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

Report on P&C Council General Meeting 27 August 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:**

   - **P&Cs to consider registering at least one (1) parent for the ACSSO National Education Conference on 17-18 Oct 13 at CTL Stirling. The themes of parental engagement, student wellbeing and intercultural education are all of interest to parents. Go to www.acsso.org.au for details.**

2. **English as not compulsory in Colleges** – Following Council's raising of this with ETD, they are now considering making it compulsory.

3. **ETD and Minister Meeting in August 2013 –** These were productive meetings. A written report on the ETD meeting has been distributed. There is no written report on the Minister's meeting. The P&C Council's role as an independent lobby group for public education was confirmed at the Minister's meeting.

4. **Federal Election Plan Implementation** – The Council met with the Greens Senate candidate Simon Sheikh and pressed our policies for public education. We have now met with some candidates from all the major parties. Council has also produced a comparison of the major parties education policies which is being published in our ParentACTion journal and on our website. ACSSO also has a similar comparison table on their website.

5. Parents can also directly lobby their federal members by using the automated message on the ACSSO website.

6. **Improving Parent Inclusiveness In The P&C & School –** Ideas were offered by each delegate:

   a. Get them early i.e. contact or meet new parents as early as possible in the year.
   b. Set a goal that parents can get involved in with the children e.g. a school garden.
   c. Use different communication methods including face to face.
   d. Drive key issues that interest parents.
   e. Hold a new comers tea/coffee morning 7 give a brief on the P&C, Canteens, volunteers etc.
   f. Use the "buddy system" for children and parents.
   g. Make commitments for parents' time manageable.
   h. Hold a welcome BBQ for new parents.
   i. Get P&C officers to come to the P&C Council meetings and learn more about ACT education and schooling and P&C activities.
   j. Arrange parent "get togethers" on a class basis.
   k. Measure and publish/promote P&C successes.
   l. Cultivate the school principal as integral to the P&C, ask current & previous P&C members what attract them to participate in the P&C.
   m. Hold parent forums with interesting speakers.
   n. Vary the length and frequency of P&C meetings to find what best suits most people.
   o. Put photos of P&C officers in newsletters so parents can identify you and feel more confident in approaching you.
   p. Publish "good news stories" about P&C and school activities, especially those involving parent volunteers.
   q. Ensure information sent to parents includes guides or links to related information.
   r. Send out P&C notices, invitations etc. separate from the school newsletter.
   s. Clarify the difference between the school board and the P&C.

t. Provide food and drinks at P&C meetings.
u. Re-target your P&C i.e. make everyone aware that it is not just about fund raising.
v. Advertise that all school parents are automatically members of the P&C regardless of whether they are on the committee or not.
w. Hold social events such as wine & cheese with the teachers, informal dinners etc.
x. Engage parents on a single job/task basis and not necessarily as a committee member.

7. **Reports -** P&Cs are encouraged to read the reports presented at the meeting. These were circulated by email prior to the meeting.

8. **Canteen Situation Report.** This was presented at the meeting. The report is being published in the next issue of ParentACTion.