



14 September 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Increase to assist essential boarding school access applauded

The recent announcement in Cloncurry by the Minister for Education, Kate Jones, of a further increase to the Living Away From Home Allowance Scheme (LAFHAS) by 5% is welcomed by Isolated Children's and Parents' Association Queensland (ICPA).

New ICPA President, Kim Hughes, expressed appreciation on behalf of the over 1340 current recipients of LAFHAS, saying the increase will assist in closing the gap that exists between the allowance and actual costs.

'We are extremely appreciative that the Minister has heard our voices and has taken action to help ease the pressure so many rural and remote families are feeling.'

'For families accessing boarding school for their children, the true costs are immense and as school fees increase, and the rains do not fall, the financial pressure escalates.'

Kim said for many rural and remote families the only option to access secondary education is boarding school.

'Boarding school education is not an extravagance for many children, it is a necessity and it comes at great cost.'

'The increase, on top of the CPI, will see the allowance rise to \$5200 per secondary student, per year from 2016 and will be gratefully received by our members.'

'Each member at our conference applauded the Ministers announcement - it means a great deal to everyone who is paying the cost of essential education.'

Ends

Further information

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