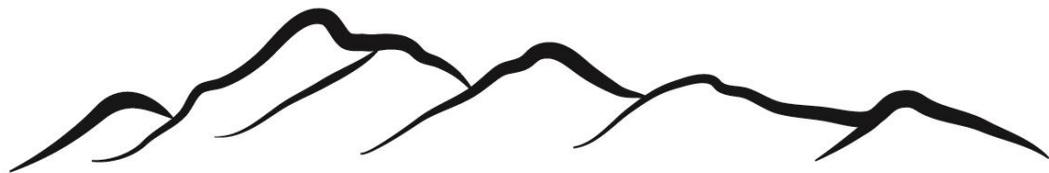




ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Advocating for rural and remote education

SA ICPA
47th Annual State Conference
Motions
2018



RURAL EDUCATION THE RANGE IS FAR AND WIDE

FLINDERS RANGES BRANCH - SA ICPA

MOTIONS

Boarding School and Hostels

Motion 1 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA thanks the former Minister for Education and Child Development, Susan Close, for extending the State Education Allowance to families receiving the AIC Second Home Allowance who have children in secondary school.”

Moved: Lisa Hunt

Seconded: Belinda Hatcher

CARRIED

Motion 2 – South Australian State Council

“That SA ICPA work with the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) to consider relocating the State Education Allowance (SEA) from the Transport Services Department to an area within DECD that more appropriately reflects the intention of the allowance.”

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Jill Greenfield

Explanation:

The SEA assists geographically isolated parents with children at secondary level who board away from home to attend school. It is intended to assist with travel, boarding and other expenses associated with the education of their children. Moving it to another area within DECD would allow for more flexibility in delivering the payment.

CARRIED

Motion 3 – North West branch

“That SA ICPA lobby the Department for Education and Child Development, Transport Unit to streamline and update the State Education Allowance for geographically isolated parents’ application form.”

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

The State Education Allowance is available to geographically isolated parents with children at secondary level who board away from home to attend school. The allowance assists with travel, boarding and other expenses associated with the education of their children.

The allowance can only be claimed by printing out the online form and posting it to the Transport Unit in Adelaide. The form currently available is out of date and has not been amended to remove the Remote Travel Allowance component (removed in 2016) and incorporate the inclusion of those families who are eligible for the Second Home Allowance.

CARRIED

Communications

Motion 4 – Flinders Ranges branch

“That SA ICPA lobbies the Department for Education and Child Development to ensure **all** rural and remote children studying via Distance Education have access to the NBN Education Port where the family home is reliant on the NBN Skymuster Satellite for internet connectivity.”

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Linda Haydon

Explanation:

Currently children studying Kindergarten externally through the Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise (RICE) are not eligible for the NBN Education Port. We are asking for them to be included in this scheme. Students studying via Distance Education require a reliable internet connection and substantial amounts of downloads to successfully engage in their learning.

While the Skymuster Satellite has improved the reliability, connectivity and speed of internet access to families in rural and remote South Australia, the cost of plans and access to data still lags a long way behind what is available to those in urban centres. Access to the education port for all families with students learning via distance education will help ease the financial burden of families who pay exorbitant prices for comparatively substandard internet compared to those in the metropolitan areas.

CARRIED

Distance Education

Motion 5 – North West branch

"SA ICPA lobby the Minister for Education and Child Development to instigate the reinstatement of the Port Augusta School of the Air to be a stand-alone school."

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

Our members have strong concerns that the current arrangement of Port Augusta School of the Air coming under the umbrella of Open Access College is no longer beneficial or manageable. At the very least we are requesting that an investigation to the merits of the changes we propose be looked at by the Minister. We believe that it would be in the best educational interests of our students, staff and school community.

CARRIED

Motion 6 – Marla Oodnadatta branch

"SA ICPA lobby the Minister for Education and Child Development to investigate the feasibility of making Port Augusta School of the Air autonomous."

Moved: Paulaine Vermeulen

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Explanation:

Our members feel that SOTA students are being disadvantaged in terms of available resources and the overall stability of the school. Whilst Open Access College has worked hard to accommodate our needs, it too often feels that SOTA is a minority that is overshadowed by the larger Marden. If SOTA was an autonomous school within the Port Augusta Region, it would allow greater involvement for students in community events, access to local student support services and allow staff to access local professional development (PD) and networks. SOTA is the only educational service for our students and they are entitled to stability, continuity and a great educational service.

