



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

ACT Council of P&C Associations Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools Terms of Reference

Role

The role of the ACT Council of P&C Associations Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools is to provide a forum for those parents/carers whose children are victims of violent conduct by other students both in their schools and outside eg via internet/email etc. It may also include exclusion, discrimination, spreading rumour and threatening behaviour. The Support Group will provide a forum for parents/carers to share their experiences at any stage when:

Their children are assaulted, bullied, or victimised at school,
Their children witness such an incident and need help or support.
They decide to report such incidents to the school,
They are unhappy with the outcome of their report to the school,
They decide to formally complain to the Education Directorate and pursue the process through its various stages and appeals.

The Support Group may:

Develop and provide information and advice for parents/carers on how to proceed with a report to their teacher, the school or Education Directorate.

Initiate research into this area & develop policy for the P&C Council to adopt as appropriate.

Advise the Council on related matters needing to be lobbied to the Education Directorate or Minister.

On request, provide advice to parents of children who are perpetrating behavioural issues.

Membership

Membership of the Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools is open to all current members of ACT school P&C Associations ie their parents/carers. Members do not need to be the Council delegates or officers of their P&C Association. The members of the Support Group can invite non-members to attend meetings. The Group will work on a consensus basis.

Composition

The Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools will consist of one convener and any number of members who meet the above membership requirement.

Meeting Frequency and Communication

The Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools should meet at least once each year, or more regularly as deemed appropriate by the Convenor, on a date and venue to be advised by the Convenor and organised by the P&C Council office as required. Alternatively, meetings may be conducted as teleconferences. Members unable to attend a face to face meeting may attend the meeting via teleconference. Given the confidentiality of the matters discussed, written minutes of meetings are not required but a brief report should be submitted to the Council office following each meeting.

The normal means of communication within the Support Group will be by email.