



Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (Inc.)

FEDERAL COUNCIL "Access to Education"

Federal Secretary
ICPA (Aust)
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University Colleges Australia
Secretary, Dr Carla Tromans
International House
5 Rock Street
St Lucia QLD 4067

October 2, 2015

Dear Dr Tromans

At the recent Isolated Children's Parents' Association's (ICPA Aust) Federal Conference, members again expressed concern regarding the availability of secured accommodation places at metropolitan colleges for rural and remote students.

We thank you for your letter, dated March 18, 2015, in response to our previous letter, outlining these concerns and we are writing to you again to ask for your continued support by drawing your member colleges' attention to this ongoing issue.

The college environment is the accommodation of choice for many rural and remote students, for some it is their only option. For rural and remote students, trying to find accommodation close to university commencement can be competitive, stressful, time consuming and costly. Otherwise, students have to pay rent beyond the university year to secure accommodation in the private market to honour lease agreements, adding to the financial burden. The uncertainty of not having secured accommodation places and the necessity to find alternative accommodation just prior to university commencement date, has resulted in students deferring, not pursuing their courses or withdrawing and this has contributed to the lower participation at tertiary level of rural and remote students compared to their metropolitan counterparts.

We appreciate that many university colleges do acknowledge the difficulty that rural and remote students face when relocating to university and some do offer early entry and allocated places for these students, once they have acceptance of their university course place. Early, confirmed availability and affordability of student accommodation is critical to their success.

ICPA Australia asks UCA to continue encouraging your member colleges to either consider the introduction of an early entry scheme for rural and remote students or allocate a higher distribution of residential accommodation places to rural and remote students to ensure they have a place in a metropolitan residential college once accepted into a university course.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Morton
Federal Secretary
ICPA (Aust)