

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 28 February 2017

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 Thurs 30 Mar 17 at HBCTL Stirling**
 - **Effective P&C Workshop 2pm Sat 1 Apr 17 at Hackett**
 - **P&C Treasurers' & Insurance workshop 6.30pm Thurs 6 Apr at HBCTL Stirling**
 - **P&C constitution workshop 7pm Tues 4 May 17 at HBCTL Stirling**
 - **Presentation by the Education Directorate Director General 7pm 28 Mar 17 at HBCTL**
 - **Presentation by Education Minister Yvette Berry 7pm 23 May 17 at HBCTL**
1. **Presentation by Ann Thomson – Avoiding RSI and Overuse injuries in school students.** Ann's presentation is available here: www.actparents.org.au/images/kids_and_RSI.pdf.....
 - Research shows a growing number of RSI/Overuse injuries in school children.
 - Younger children are less likely to complain of pain from use of IT devices.
 - Their bodies are growing and more vulnerable to RSI/Overuse injuries.
 - Bad habits formed when young are harder to correct later in life.
 - Tablets were more likely to result in injury because five times the force is used to type on them in comparison to a keyboard.
 - PE teachers could be trained to provide exercises for students to avoid RSI.
 - The purchase of ergonomic furniture to reduce the risk of RSI is up to the individual school but at a minimum students should have height adjustable chairs providing good back support.
 - Teacher guidelines /policy/training is needed on preventing school students developing RSI.
 - Schools may use online presentations to raise the RSI awareness of teachers & students.
 - The provision of a tablet device to every student needs to be accompanied by RSI awareness training. The Council will pursue this with the EDu and the Minister.
 - Learning to touch type is very important and it is inexplicable that it is given no weight by EDU.
 3. **Proactive topics for Council to pursue in 2017.** The list was confirmed as:
 - a. Children who are frequently violent in schools.
 - b. How to handle School Principal and P&C relationships.
 - c. Cooling and heating in schools.
 - d. Recognising our P&C/Parent volunteers.
 4. **Meeting with the EDU Senior Executive Team on 16 March 17**

The preschool enrolment topic is a wider problem in schools than first thought. The common reporting requirements for all schools is aimed at improving transparency and accountability in private schools.
 5. **Issues from P&C Associations**
 - a. Pre-polling for the last ACT election was blamed for a significant reduction in fundraising from the Election Day BBQ at the school polling station.
 - b. School class room heating and cooling, school traffic safety issues and parking remaining ongoing concerns for many schools.
 - c. Arawang P&C had success in fund raising by providing and selling the students book packs and also reduced the cost of the book packs to parents.
 6. **Reports – Council reps have met with the Shadow Education Minister, Andrew Wall.** Regarding religious teaching in schools, Council's education policy remains that public school education should remain free, compulsory and secular.

NEXT MEETING - The next General meeting is on 28 March 17 at 7pm at HBCTL Stirling.