



ACT Council of P&C Associations
Early Learning Committee Meeting
Minute summary Thursday 22 October 2020
7pm - online via zoom

Announcements:

October 30 [World Teacher's Day](#)

Council's e[Communicator](#) information (inc. Covid-19 easing of restrictions)

Planning for Wellbeing resource - Register with Be You: <https://beyou.edu.au/register>

Online [Training](#)

ACT's Early Learning Strategy

Released Aug 2020 - for a summary (+ report link) please see the attached ppt presentation Oct 22.

Set up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT

Details the importance of Early Childhood Education and Care. Focus on: where we are now – the sector; where do we want to be – access to quality care for all children; and Implementation – 3 phases or time periods from years 1-2, 3-5, and 5-10. Each phase details the initiatives based around children, educators, and partnerships.

ELC questions re awareness of the report and implications, impact and timeframes, oosh capacity impact re preschool aged children – will preschool oosh combine with primary? More information required. Encouraging gender equity in care responsibilities and leave availability, current preschool capacity and increase requirements. For further consideration via preschool parent committees and P&C EL reps.

Relationships and sex education in the early years

Report by Katrina Marson.

Report '[Ignorance is not innocence](#)'

Introduction <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcajS3RNVeM>

[Canberra Times](#) article 2019

The report 'Ignorance is not innocence' demonstrates the need for improved relationship and sex education in schools, including early education. Arguing that access to information is a human right and children have a right to education, and the current delivery isn't sufficiently integrated throughout schooling.

ELC discussion re values and existing resource ie [Boss of my own body](#). For further consideration via preschool parent committees and P&C EL reps.

Annual Transition to School parent forum/[webinar + resource](#)-

Held September 15, 2020 the [webinar recording](#) (3 speakers/30 mins) is now available on Council's website. Over sixty parents/carers completed the registration survey with results providing feedback about the most important concerns around transition to school or preschool.

ELC discussed coronavirus impact on transitions to preschool and kindergarten - can be difficult when parents cannot accompany young children to an orientation visit to meet teachers and familiarise themselves with the location. Received comment that it was easier to settle their child with quicker separation as children were met by their teacher and welcomed at the gate rather than

searching for their teacher. Aiming for positive transitions by monitoring and adapting to children's needs. Schools working to ensure the preschool and kinder community feel part of the school community.

Wellbeing and challenges for families

ELC discussion about how families are faring. Please seek feedback from preschool and kindy parents about their challenges regarding preschool and kindy education.

Comment re lack of incentives for men to cut their work hours to share in child caring role.

Covid impact – concerns re parent engagement on school grounds. Access guidelines have recently changed for end of year events. See Council's [eCommunicator](#)

Business from previous meeting

P&C Supporting Parent Engagement Grants round three has closed. Grant applications will continue to be received if funding is available after assessment of round three applications.