

## COMMUNICATIONS

April 2003  
Amended 2008

**POLICY:** ICPA seeks the extension and improvement of communication systems and infrastructure to all rural and remote areas to effect improved access to education, health and welfare facilities.

### OBJECTIVES:

1. That all Australians have equal access to high quality communications, including internet data rates, at equal cost regardless of geographic location, to ensure availability of all present and future enhanced services.
2. That residents in remote areas have a mail service at least once a week for regular delivery and return of distance education papers, at a cost that does not discriminate against rural and remote students.
3. That postage rates be uniform within Australia.
4. That Australia Post and the mail delivery contractors work in co-operation.
5. That the communications networks used by schools of distance education be the most efficient available using state of the art technology: this technology must include clear voice communication.
6. That the views of public interest groups, particularly educational, are included in all future deliberations on the nation's telecommunications planning.
7. That rural and remote Australia be included in any Universal Service Plan.
8. That there be a standard telephone connection fee for all Australians irrespective of whether the service is being provided by landline, radio concentrator or via satellite.
9. That there be adequate funding of ABC Radio and Television to maintain and produce regional and educational programmes for children in years R-12.
10. That there be provision of untimed local calls to ensure that rural and remote telephone subscribers gain equity of access with urban subscribers, particularly where it affects a child's education.
11. That there be adequate technical staff to install and maintain communication equipment in rural and remote areas.
12. That a system of economy rates for teleconference facilities be available.