CARRIED

Motion 7 – Flinders Ranges branch

"That SA ICPA lobbies the Department for Education and Child Development to provide dedicated, appropriate funding for School of the Air camps and face to face events."

Moved: Michelle Hilder

Seconded: Linda Haydon

Explanation:

Costs of school camp are increasing and parents have to fundraise large amounts to subsidise the costs of attending the school's main face-to-face event, which provides an opportunity for teachers to spend time with students in their classes who they otherwise do not spend contact time with. As the cost to SOTA families of attending the annual school camp is significantly greater than in many other schools, but the need for students to attend arguably greater, DECD should be able to fund a larger percentage of costs to maximise student and supervisor attendance.

While parents do not need to attend face-to-face SOTA events with students, practicalities of travel and the fact students are not familiar with their teachers and classmates in the way students at face-to-face schools are, necessitate the majority of mothers to attend these events, often with pre-school children and governesses. Costs of attending these events can be a significant burden to families living in remote and isolated areas, as well as removing a staff member from the business for a week at a time.

Most SOTA families feel attending the face-to-face events is important to meet their children's educational needs and cannot be missed despite the costs.

CARRIED

Early Childhood Education

Motion 8 – Marla Oodnadatta branch

“SA ICPA work alongside the Remote and Isolated Children’s Exercise (RICE) Management Committee to ensure that the transition to new funding arrangements does not impact negatively on children and their families living in the remote and isolated towns, communities and stations in outback South Australia.”

Moved: Kirsty Williams

Seconded: Paulaine Vermeulen

Explanation:

RICE’s multidisciplinary service covers an area of approximately 655000 square kilometres, travelling by 4wd vehicles to visit children and their families. RICE provides the only access to a Preschool/Kindergarten Program for families living in remote South Australia, as well as hosting the Children and Family Services (CAFS) nurse, who offers child health checks and services for new mums.

There has been confusion and limited consultation with regard to the new funding arrangements taking effect on July 2nd 2018, and how this will affect the overall operations of RICE. We are requesting that ICPA and the RICE Management Committee communicate and monitor that the members of RICE continue to receive the same level and range of health, wellbeing, child care, early childhood education, and resources that they currently receive.

CARRIED

Motion 9 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA lobbies the relevant ministers to support the continued provision of RICE services, so that the proposed changes under the Budget Based Funding model has minimal impact on families who utilise the service.”

Moved: Helen Williams

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

Families are concerned that under the new funding model coming into effect in July, RICE will be unable to continue its current level of service and range of services to families. RICE is a unique organisation that provides a range of services beyond child care to remote and isolated families.

CARRIED

Motion 10 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA continues to work with ICPA Federal Council towards an appropriate and sustainable child care service for rural and remote families, including provision for home educators.”

Moved: Sonya Fels

Seconded: Kirsty Williams

Explanation:

The new In-Home Care (IHC) guidelines coming into effect in July, now allow educators to supervise Distance Education out of ‘formal school hours’ (on-air with SDE/SOTA teacher). Hours outside of these

'formal' hours are classed as 'homework' and can be supervised by IHC educator with the family able to access the Child Care Subsidy. However, there are no families known in South Australia who school their children through Distance Ed that utilise the IHC scheme. Nanny SA (Hessel Group) is the main provider of IHC in South Australia and much confusion exists as to how the scheme will work if being utilized for Distance Ed (Governess). Supporting Federal Council by further investigation into how other states make the scheme work for them in a Distance Education setting is necessary.

CARRIED

Rural Schools and School Travel

Motion 11 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA continue to seek concessional airfares for rural and remote students who rely on air services to access an education.”

Moved: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Lisa Slade

Explanation:

For many students in rural and remote areas, the only option for secondary schooling is boarding away from home. Often flying is the most practical form of transport when returning home for an exeat weekend or school holidays. In some cases it is the only option to ensure the student has adequate time at home, without spending an entire weekend travelling. However, the cost of regional flights are prohibitive for most families. Rex has a “bush to boarding” scheme in some states in Australia, offering reduced airfares for students travelling to and from school. We would like to see this type of scheme extended to SA regional airlines.

