

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 26 Feb 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:

Gonski – encourage parents to add their name to the I give a Gonski website and lobby local politicians when the opportunity arises, see item 7 below.

- **Computer/IT problems in schools/colleges** – Send the P&C Council office a detailed list of IT problems in your school/college .
- **Complain to ETD about IT problems** – Use the ETD complaints form on their website to log concerns about school/college IT problems. Go to:
http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/17620/Complaint_Lodgement_Form_updated_-_not_uploaded.pdf

2. **Canteen Developments** – We are very close to getting approval to use the bulk buying power of the NSW online procurement system for ACT school canteens. The High level Canteens Task Force will be reporting to the Minister mid year and we are confident that there will be action on its recommendations (**Stop Press – approval has just been given for use of the NSW online procurement, more to follow**).

3. **Meeting with Minister** - Council is meeting with Minister Burch on Monday 4 March 13.

4. **Year of the community proposal & P&C management training** - A suggestion was received from the Palmerston P&C President to nominate this centenary year as the ACT Year of the Community. In discussion, the idea was generally supported but it was agreed that more information and details were needed. A paper will be presented for the next meeting in March. ALSO, a training session for P&C officers in management, administration and conduct of a P&C Association is to be developed. This would be open to all P&C officers and members and is in addition to the current Treasurer and Insurance workshops.

5. **IT problems in schools** – Following reports of connectivity problems with some high schools, it was agreed that the ETD complaints process be activated by the parents and for the school Principal to also complain to ETD (see action required above). It was also agreed that all P&Cs send a list of IT problems at their schools to the P&C office where they can be compiled and presented to ETD.

6. Issues from P&Cs -

- Bonner raised the issue of trikes and the appropriateness of a helmet, and how to start a canteen at this newly opened school.
- Harrison is surrounded by roads and recently a pedestrian crossing was removed by TAMS, but it is expected it will be re-installed.
- Duffy is suffering seriously from overcapacity and the delegate undertook to email Council's office with the details.
- Majura has been disappointed by the slow pace of building works.
- Telopea was seeking guidance on how other P&Cs choose to spend the money they have raised on the various 'wish-list' items presented by the principal and teachers.
- Bonython noted that an autism unit had been established with little advice provided to parents of the wider school, illustrating a lack of good communication between the school and parents.
- Curtin said the relationship between the school board and the P&C needs to be clarified, as does who the board members are supposed to represent.

- Disappearance of the street crossing at Harrison School
 - Stromlo HS cLc network problems and connectivity
 - Parents are being asked to pay for employment of relief teachers when regular teachers are away from the school on excursions, sports days etc. Is this ETD policy? Should the school board set this policy in the school or the Principal?
7. **Gonski Lobbying** – Council had previously agreed to lobby government in support of Gonski and encourages parents to do so via the website and directly to local federal politicians over the next month. We want to see a better funding mechanism for education, with funds better directed to where there is the greatest need.
 8. **Disabilities Education Reference Group report.** P&Cs are asked to circulate the report to all parents and a copy of the report will be placed on Council's Website. Next DERG meeting is 14 May at CTL Stirling.
 9. **Next P&C Council General Meeting will be after the AGM on 26 March 13** at CTL Stirling. All delegates and P&C officers are encouraged to attend.