



Canteen Sub Committee MINUTES

Wednesday 13 October, 2021, 7-8:30pm via Zoom

Present

Janelle Kennard (Council, Chair), Josephine Ponsford (Arawang Primary), Natalie (Canberra High), Alyssa Nevin (Canberra High), Kim Todd (Miles Franklin Primary), Kate Rowntree (Mt Rogers Primary canteen manager), Katie Whitehouse (Farrer Primary), Belinda (Weetangera), Veronica (Red Hill), Nicole, Celina (Telopea), Katherine Power (Aranda), Sarah (Ngunnawal)

Apology: Fiona Green (Carolyn Chisholm School)

Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 7:05. She acknowledged the Ngunnawal people and thanked everyone for attending. Everyone introduced themselves and their canteen.

Reporting back

Actions from last meeting are all complete.

Janelle pointed out where resources and samples provided by committee members have now been placed on the Council website for sharing ([HERE!](#)). Includes: volunteer letters, comparison of online ordering systems, waste-reduction slide show....

Janelle also outlined the results of approaches to Government departments that she made for Council on behalf of the subcommittee (requested at the last meeting):

ACT NoWaste Team:

- can provide list of waste contractors which take compostable materials to compost for when school is negotiating waste-collection contract (via Janelle if you want it)
- Confirmed that straws attached to food items (eg Sippah or juice box) are NOT covered by 2022 ban of straws in ACT
- Suggested that funding for shifting your canteen to reusables (eg to by the reusables, for dishwasher) might be available from your school's solar panel feed-in tariff. Schools receive this money from their solar panels, but must use it for environmental projects.

Education Directorate:

- Confirmed that, as specified in P&C canteen Deeds, canteen maintenance and pest control is to be done by the school. P&Cs with canteen maintenance needs that the school will not meet should contact Janelle.

Lockdown Lowdown

Janelle outlined:

- operating conditions for canteens in Term 4 and the relevant COVID-safe guidelines for the school environment
- New announcement requiring primary school canteen workers to be vaccinated (mandate)
- the need for COVID-safe plan

- The need to work with the school and how different plans will be this term
- Changes to federal government payments
- Referred everyone to [Council's COVID Information page](#) which is regularly updated and contains details on the above.

Reusables in the Canteen – Ainslie Primary P&C's story

Unfortunately, Kerryn was unable to attend and this will be a much-anticipated item next meeting!

Reducing canteen waste – Bonnie's journey

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Questions and answers from canteens

Questions asked by those present, and answered by other wonderfully knowledgeable members included:

- Streets icecreams' freezers – Fiona asked if others were being threatened with loss of freezer if sales of icecreams remained low. Kate has only 2 orders a year with Streets and have never got any grief. Calls streets directly with ordering.
- Belinda - space for two staff with 4 sq m rule - worried that there isn't. Discussion about this measurement being wall-to-wall, not floor space.
- Reducing menus to cope with COVID uncertainty – almost everyone is reopening with much reduced menu (eg 4 items only). Discussion about which items people were offering.
- Sarah - recess flexischools options
- Kim - exec staff offered to deliver items to classrooms
- Janelle asked if everyone had already had discussions with their school about T4 operations. Not everyone had. Some canteens told they probably wont open at all in Term 4.
- Alyssa – their P&C applied for Business Support Grant

Other items:

Janelle asked if anyone would like to talk to a journalist from Canberra Times who is interested in school canteen ops as schools return. Canberra High maybe interested. Natalie to advise Janelle

ACT NoWaste team asked if people could attend the next session of this group to tell us more about what they do and to hear more about canteens and so understand their situation better. all agreed. Janelle to arrange for next meeting.

Next meeting

Janelle to schedule late Term 1, 2022, advising all in Early Term 1.

ACTION LIST

ACTION	By whom	By When
Advise about possible media interview	Natalie	
Schedule next meeting, inviting NoWaste Team	Janelle	Early Term 1, 2022