CARRIED

Motion 12 – Port Augusta branch

“That SA ICPA request the Minister for Education and Child Development that they review the car allowance rate for transporting students to a school or school bus route on a daily basis if they live more than 5km from the nearest public school or school bus run.”

Moved: Kate Greenfield

Seconded: Amanda Michael

Explanation:

Our understanding is the rate is increased each year in accordance with CPI, however the current rate at around the 20c per km is not adequate considering vehicle costs today. We request that the rate be reviewed and increased to ensure that the rate is realistic with costs.

CARRIED

Specific Education

Motion 13 – Marree Air branch

“That ICPA State Council SA lobbies the appropriate ministers to include travel and accommodation allowances as part of the NDIS and PATS scheme for rural and isolated families travelling to access face to face allied health services.”

Moved: Jodie Keogh

Seconded: Jess Bell

Explanation:

As part of early identification and intervention of special needs and learning difficulties, rural and isolated children require allied health services such as Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Mental Health services. These children have limited access to such therapies as distance allows only the use of technology, such as Skype or Telehealth, for regular therapy sessions. However it is necessary that the children and the therapist come face to face on a regular basis. The face to face sessions provide an opportunity for the therapist to perform assessments and gain a better standing on the Child's needs and abilities, which then give accurate direction for therapy to go to meet the Child's learning and developmental goals. To attend a session in person is extremely costly for families having to travel great distances, accommodation and living expenses while away. For children with special needs and/or learning difficulties, early intervention with allied health professionals is vital for the child to have a successful education. Current funding does not meet the needs of rural and remote families.

CARRIED

Administration

Motion 14 – South Australian State Council

“That SAICPA State Council host the 2019 State Conference via a web-based platform.”

Moved: Mija Reynolds

Seconded: Jill Greenfield

CARRIED

Supplementary Motions

Supplementary Motion 1 – North West branch

“That SA ICPA lobby the Minister for Education and Child Development and the Minister for Agriculture to implement post-secondary agricultural training targeting the Pastoral areas of SA.”

Moved: Lynly Kerin

Seconded: Petie Rankin

Explanation:

There used to be an On Farm training course delivered out of Port Augusta where young people who were working on properties could attend and receive qualifications for the pastoral areas. This was abolished more than 10 years ago and since then there has been no formal training based in the Pastoral area for our young people. We are aware of substantial funding being used to educate Indigenous people in the North West of SA however we feel that this is leaving out young staff on pastoral properties.

There is an urgent need to up skill employees on pastoral properties so that they can be retained in the industry.

CARRIED

AGM Motions

1. "That the minutes of the 2017 conference be accepted."

Moved: Frances Frahn

Seconded: Mija Reynolds

CARRIED

2. "That the Financial Report be accepted."

Moved: Jill Greenfield

Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

3. "That the SA ICPA State Affiliation fee remains at \$22.00."

Moved: Jill Greenfield

Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

4. "That SA ICPA Lone Member Subs be \$45.00."

Moved: Jill Greenfield

Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

5. "That the SA ICPA financial records be audited by Ben Jenkin CPA."

Moved: Jill Greenfield

Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

Election of State Council Executive 2018-2019

President: Kerry Williams

Nominated: Frances Frahn

Seconded: Lisa Slade

CARRIED

Vice-President: Belinda Hatcher

Nominated: Sonya Fels

Seconded: Linda Haydon

CARRIED

Secretary: No nomination received.

Treasurer: Jill Greenfield

Nominated: Joanna Gibson

Seconded: Lynly Kerin

CARRIED

Publicity Officer: Mija Reynolds

Nominated: Belinda Hatcher

Seconded: Emilee Warnest

CARRIED

Immediate Past President: Lisa Slade

Appointment of Branch Delegates to State Council Committee

Eyre:	No delegate advised.
Far West:	No delegate advised.
Flinders Ranges:	Sonya Fels, Belinda Hatcher
Marla Oodnadatta:	Kirsty Williams, Helen Williams
Marree Air:	Jodie Keogh, Kylie Morton
North East:	Roslyn Breeding, Leisa Breeding
North West:	Petie Rankin, Lynly Kerin
Port Augusta:	Katrina Morris, Kate Greenfield