

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 22 October 2013

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.

1. Things to Do before next Council Meeting:

- All P&Cs to consider participating in the Week of Celebrating the School Community and advise the Council Office by 1 Dec 13.
- All delegates and P&C association officers to consider volunteering for the list of Council committee and representative positions to be elected at the AGM on 26 Nov.

2. **Priority Enrolment Areas and Siblings** – Siblings have been listed as 5th on a list of priorities for enrolments issued by ETD and Council will be raising this issue with ETD as it is not as we were advised previously.

3. **Presentation on Everyone Everyday resources** – Maureen Howe covered the background to this project which has been trialled in 7 primary schools and received excellent support from involved teachers. The resources consisting of a number of structured lessons with physical resources has successfully raised student and teacher awareness of how to include students with disabilities. Council agreed to support continuing funding for the project in the next ACT budget.

4. **School Canteen Improvement Project** – The Council has signed the agreement with ETD and is finalising the contracts with Flexischools for the provision of online ordering systems for primary schools and point of sale systems for high schools. **A briefing session is being arranged on Thurs 7 Nov for all P&Cs interested** in receiving these systems under the project. The Flexischools project manager will attend the meeting and the implementation plan, training, ongoing support and other details will be explained.

5. **ACT 2014 Budget Submission** – The Council's submission to the ACT budget for 2014 has been forwarded via the online system. Details are available from Tim Lawley at the Council office and will be posted to our website shortly.

6. Issues From P&Cs -

Early Childhood/Primary Schools

- Aranda is looking at joining with its after school care program which is managed by parents but not as part of the P&C. They are also keen to participate in the canteen improvement project.
- Telopea Park fete is coming up and they are concerned that they meet all ACT Health guidelines/standards for food preparation and sale.
- Bonython P&C is considering spending some of their fete proceeds on a music program or school band but the school is finding it difficult to accommodate a music program due to lack of time in the curriculum.
- Schools and P&Cs should consider ways of integrating new students and parents (from overseas or interstate) into the school and school community.
- Teachers could provide options for parents who do not want their children to have homework and occupy those children on other activities while feedback on homework is given in the class to others.
- Parents of senior primary school students may need assistance from ETD or schools when evaluating which high school to send their children.

High Schools/Colleges

- Dickson College – the ACT Colleges student card is not recognised by NSW Transport eg on the train from Sydney to Canberra. The ACT High School student card is on their list but not the College card.

ACTION: Raise with ETD

- LGC and Gungahlin College report low number of parents attending P&C events and meetings despite advertising. Gungahlin are celebrating World Teachers Day on 25 Oct with confectionary and balloons for teachers.
- Woden School is holding a Halloween disco at their school.
- Harrison School has a Facebook page for P&C and has found people with marketing and graphic design skills to assist in promoting their events.

7. **ACSSO Reports** – the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) National Education Conference hosted by the ACT Council of P&C Associations was a success despite less registrants than hoped. Feedback from P&C members who attended showed that there were useful and interesting papers and workshops during the conference. At the ACSSO AGM which followed then conference, changes to the structure of ACSSO's management and operations were discussed. The aim of these is to provide ACSSO management with greater skills and knowledge to perform their tasks more effectively.

8. **Curriculum Task Force report.** At the ACT Curriculum Task Force held on 22 October, it was agreed that parental engagement should be included in the curriculum but it was difficult to see how this could be done. ACARA is also having difficulties getting states to accept the Year 11 and 12 national curriculum.

9. **Preschool Matters Consultative Committee.** The initial meeting of this new ETD sponsored Committee was mainly concerned with establishing its terms of reference and developing its website. One of its major tasks will be to administer the preschool grants scheme. Council will have two representatives on this committee.

10. **Government School Education Council.** GSEC role is to be an advisory body to the ACT Minister and its membership included two students, who have proved to be excellent and provide significant input to the Council. Appointments to this body are made by the Minister and are for a three year period. The P&C Council recently raised the issue of English as a compulsory subject for college students and HB noted the success we had with GSEC supporting our position and the resultant good publicity for the P&C Council.

11. **Counselling for students in year 10.** Better counselling is needed in regards the subjects they need to take in years 11 and 12 to enter the tertiary course to which they aspire, to be raised in our budget submission (or with ETD).

12. **Next meeting.** 7pm Tuesday 26 November 13 at CTL, Stirling.