

ACT Council of P&C Associations Inc

Sports 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 28 May 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&C Council's internal committees** – Any interested delegate, P&C association officer or parent are **invited to nominate for the committees/working groups** in which they are interested – see attached list.

2. IT problems in schools –Mark Huxley from ETD advised that :

- a. ETD introduced a new SchoolNet system to 39 schools so far and early reports were that it was solving most of internal problems & better enabling connection to ETD systems such as the cLc. Turner PS advised it was one of those to receive the new School Net and that it was proving to be very successful.
- b. It was also advised that an update version of cLc was being introduced and that training of teachers was to be done through their professional development programs.
- c. He advised that ETD did not have a social media in schools policy but was currently developing one.
- d. He noted that ETD covered the cost of the IT systems used in schools.
- e. He advised that the proposed parent portal for the cLc was not going to be developed for a range of reasons but parents could still have access via their child's login.
- f. The low use of the cLc by teachers was a problem which reduced its usefulness. Teachers were not forced to use it.

3. Acknowledgement of Country – Council agreed to acknowledge the traditional owners/custodians of the land at P&C Council public meetings. A form of words was accepted and is available from the Council office.

4. Canteen Developments –The High Level Canteens Task Force is reporting to the Minister in June and we are confident that there will be action on its recommendations, including funding to assist school canteens in the next ACT budget.

5. Meeting with Minister - Council met with Minister Burch on 22 May 13 and amongst other matters we raised the need to improve legislation for approving new private schools in the ACT. The Minister invited us to make a submission.

6. Federal Election lobbying – The Council is to organise meetings with local federal members and candidates to impress our local needs and determine their positions on education issues. Local P&C association officers will be invited to attend these meetings.

7. Issues from P&Cs -

- Priority Enrollment Area issues are being raised again, particularly where siblings are being forced to go to different schools. It was noted that School Boards can make exceptions.
- Empowering schools had now been rolled out to all ACT public schools. P&Cs should advise Council on how empowering schools was working in their schools.
- Other issues raised include how to conduct after school care programs, how to get fencing around a school, continued traffic problems in some locations and how to get parents involved.
- ETD is to release its policy on security checks for volunteers in schools in Term 3.
- ETD should fund a person to manage the school canteens initiatives expected in the next ACT budget.
- The need for the Parent Portal still remains and ETD should use all means available to provide it.

8. Learning Difficulties talk by Irene Lind from ETD – 7pm on 11 June 13. Parents interested in disability/special needs/gifted & talented student issues are invited to attend the P&C Council Executive meeting at 7pm on 11 June at Sports House 100 Maitland St Hackett.

Next P&C Council General Meeting will be after the Policy Conference on 27 August 13 at CTL Stirling. However, there will be a Hot Topics meeting held on 25 June 13. All delegates and P&C officers are encouraged to attend.

ACT Council of P&C Associations – Internal committees and Working Groups

Committee	Meetings	2012 Members	2013 Members	Email Address of new members
<p>Schools & Communities in Partnership (SCIP) Formed by Council to offer direct support to school communities through the provision of information (fact sheets, speaking engagements etc) and aims to take discussion and support into the school community directly.</p>	Meets informally as required	Viv Pearce Greg Hall Elton Ivers Joan Kellett Sheree Henley		
<p>Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) committee ACSSO is the federal body for P&Cs. This committee provides support to our representative to ACSSO and advises Council as necessary. A sub group of the Committee is involved in assisting with the hosting of the ACSSO National education Conference in Canberra on 17-19 Oct 13.</p>	Meets informally as required	Donna Reed John Haydon Graeme Evans Viv Pearce Joan Kellett Elton Ivers Ann Robb S Mulholland		
<p>Journal Publications The Journal Publications sub-committee is responsible for overseeing all Council publications including ParentACTion, the Council Communicator and Annual Report to members.</p>	Works by email co-ordinated by the Communications Officer	John Haydon Trevor Cobbold Viv Pearce Greg hall Joan Kellett Leah Clarke - Vial		
<p>Green Team/ Sustainable Schools Team Exists to implement and further develop sustainability policy, to promote schools as a leader in sustainability and promote environmental ideals within Council itself.</p>	Works mostly by email	Viv Pearce Rachael Bahl Jennifer Benson S Mulholland		
<p>Canteens Working Group The Canteens Working Group is tasked with promoting Council's canteen policy and addressing issues that arise with ACT P&C managed canteens</p>	Works mostly by email	Hugh Boulter Greg Hall Denis O'Dea Cecilia Schlegel		
<p>Disability Working Group/Special Needs Students The Working Group's role is to advise Council on all policy issues</p>	1 or 2 meetings But works mostly by email	Carey Doyle Diana Nasra Viv Pearce Graeme Evans Marina McDonald		

and all matters relating to students with disabilities in the ACT.		Karen McLoughlin Jenny Maskell Louise Dalglish Smith		
Gifted & Talented Students Working Group The Gifted and Talented Working Group was established mid year to specifically advise Council on policies and initiatives aimed at gifted and talented students in the ACT.	1 or 2 meetings, works mostly by email	Graeme Evans Jo Lewis Tina Anderson Savi Lecamwasam Viv Pearce Helen Chisholm Helen Chan Bruce Donald Debbie McQuirk David Robertson		
Clothing Pool and Uniform Shop Working Group To provide a forum for those involved in school clothing pools/uniform shops to exchange ideas and learn from each other.	1 meeting, works mostly by email.	Terry Sanders		
IT Committee To oversee the Council office's cost effective and efficient use of IT.	Works via email	Hugh Boulter Sheree Henley Elton Ivers Terry Sanders Jena Dobie		
Social Media and Communications Committee			Peter Breckenbridge, Kim Fritsche, Jena Dobie	