

2020 Federal Conference and Motions

Dear ICPA Members, Branches and State Councils,

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Federal Council notified members a few weeks ago that it has made the difficult decision to cancel the *face-to-face* 2020 ICPA Federal Conference.

Instead a web-based Federal Conference and AGM will be held on the original dates of **5-6 August 2020**. In 2021, a return to a face-to-face event for our 50th Federal Conference in Queensland will be fervently pursued.

The limitations and challenges of a web-conference necessitate adjustments to the business conducted while ensuring the conference and AGM remain fair and objective, constitutional, manageable, effective and interesting for our members.

Data and internet capacity, wellbeing and engagement of attendees and the manageability and functionality of a web-conference platform are among the challenges of delivering a web-conference to rural/remote participants.

Motions

Generally, conference motions constitute a large portion of time at a Federal Conference. This year however with a web-conference, we need to balance motion delivery, debate and voting with participation, and meeting our constitutional obligations within the constraints that an online format offers.

With this in mind, Federal Council would like to stress the following points:

- Motions which have been previously passed by members at a Federal Conference remain in our policy and Federal Council continues to work on them. These motions do not need to be brought to conference this year to instruct Federal Council to work on them. They will remain in policy and Federal Council will continue to pursue outcomes for these motions.
- Federal issues and concerns can be brought to Federal Council at any time. Members, branches and state councils do not need to rely on presenting motions at conference to request assistance from Federal Council and we always aim to assist however we can. This has been exemplified by the many issues arising during COVID-19 – especially relating to In Home Care (IHC), Communications needs for study, Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) payments and Boarding – which we have been working on earnestly to address and resolve. Federal Council would like to remind members they can put forward their thoughts, concerns, experiences and stories at any time to Councillors.

Motions submitted this year for the Federal web-conference should be carefully considered, with a focus on:

- Motions related to issues not already in policy and which have not been passed at a conference before
- Motions asking for a change in policy or direction.

An outline of the Current Advocacy of ICPA Australia can be viewed [here](#) and our Policy documents are available [here](#). Further information can be sourced on our website www.icpa.com.au or please don't hesitate to ask a Federal Councillor if you are unsure or have any questions. Federal Councillor details are listed [here](#).

Federal Conference Motions

Click [here](#) for the Motion Template to use, along with further information.

Agenda Motions are to be in the hands of the Federal Secretary by **midnight Tuesday 9 June 2020**. A reminder that only Federal related issues should be presented at the Federal Conference. Explanations are very important – Branches are asked to please remember to include an explanation when sending motions to Suzanne Wilson, [Federal Secretary](#).

Supplementary Motions are to be with the Federal Secretary by **midnight Tuesday 28 July 2020**. Supplementary motions are designed to address an issue that has arisen since the agenda motion cut-off date. Supplementary motions will only be accepted onto the agenda if they pertain to an issue **not** already covered in the main agenda and not already covered by policy. Please contact Suzanne Wilson, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

Floor Motions generally come about as a result of discussion and debate during conference. Occasionally they cover issues that have arisen since the closing date for supplementary motions. Floor motions can only be accepted for debate with the consent of delegates, after the motion has been read to the conference by the Chair. Please contact Suzanne Wilson, [Federal Secretary](#) for more information.

- **Branches are reminded that a motion does not have to be presented at a State Conference to be accepted as a Federal Agenda Motion.**
- **Motions should be approved by the branch and submitted after a majority decision.**
- **Full explanations are to be sent with your motions for conference documents, however please note, only a short summary of the explanation is to be presented at conference in a maximum of 1 minute (or about 150 words).**
- **Branches - please prepare your explanation summaries before conference and have the shortened versions ready to read instead of the full written explanations.**
- **Federal Council and the relevant portfolio leaders can be contacted for assistance with motion wording and writing. Contact details [here](#).**
- **Previously carried motions do not have to be presented every year. Once a carried motion is in policy, it remains part of the lobby until resolved or modified.**
- **Branches do not have to submit a motion in order to attend Federal Conference.**

Who do we direct our motion to?

A motion should be directed to a specific person or organisation requesting they carry out a specific course of action. It is important that a motion is worded in a way that clearly reflects the Branch or State Council's intention. If you are not sure who you should be directing your motion to, the following may be of some assistance:

- **AIC** (Boarding, Distance Education and Pre-Compulsory (3-4 year olds) Distance Education allowance) motions should be directed to the Minister for Families and Social Services and the Minister for Education.
- **Boarding** motions should be directed to the Minister for Families and Social Services and the Minister for Education.
- **Communications** motions should be directed to the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts unless the matter relates to the service provider.
- **Early Childhood Education** motions should be directed to the Minister for Education.
- **Child Care** policies and program motions should be directed to the Minister for Education.
- **Distance Education** motions including the DETA lobby Minister for Families and Social Services and the Minister for Education.
- **Youth Allowance** motions relating to changes to YA and related payments eg relocation scholarship should be addressed to the Minister for Families and Social Services.
- **Tertiary Access Allowance motions should be directed to** the Minister for Education.
- **Training motions should be directed to** the Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business.
- Use of general wording *relevant Minister* or *Federal Government* is also acceptable.