



## DRAFT Disability Working Group

### ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations ('P&C Council', Council) is the peak body of P&Cs in ACT public schools. Council represents over 60,000 parents across 89 schools.

Council has represented parent and community views on public education to Government since 1954. Representation is informed by consultation with P&Cs representatives, parents and community groups identifying issues to improve public education. Details on how Council works are available on this [information sheet](#). Council has developed a range of policy positions on education related issues which have been formally agreed to and adopted by our members at our annual policy conference in [Councils' Policy Document](#). Each policy informs Councils' representation of the voice of parents to Government, contributing to decision-making and the development of education policy.

### Disability Working Group

Council's disability working group allows parents to provide feedback on their experiences of disability education in ACT public schools direct to Council.

Council collates the insights and experiences of parents of students with disabilities to:

- foster a quality public education system for all ACT students
- make representations to government on behalf of parents in government schools

### Input and feedback

Council advocates on behalf of students with disability through opportunities to:

- ACT Government – budget submissions, formal submissions, inquiry appearances etc.
- ACT Education Directorate – formal submissions, regular meetings with Director-General and Senior Executive staff etc.
- Disability Education Reference Group (DERG), ACT Education Directorate – Council representatives attend regular meetings, formal submissions, inclusive education statement (in-progress), Student Resource Allocation Project (in progress).
- Transport Canberra City Services – special needs transport services
- Council of Australian Government (COAG) Education Council – formal submissions eg [Alice Springs \(Mparntwe\) Education Declaration 2019](#).
- Australian Council of State Schools Organisation – sharing Council views with the national public school parents representative.

### **Major contributions**

- Schools for All
- Student Resource Allocation Project
- Student Resource Allocation Program: Students with Disability – review by Graham Innes
- Special needs transport – operations (ongoing) and establishing training for staff

# DRAFT Disability Working Group Terms of Reference

## Membership

Disability Working Group Membership is open to parents of students with disabilities in ACT public schools from preschool to year 12 and **life members of Council**. Members do not need to be the Council delegate of their P&C association.

Members agree to abide by these terms of reference.

## Operation

### Convenor

The group will nominate a convenor who will liaise with Council office staff to arrange meetings (as required) and chair meetings.

### Communication

Email is the preferred method of communication for the working group. Council office will email the group to seek input on issues related to disability education. Members can provide feedback via email to the group or directly to Council.

### Meetings

Video conferencing or face to face meetings may be held by the working group. All meetings are to be coordinated by the Convenor, members and Council office staff via [contact@actparents.org.au](mailto:contact@actparents.org.au).

### Conduct

All communication must be polite, courteous and respectful to all members, Council office staff and Council representatives.

### Sensitive and confidential information

At times, sensitive or confidential information may be shared within the disability working group. Members, Council office staff and Council representatives are not to disclose sensitive or confidential information without an individual's consent unless required to do so by law.

Council may use de-identified information such as experiences, ideas and suggestions to provide formal and informal feedback government.

### Reporting

A summary report of meetings, including any requests for action by Council will be available to members and provided to the Council Executive for consideration. A summary of the groups yearly activity will be included in Council's Annual Report (November).

## Policy Document

Members agree that Council will advocate for the education of students with disabilities in accordance with [Council's Policy Document](#). Advocacy of issues not covered by Council's Policy Document requires the approval of Council Executive and may require broader consultation with Council members. If unsure, members can seek clarification from Council office staff.