



# ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

*The parent voice on public education*

## Early Learning Committee ELC meeting – March 21, 2019

### Summary of minutes

#### ***Expense clarity re preschool parent associations PPAs, P&Cs and preschool subcommittees***

The ELC reviewed the EL expenses review document. The purpose is to provide clarity to PPA's, P&C subcommittees as well as primary school P&C committees.

Schools and P&C's approach expenses with different agendas and processes to determine how funds are spent.

The annual change-over of office bearers in Preschool committees can create further difficulty.

Council emphasises the need for good relationships and provides resources and training to P&C's.

There are regulations governing how both organisations manage expenses.

The Committee noted that they'd experienced issues, and had heard about other problems, where there was uncertainty around whether items should be school expenses or P&C funded, and other processes around determining how funding should be spent.

A dedicated information resource is currently being drafted by Council's ELO for P&C office bearers with preschool considerations.

#### ***Preschool curriculum and community building***

The ELO reported on the forum 'Spreading our Wings,' professional development for EL educators held at HBCTL in January. Podcast available, search 'Spreading our Wings'.

Preschool pedagogy and curriculum in action is an ongoing discussion within the ELC as it relates to the committees terms of reference including:

- *raising awareness and understanding of early years and preschool education*
- *supporting parental engagement in early years learning,*

The Committee approved the development of a communications and engagement strategy and discussed more comprehensive use of social media to further connect and build the EL parent community, as well as options where parents were less likely to access digital communications.

#### ***Early Childhood Strategy summary and 3YO preschool***

The ELC reviewed the EC strategy summary document and noted that the Directorate's consultations are continuing with a commitment to begin implementation of 3 year old preschool to targeted groups in 2020.

The ELC emphasised the need for quality preschool programs, educators and relationships. They discussed public support for the introduction of an extra year of preschool.

The Committee were looking forward to more communication about the program.

There was some concern about the initial target group of vulnerable/disadvantaged children. Will children be stigmatised by the introduction? And, if there are implementation problems with the rollout, would already vulnerable/disadvantaged children be further disadvantaged?

While the committee acknowledges that this is the community with the highest needs and where the largest beneficial outcomes can be made through EL, they were concerned that issues in early implementation of the program could impact attitudes negatively.

### ***Be You***

The ELO provided a short summary of 'Be You' and the online resources for EL parents. This new initiative, Be You, is the Federal Government's renewed and expanded investment to support the mental health and wellbeing of children from their early years through school and up to the age of 18.

**ACTION LIST  
EARLY LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**21 Mar 2019**

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By</b>	
2)	Previous minutes sent for approval	<b>MS</b>	29/3	
3)	Update and redistribute nomination form	<b>MS</b>	1/4	
4) a.	Continue writing/editing the preschool focussed step by step guide to funds processes.	<b>MS</b>	10/5	
4) c.	Outline the opportunities to continue discussion around EL curriculum and inclusion.	<b>MS</b>	17/5	
5)	Draft ELC Business Plan, communications and engagement plan	<b>MS</b>	17/5	
5)	RAP to ELO	<b>JK</b>		
7)	Monitor and communicate Be You EL resources to parent associations	<b>MS</b>	17/5	
	Summarize committee agenda points and send to the Education Minister, and the Directorate	<b>MS</b>	3/4	