged to follow Student Update on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for information and updates about student payments. Students can learn about payments and ask general questions about eligibility and claiming.

Other useful social media accounts can be found [here](#). These accounts post information about payments and services, answer questions, give useful tips, share news and give updates on relevant issues.

Email correspondence

Students can get monthly emails with updates, important information and changes to student payments by subscribing to our eNewsletters. Students can subscribe to:

- [*News for students and trainees*](#)
- [*News for rural and remote Australians*](#)
- [*News for Indigenous Australians*](#)

The DHS Communications team have also published a webpage that summarises the information and provides additional information about payments and services DHS offer. It can be found here: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/business/your-business-sector/education-and-training-providers>

Learning Potential App



<https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/>

LEARNING POTENTIAL is a an online resource with tips, ideas and resources to assist in the nurturing of your child's potential and support your child's learning.

The Learning Potential website and mobile app's suite has hundreds of articles on all aspect of a child's learning and development, and conveniently divided into [Early years](#), [Primary school](#), [High School](#) and [General](#) tabs. Articles include: Learning strategies, helping with homework, working with teachers, career planning and so many more.

If your child is in primary school, the complementary [Learning Potential Resources](#) website has great ways you can reinforce the skills your child is developing in the classroom.

More articles are added regularly and by [subscribing](#) to the eNewsletter (sent out every 1-2 months) you will get information on new articles on the Learning Potential app, featured activities on Learning Potential Resources, tips, ideas and articles related to the school year, other news and resources of interest.

All the content is also available on the free Learning Potential app - download it on the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Telstra Update



With parts of Australia impacted by significant drought, Telstra are making their natural disaster support arrangements available to all Telstra customers affected by drought across the country. These support arrangements include working with customers in financial hardship to offer longer-term payment options or extensions, reviewing and removing any administrative fees (e.g. for late payment), and reviewing a customer's mobile, fixed line and broadband plans to make sure they are affordable. Further information can be found [here](#).

AHVICE



Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Student's Education (AHVICE) is pleased to announce that currently they have tutors on the ground in QLD, NT and NSW. If families are needing help in the school room AHVICE still have tutors available to fill these positions. Please go to www.ahvise.org.au and register, making sure you complete all the required fields.

2019 Conferences

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

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

ICPA WA – Scarborough, 22 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, 5 & 6 June, 2019 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)

ICPA FEDERAL – Adelaide, July 31 & 1 August, 2019 - [Website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

