



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 2: October 2018

Welcome to another Federal Branch Bulletin full of up-to-date information regarding rural and remote education. Federal Council has been busy over the past weeks, actioning the 64 motions that were passed at this year's Federal Conference. Federal Secretary Suzanne Wilson has sent a total of 151 letters to all relevant Ministers, Senators and Members of Parliament, as well as other organisations requested by ICPA members on the conference floor.

Federal Council Canberra Visit



During the week starting 15 October, 12 Federal Councillors travelled to Canberra to attend Face-to-Face council meetings which included a productive day in Parliament House attending 32 delegations with Ministers, Senators, Members of Parliament and advisors, where members' issues were discussed following on from our Federal Conference. Further pictures can be found on our Facebook page [here](#).

Membership News

- Please check if your postal address is up to date on the federal data base if you have recently relocated.
- Simply go to www.icpa.com.au , *Website Login* on the top right-hand corner, using your current email address. If you have forgotten your password click on *Forgot your password* and another one will be sent to you.
- If you experience any problems with logging please contact fedmembership@icpa.com.au

Federal Conference 2019

Save the Date!

ICPA Federal Conference 2019

"SUSTAIN our FUTURE, INVEST in our CHILDREN"

WHEN? 31 July – 1 August 2019

WHERE? Adelaide Oval, SA

ICPA logo and a small image of the Adelaide Oval stadium.

Plans are well underway for the 2019 ICPA (Aust) Federal Conference, to be held on 31 July and 1 August at the Adelaide Oval. Hosted by the ICPA South Australia State Council, the convening committee are currently working hard to deliver two wonderful days in the City of Churches. All enquiries regarding the conference can be directed to Conference Convenor [Katrina Morris](#). Keep an eye on our [website](#) for further details as they come to hand.

Farm Household Allowance Review



While in Canberra, ICPA (Aust) was invited to be a part of roundtable discussions with the Farm Household Allowance review panel. Federal Publicity Officer Nikki Macqueen attended this industry group consultation and highlighted members' concerns surrounding the assistance package.

To have your say, members are asked to contribute to the review by completing a survey and/or making a written submission through this [link](#).

Both the survey and written submission process will be open until 2 November 2018.

More information on the Farm Household Allowance can be found [here](#).

Australian Parents Council Survey



The Australian Parents Council has launched a comprehensive survey on what parents really care about when it comes to education. The aim of the survey is to gauge parent sentiment on a range of current education issues, including the implementation and impact on families of changes to school funding. Questions also cover teacher quality, individual education for every child, testing, stress, technology, bullying and more.

The results of this survey will add genuine parent concerns to discussions on education funding changes. Follow this link to complete the [survey](#).

Pedals



The October edition of ICPA Federal publication Pedals Magazine has been mailed out to all members and subscribers.

Packed full of Federal Conference pictures and up-to-date education news from rural and remote Australia, this is a great addition to any coffee table.

Check out the book review on [Iris Grace](#), read the story on how [Moora College](#) was saved, how Telstra is assisting our farmers with drought assistance and the latest from [AHVISE](#). All this plus much, much more! A sneak peek can be found [here](#).

January 2019 will see the release of Pedals 150th edition. To commemorate such a milestone, editor Raelene Hall is looking for stories that will showcase what an amazing feat this is for a national magazine from a voluntary run organisation. Deadline is **15 November** and contributions can be sent to PedalsEditor@icpa.com.au

TERTIARY

• **Youth Allowance Update – Good News for Rural and Remote Students**

In September 2018, legislation passed (Social Services Legislation Amendment (Student Reform) Bill 2018) which will see the implementation of one of the 2018 Federal Budget announcements, the increase of the parental income cut-off for regional, rural and remote students accessing the regional workforce independence criteria from \$150,000 to \$160,000,

plus \$10,000 for each additional child in the family. This measure will commence on 1 January 2019. Information on *Youth Allowance - Independent through work: Part-time work or earnings for rural and remote students* can be found [here](#).

- **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarship Program The Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships Program supports undergraduate, postgraduate and Vocational Education and Training (VET) students to attend an institution to undertake a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) course, including in the fields of Health or Agriculture. STEM fields include the following broad fields of study: Natural and Physical Sciences, Information technology, Engineering and Related technologies, Agriculture, Environmental and Related studies and Health (except Complementary Therapies).

