

ACT Council of P&C Associations Inc

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To: All P&C Delegates, P&C Presidents & Secretaries

Report on P&C Council General Meeting 23 May 2017

This report is issued after Council meetings to assist delegates in reporting back to their P&C associations and to inform parents generally about the activities of P&C Council.

- **Effective P&C workshop 6.30pm Thurs 8 June 17 at HBCTL Stirling**
 - **Presentation by Jennifer Sexton on Mindfulness in Schools 7pm 27 June 17 at HBCTL**
 - **P&C Council affiliation fees and insurance renewals due by 30 June**
 - **P&C Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools meeting 7pm 14 Jun at Hackett**
 - **P&C Council School Canteen Subcommittee meeting 7pm Wed 21 Jun 17 at Hackett**
 - **P&C Council School Transport Committee meeting 7pm Wed 28 Jun 17 at Hackett**
1. **Presentation by ACT Minister for Education & Training, Yvette Berry.** The Chair apologized for the cancellation of the Minister, Yvette Berry, at short notice following her return from overseas.
 2. **EDU Senior Executive Team meeting of 16 Mar & the next meeting on 1 June** - The main topics had been violence in schools, preschool enrolments and common reporting requirements for all schools. EDU was interested to know more about our Parent Support Group on Violence in Schools. In discussion, it was noted that EDU on a violence complaint appeal had not followed its on policy and procedures. It was suggested EDU needs to be more flexible to meet the needs of young families enrolling preschool children. It was noted government policy did not guarantee children preschool places, hence EDU may believe it has met its requirements by providing a place somewhere regardless of the flow-through effects on enrolments at individual school. EDU officers had been invited to talk to our Executive about preschool enrolments and this will be open to other interested parents.

IPECS funding for fencing last year has not eventuated. They want to do some works in the school car park to improve safety but need EDU & TAMS approval. They should waiting until the school's individual traffic management plans were released next term. Some schools have already seen drafts of their plans.

There appears to be poor planning for language education, particularly where students progress to high schools which do not provide for languages studies in their local primary schools. There is government funding for students to receive out of school language teaching. School autonomy was again seen as leading to this problem. Language teaching appeared ad hoc and poorly planned.
 3. **P&C school canteen developments & the trial of P&C online accounting**

The Health Directorate is considering opening up some further amber food options and the canteen manual is nearly ready for publication & release. The manual is published by the Healthy Kids Association with input from ACT Health, Nutrition Australia, the YMCA and the Council. P&Cs that could not afford to pay for a book keeper/accountant, should look closely at the offer to trial the online accounting service being offered by Tailored Accounts. The benefits of P&Cs using such a service are many and include a much reduced workload on treasurers, far easier handover between treasurers & no losing accounts/books etc.
 4. **Enrolment policy for over capacity schools and future capacity issues**

Aranda Primary School P&C convinced EDU to provide demountable classrooms as a temporary capacity solution. Demountables are not just seen as a temporary solutions for schools & EDU considered them part of the solution to managing population growth & decline in suburbs. Staggered classes may assist to manage full capacity schools. Gungahlin College had successfully trialled this approach. Council is not aware EDU directed college principals that students are only allowed to enrol in the college in their area.
 5. **Issues from P&C Associations**
 - a. What is team teaching and how is it used in our schools? Two teachers with compatible teaching ability & personalities combine to teach joint classes. It had been trialled in a number of ACT schools including

Giralang PS & was reported as very successful. Pros & cons to this are well explained in articles available on the internet. Principals decide to introduce team teaching or not.

- b. In school student reports, what does a “C” grade really mean? A “C” grade means satisfactory. The definition of the grade is shown on each school report.
- c. We are asking both EDU & Minister what planning & provisions they are making for the impact on schools in PEAs on the light rail route. We expect increased demand on inner city schools, & some unexpected results with some inner city students going to out of area schools via the light rail.
- d. Individual traffic management plans for all school should be released in third term. We will ask for these to be accessible to any interested parents from out of area, possibly by placing them all on the EDU website.
- e. School principals and their P&C relationship is a major item for discussion with EDU at our next meeting. Council hopes to work with the Principals’ association & EDU to improve the principals’ understanding of the role of their P&Cs & need to ensure they have a successful P&C.
- f. Other issues from P&Cs
 - i. A P&C advised they had been audited by the ATO & issues found eg underpayment of staff, PAYG tax, BAS & superannuation payments. Their P&C insurance cover members against any personal liability.
 - ii. Florey PS advised they still lacked a teacher librarian.
 - iii. IPECS advised that their principal acknowledged student performance by inviting them to an afternoon tea with her.
 - iv. SCECS recognizes good achievers by giving them a graduation certificate with honours.
 - v. Namadgi finally has a new principal. Council will raise the issue of delays in appointing principals & removal of senior staff for central office work & the resulting damage to school operations at a future meeting with EDU.
 - vi. It is a good idea for those P&Cs/schools that are successful in getting funds etc out of EDU to share their experiences with other schools.
 - vii. There is concern that schools will lose good cleaners with a new cleaning tender being called which requires tenders to quote on multiple sites. Council will check on this & advise.
 - viii. Lyneham High School P&C raises funds by asking parents to donate \$10 per student to the P&C, which then runs forums/programs for the parents.

6. Reports

Written reports on the Child Protection Policy Review Group meeting of 5 Apr 17 and the Safe & Inclusive Schools Project Reference Group meeting on 27 Apr 17, were presented. Council’s new affiliation fee structure was explained and confirmed.

NEXT MEETING - The next General meeting is a Hot Topics meeting on 27 June 17 at 7pm at HBCTL Stirling, with Jennifer Sexton speaking on Mindfulness in Schools.