

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 August 2014

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.

- **New ACTION bus network to take effect 1 September 14.**
- **School traffic survey online now at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FMZKTYK>**
- **Education Exchange forum with Companion House 5.30pm Wed 12 Nov 14**
- **Family, School Partnerships Bureau 2014 National Symposium Policy, Practice and Evaluation Improving Learning and Wellbeing 8-9 Sep 14 in Melbourne, register at www.eventspro.net/shortlead/getdemo.ei?id=7690022&s=9400KR3Q9**
- **Learning Difficulties Conference 8.30am – 3.30pm 24 September 2014 at CTL.**

PRESENTATION BY HOLLY GODFRAY AND OLIVIA NEILSON ON THE STATE OF TEACHER LIBRARIANS (TLs) IN THE ACT

Holly and Louisa gave a presentation on the current situation in the ACT for teacher librarians (TL). They noted the decline in TL numbers and the particular shortage in early childhood and primary schools. The benefits of having TLs in these schools was explained and their impact on the future capabilities of students was noted. The effect of school autonomy was seen as impacting on the employment of TLs as some Principals could be inclined to engage less costly teachers. Cuts in TL hours and the use of TLs as relief for other teachers was reported.

Discussion occurred on what Council could do to address the reported problems facing schools without TLs. It was agreed to:

- Include additional targeted funding for employing more TLs at primary school and early childhood schools in our next ACT budget submission.
- Raise the issues with the Minister.
- Develop a strategy to address the concerns raised in the presentation.
- Place an article in the next issue of ParentACTion re librarians and also to obtain an electronic copy of questions to ask at your school, for distribution to delegates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chair noted her absence from 3 Sep to 11 Nov 14 and the absence of the Vice President John Haydon from 23 Sep 14 to 30 Jan 15. She advised that in their absences Amanda Bichard would be acting President and Cecilia Shlegel would be acting Vice President. The Chair also reported on the excellent meeting held on the 25th August with Minister Rattenbury's advisors on school transport, traffic and parking problems.

SCHOOL TRAFFIC SURVEY

The new school bus services starts on 1 September and that will be changes to some public school services. The online school traffic survey is currently being conducted by the Council, all delegates and P&Cs to encourage their parents to complete the survey by 1 Sep.

SUGARY DRINKS BAN

Recent media coverage had occurred about healthy food in schools, parents' and Council's concerns over the upcoming ban on sugary drinks in schools and colleges. The Chief Minister's response and the slight possibility of her willingness to discuss the colleges' issues was noted.

CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The next General meeting is to be a Hot Topics meeting on 23 September 14 at CTL.