The scholarships are valued at up to \$18,000 each and are available to support students studying from six months full-time and up to 8 years part-time, on campus, or through online and distance education. The scholarships are open to students from regional and remote areas in Australia and are for Certificate IV to PhD courses. A further \$500 is available to scholarships recipients to support an internship.

Applications are now open and close on Friday, 14 December 2018.

All supporting documents are due no later than Sunday, 13 January 2019.

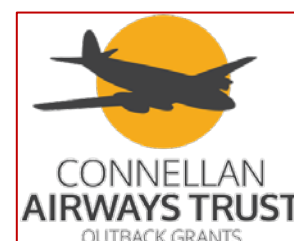
Details about the eligibility criteria and further information about the scholarships is available on the Department of education website [here](#).

Details about how to apply are available through [QTAC](#) or any queries about the Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships call 1800 290 979 or [email QTAC](#).

Horizon Scholarship The AgriFutures™ Horizon Scholarships in partnership with industry sponsors, are on offer to students enrolled in their last two years of a full-time agricultural-related university degree or a Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths/Finance (STEM) degree with relevant majors which align to agriculture. It provides a \$5,000 bursary per year for the **final** two years of the student's course, professional development workshops and mentoring, annual industry work placements and the opportunity to network and gain knowledge at industry events to facilitate career readiness and connection with industry networks. Applications for the 2018 Horizon Scholarship open **7 January 2019**. More information on eligibility, how to apply and contacts can be found on the [AgriFutures Australia](#) website or email horizon@rirdc.gov.au for any scholarship queries.



Connellan Airways Trust Award 2018 The Connellan Airways Trust will open the EJ Connellan Award for 2019 on 1 December 2018 and close on **31 January 2019**. 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](#).



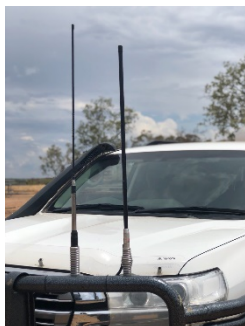
Country Education Foundation The Country Education Foundation (CEF) is a national not-for-profit organisation helping rural and regional youth access education, training and jobs through grants, scholarships, support services and resources. The [Scholarship Guide](#) contains *Top Tips for Applying for 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 and employment, getting started, health and support, parents and families and study.



Nbn and ACCAN attendance

ICPA (Aust) and Better Internet For Rural, Regional And Remote Australia (BIRRR) were part of a forum at the Nbn Australia Local Conference in Sydney. ICPA (Aust) President Wendy Hick and Communications Portfolio leader Kristen Coggan highlighted issues faced by rural, regional and remote students and how they rely on nbn for access to their education. Emphasis was placed on the need for the education port to be extended to tertiary students and small school students needing to complete schoolwork online. Wendy and Kristen then attended the ACCAN Conference where Wendy participated as a panellist to the affirmative team of "The Great Debate - 'Always on' broadband is essential". Thank you to these two ladies and BIRRR for their keeping our voice in the forefront.

Communications



Even if there is a mobile base station close to your property, obstructions such as buildings, vehicles, trees, hills etc can reduce the signal level. So, as we continue to work hard to improve regional coverage with new base stations and 4G satellite small cell technology, there are some low-cost devices available which can help improve your coverage.

Telstra are pleased to be able to offer discounted antenna prices to ICPA members. Follow this [link](#) to view more.

Joint Agency Drought Taskforce



ICPA Federal President Wendy Hick attended the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce in Canberra to discuss education issues impacted by drought.

This is an enormous space to cover but armed with pages and pages of notes, Wendy highlighted the numerous difficult aspects that rural and remote families are facing to educate their children while it continues not to rain in many parts of Australia.

Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) International Conference



ICPA Federal Publicity Officer Nikki Macqueen and Federal Councillor Kate Thompson attended the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) International Conference in Melbourne. Both Nikki and Kate presented sessions at the conference with Nikki highlighting the federal and state allowances available for rural and remote students attending boarding schools and Kate discussed available online resources to assist students plan their future. A successful conference with 280 delegates in attendance and 140 boarding school represented from across Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, China, Vietnam, India and Malaysia. We thank ABSA for their kind invitation for ICPA to attend and present sessions on behalf of our rural and remote students.

Moora College Saved!

The campaign to keep Moora Residential College open has been ongoing for nine long months and congratulations needs to be given to the Moora community and [ICPA WA](#) for keeping it in the forefront. Well done to all involved!

2019 Conferences

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](#)

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

[Instagram](#)

