

ACT Council of P&C Associations Inc

Maitland House
100 Maitland St, HACKETT ACT 2602
Ph: (02) 6241 5759 Fax: (02) 6241 8839



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

Report on P&C Council General Meeting 26 May 2015

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.

- **Everyone Everyday Disability Awareness Program;** how to include people with disabilities.
- **Follow up on the School Traffic Survey of Oct 2014** - We will follow up with the five schools of most concern to determine what further action is needed to resolve their traffic issues.

1. Presentation by Lindy Abbott and Kristen Laurent from ETDs NDIS project management team and Jane Beaumont from NDIA

By the middle of 2016, the ACT will be fully phased into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NSIS).

- Entry to the scheme requires an access request form to be submitted. These are available from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) - phone 61468200. ETD is concerned that the number of access request forms being submitted is lower than expected. They suspect some parents are either not aware of the need to submit a form or putting off submitting the form for some reason.
- The NDIA will provide an article for ParentACTion and P&C association/school newsletters to encourage parents to submit the access forms early.
- The NDIS will provide for the support/services currently supplied by ETD or other directorates/agencies eg special needs transport. Parents can use a planning workbook located on the NDIA website.
- After processing of the access request form, an NDIS planner will arrange to meet and develop a student plan for the student. This will cover every aspect of support and services needed for that student eg respite care, therapy, equipment, vehicle modification etc. It is important that you bring all the information/paperwork, assessments, reports, ILP etc that you have to this meeting. Support packages/ funding will be determined on an individual basis, taking everything into consideration. Plans will be for a year and may be amended by going back to the planner. Area co-ordinators and planners are employed by the NDIS.
 - Appeals against an NDIA decision can be requested via a review by an independent assessor. Students/people resident outside the ACT are not eligible for inclusion in the ACT NDIS trial.
- Transition problems for accessing therapists reported by parents have been recognized by the NDIS and ETD. The NDIS is working to engage more therapists to resolve this issue but it will take some time. Therapy ACT is providing teachers with therapy support training courses so they can return to their classes and assist therapists and students. ETD must ensure teachers have access to this training.
- In some situations the school Principal may have to limit the number of therapists entering the school on any one day.
- A Child Development Service (structured child centres) are being established for those children up to age 8 not accepted under the NDIS. The first phase of these centres is completed and full roll out is expected by January 2016

2. School Canteen Deeds (Agreements) and Other school/P&C Program Deeds

A meeting with ETD had been requested to finalise the revised school canteen services deed. This should be resolved before the next Council General meeting.

Before/After school care programs and Holiday programs deeds, P&Cs were advised to sign the service deeds, which have been reviewed by the Council office and, although heavily weighted towards protecting ETD, appear to be acceptable.

3. Items for the Minister's meeting on 11 June

Under the second item on the need for parent consultation, we ask the Minister what level or processes of consultation exist between government directorates.

4. Items for ETD Senior Executive Team meeting on 29 June 15

An additional item was added regarding what plans ETD had for addressing the full capacity of schools and colleges in the Belconnen and Gungahlin areas.

5. Demand for repeat of the Effective P&C Workshop

There is sufficient interest from P&Cs to repeat the Effective P&C workshop. Suitable dates for a Thursday at CTL Stirling and Saturday at Hackett workshop in late June/early July will be advised.

6. Issues from P&C Associations

Early Child Hood/Primary Schools

- P&C Council should join the online grants hub on behalf of the member P&C associations.
- The student reporting framework is substandard and requires significant amendment, additional consultation and possibly a delayed implementation date. The closing date for consultation had passed and our submission had already been made to ETD. It would be posted to our website within a week.

High School/Colleges

- Gunghalin and Kingsford Smith are concerned at the lack of expansion capability of their schools to cater for increased enrolment demand in the area.
- MCSS is concerned that there may be a need for double reporting on students who are enrolled in their baccalaureate program.
- LGC is concerned at the demands on volunteers running programs as businesses within the schools.

7. Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)

VP reported briefly on the recent ACSSO Board meeting that she attended in Canberra and noted the major activities being undertaken by them - restructuring of ACSSO as a limited guarantee company under ASIC rules, a new constitution and submission for the disability standards for education review by the federal minister.

8. Other matters

- 8.1** HB advised that he had participated in a 30 minute radio 666 session on the school reporting review.
- 8.2** HB also noted that we would be reforming the Council's election working group to commence planning for both the ACT and federal elections in 2016.
- 8.3** TLS advised that the Council's strategic plan expires at the end of 2015 and we would need to produce a new 5 year plan before the end of the year. An invitation was made to any interested members to participate in the strategic planning workshop that will be held later in the year.

9. Close and next meeting

The next General meeting is a HOT TOPICS meeting to be held on 23 June at CTL Stirling.