



Rural Hardship Assistance

Financial assistance required to help with education costs during periods of long-term drought or hardship in rural areas:

Rural Hardship Education Fund

ICPA requests the immediate establishment of a Rural Hardship Education Fund, to assist families with the enormous out-of-pocket costs associated with educating children at boarding school in times of long-term drought and the drought recovery period. The fund could be established as part of the Federal Government's current Drought Relief Package, possibly being administered and accessed through bodies such as the Rural Adjustment Authorities or as a special circumstances criteria within the AIC Scheme. The benefits would be far reaching for rural families when under financial duress due to their inability to generate an income. Geographically isolated students should not be disadvantaged or unable to complete their schooling due to the exceptional circumstances of long-term drought or other hardship.

While 4572 students received the AIC Boarding Allowance in 2015, the number impacted by drought at any one time would be considerably less.

Funding this type of Fund would assist considerably in alleviating and overcoming the challenges families face when educating their children in isolated regions of Australia. Further details about our main lobby areas [here](#).

SUMMING UP RURAL EDUCATION

DO THE MATHS

Election Campaign

June 2016

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