



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Early Learning Committee ELC inaugural meeting – September 12, 2018

Summary of minutes

In attendance: Alex Abrahams (AA)
Nicole Haughie (NH)
Marina Spurgin (MS)
Kirsty McGovern-Hooley (KMH)
Viv Pearce (VP)
Gigi Ang , Franklin Early Learning Centre (GA)
Bonnie Rippola (BR) Harrison School

Apologies: Linda Fleming
Fiona Green

2. Confirmation of the transitional Committee chair – Nicole Haughie

Seeds of the transition evolved over the previous decade, with discussions progressed in the last two years resulting in the final resolution.

AA) Transitioning CPS to end of September. AA will then finish in her role. NH has been Committee President for four years and has been guiding the Committee during this time. Nicole will continue to oversee the ELC transition.

3. Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference provided.

4. Update on

a. Transfer of CPS members to P&C Council and commencement of support to them

AA) Long history to merger with Business Options Paper written by CPS outlining scenarios and research. Many CPS member concerns have been heard and taken on board. Merger has been the conclusion as the best way forward.

NH) When P&C's change with new people sometimes priorities change. EL needs sometimes receive less consideration or are not well understood so EL parents can feel overlooked due to differing needs re education/play.

NH wrote a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) when her own PPA became a sub-committee of the Primary school P&C, to ensure that preschool priorities of the PPA would not be subsumed by P&C priorities. That MOU is used today as a model to facilitate successful transition of PPA into P&C subcommittee.

KMH) **FOUR FOCUS AREAS**

1 Parent experiences with engagement

Differences in implementation exist where they shouldn't ie behaviour management, safe and supportive schools, recycling and waste management, preschool enrolments, librarians.

2 Violence in Schools – reflection of society

Experiences with bullying and poor management of incidents – problems emerging across institutions. Complaints to Directorate also often managed poorly.

Issues can be facilitated in a positive way ie treating parents how they want to be treated. Educating parents, visibility regarding issues.

3 Tuggeranong

Issues re residual schools. Small schools. School community positive re P&C.

4 'Us'

Themes around NFPs, providing a service

What are we doing for our members?

Indigenous engagement – what's happening?