

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 24 February 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.

- **Effective P&C Workshop 6.30pm-9pm Thursday 19 March 15 at HBCTL Stirling**
- **Effective P&C Workshop 2pm-4.30pm Saturday 21 March 15 at Sports House Hackett**
- **P&C Treasurers' Workshop 7pm Thursday 26 March 15 at HBCTL Stirling**
- **P&C Insurance Workshop 7pm Tuesday 31 March 15 at HBCTL Stirling**
- **ACTION review of school bus services meeting Tuesday 31 March 15**
- **Healthy Kids Association research study into school canteen models due May 15**
- **2020 Youth Parliament on Sustainability to be held at Old Parliament House June 15**

1. Presentation by Dr Anna Olsen from ARACY on the newly released Parental Engagement resource kits available to schools and P&Cs.

Under the title of "Education Capital" these documents include a Parent Fact Sheet and Progressing Parental Engagement booklet. They will be placed on the Council's website for parents to access (limited hard copies could also be obtained by contacting the Council office).

It was noted that the research clearly demonstrated the better academic performance and behavior of students whose parents were engaged in their school. It was suggested that students should also be interviewed on what they want in regards to parental engagement in their schools.

It was advised that the project had only considered the early childhood and primary school levels. High school and college may be covered in the future depending on the amount of government support available. ARACY was working on a similar project for the federal government, which would complement the ACT work and produce actual parental engagement tool kits for schools.

2. School Canteen Deeds (Agreements) and Funding

The Chair noted that it appears ETD has sent out a version of the deed that did not include the changes sought by the Council office and himself as chair of the Canteen Working group. It was noted that P&Cs if pressured could sign the deed but should ensure that they have included in the Table 2 Rules those changes to the main part of the deed which did not reflect their conditions or services provided. The Chair will follow up with ETD to ensure that P&Cs were not pressured into signing deeds which did not reflect their ability and service provided.

The carry-over of the canteen improvement project funds to 2015 has been approved until 30 September for any remaining schools to order and install Flexischools and POS, plus purchase support IT equipment and conduct menu assessments. KF offered to show any interested P&Cs the very successful Flexischools online system operating in Majura PS canteen.

3. The need for a specific Pre School voice

Council considers that a strong additional voice specifically on pre-school issues is needed and noted that the annual membership fee for the Canberra Pre School Society (CPSS) was not expensive. P&Cs with Pre School sub committees should consider joining the CPSS, so that we can continue to have a strong parent voice for pre-schools.

ACTION: P&Cs with preschool sub committees

4. Election of P&C Council Executive members

Sharon Ding was elected as an Executive Member. There are 3 vacancies for other ordinary Executive members and these are open for nominations.

5. P&C Council Information Sheets in 2015

It was agreed that hard copies were still required and that they should also be available on the Council website in a Word format (particularly the templates) that can be downloaded and amended to suit P&Cs. The office may offer the information books on USB or CD on a demand basis.

6. P&C Council position on Teachers' demand for more Professional Development time

The AEU ACT branch recent wage and conditions claim includes an additional 1.5 hrs of paid professional development time per day. There was a strong view that any resultant education budgetary changes must not result in a loss of face to face teaching hours. A meeting to be organised with the AEU to determine what they see as the priorities in their claims.

7. Nominations for P&C Council Sub Committees and Working Groups

Nominations are open for all P&C Council sub committees and working groups. Any interested P&C member may nominate by contacting the Council office.

8. Issues from P&C Associations

Early Child Hood/Primary Schools

- The lack of teacher/librarians in early child hood schools was far worse than in any other level of schools and should be raised by the Council with ETD and the Minister.
- The apparent lack of a progression plan for students in early child hood schools after Year 2 was of concern to parent, where there were no local primary schools. This resulted in lower numbers of children enrolling in those Early Child Hood Schools. Council could raise this again with ETD.
- Traffic safety issues continue to be of concern to parents.

High School/Colleges

- Ideas on fund raising were requested again.
- Concerns continue about the viability of canteens after the removal of sugary drinks.
- Getting parents engaged or involved at this level continues to be a problem, particularly at colleges. Innovative ideas are needed to address this problem and are welcomed.

Telopea School situation

Telopea parents were recently told about significant changes to the school without any consultation with the P&C or school board. These changes could result in further deterioration in the traffic and parking issues facing the school and therefore the safety of the students, parents and staff. Council is prepared to make representations to ETD and the relevant ACT Ministers on behalf of Telopea.

9. My School league tables published by the media

The Communications Officer prepared an article on the misuse of the NAPLAN results by the Canberra Times to produce misleading school league tables. Delegates were asked to circulate the article amongst their parents and encourage them to write letters of complaint to the Canberra Times if such league tables are again printed.

10. Close and next meeting

The next General meeting is a HOT TOPICS meeting to be held on 24 March at CTL Stirling.