



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

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

MEDIA RELEASE **12 November, 2018** **ICPA Welcomes Sky Muster Plus**



Rural and regional Australians will welcome a Sky Muster additional data service planned to roll out early 2019 with the release of a new product, “nbn Sky Muster Plus” announced today by Minister for Communications, Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield, Minister for Regional Services, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie and nbn.

After consulting with key stakeholder groups including ICPA (Aust), nbn has announced this exciting development which will see essential internet services including software updates, general web browsing, internet banking and email usage available in a package that will not count towards monthly data usage, therefore increasing the average data amount that can be used by a substantial amount.

ICPA (Aust) has advocated for increased data levels and unmetering of essential education sites for rural and remote students for some time. ICPA President Mrs Wendy Hick said “ICPA (Aust) is extremely encouraged by this positive step by nbn with Sky Muster Plus. Remote education has been a focus during consultations with the nbn Regional Stakeholders Roundtable where we have discussed improved data allowances for geographically isolated students. This announcement will see primary, secondary, tertiary and boarding students with Sky Muster services at home able to participate. It is also envisaged that services such as telehealth will benefit. Rural schools and students will also stand to gain from this new paid option. “

Nbn is currently consulting with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) on how this product will be presented to customers.

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