



Canteen Sub Committee

MINUTES

Term 1, 2022. Wednesday 23 March, 7-8:30pm

Via Zoom

Present

Janelle Kennard (Council, Chair), Marina Spurgin (Council), Angela Crompton & Sarah (ACTSmart Schools), Shirani Glover & Monica Boeck (Exchange for Change), Fiona (Carolyn Chisholm) Natalie Drummond (Aranda PS), Will Kukkonen (Arawang), Katie (Farrer PS), Lauren Cornish (Macgregor), Katrina (Canberra High)

Apologies: Kim Todd (Miles Franklin), Alison Elliott (Council)

Welcome and previous minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair at (7:03). She acknowledged the Ngunnawal people and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Presentation –Canteen waste management

The ActSmart Schools team outlined their program and the importance of reducing environmental footprint of the school, and that the canteen is an important part of this. Have supported all ACT schools for past 10 years. They work with teachers, students, P&Cs or canteens (eg can work with P&C and students if there is not a champion teacher) and have a number of programs:

- energy audit
- waste program/audit
- horticulturalist to help you to design a garden eg to produce food for canteen

Discussed examples at schools, including worm farms at Kaleen Primary and waste reduction through reusables at Ainslie.

[Website](#) has resources including stickers for bin lids to help with separating recyclables, and [Info sheet](#).

Exchange for Change told the meeting about the ACT Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). 1 in 2 schools are using it for fundraising. Discussed some case studies:

Canberra High School: New bins and system, where the four sporting houses have different bins, colour coded – competition between the houses to collect the most! P&C volunteers take collected containers to depots. Have earned \$4000. Student led (green team). Subsidises year 10 formal and more.

Bonython Primary: Student led. New bins in each classroom; use the statistics for maths as well as environmental learning . First year raised \$700 – supports their garden.

[Website](#) has fundraising toolkit, school resources, and case studies. Or contact Monica: contactus@actcds.com.au

2. Group buying schemes

Will from Arawang was keen to find out about Group buying schemes. A couple of options for schemes where canteens earn reward points for buying off selected distributors were discussed. The reward points can be converted to vouchers at spend at suppliers.

ASCA: The ASCA trade show last week was very timely. Their distributor is Superior foods. Suppliers include Streets, Mrs Macs, Inghams. There are regular specials/discounts, although these are not usually for products that meet ACT menu requirements. Plus annual rewards. Several canteens reported \$100-\$200 annually.

Contact is Vanessa Wallis: vanessaw@asca.com.au 0429 837 406; 1800 219 556; asca.com.au.

Fiona pointed out some difficulties with the scheme: Need to purchase from a certain number of their suppliers to qualify for rewards. But some of the suppliers do not have any products that can be sold in ACT canteens (eg Smiths), so can be difficult to qualify (hence not buying Mrs Macs anymore – see pie discussion below – might make you ineligible.)

InSeason: Natalie also mentioned InSeason – who have a similar rewards program (also with Superior)

2b. Pies

There was some discussion about discontinued pies (Traveller pie), and alternatives. Will suggested Four'n Twenty. He also said that both Mrs Mac and Four'n Twenty will also supply pie oven/warmer for you – you can choose the size.

Natalie informed the meeting about the *waste-free pie* that they have worked with local bakery Husk to create which meets ACT Amber criteria (after survey of parents showed most would be happy to pay more for pie without plastic packaging):

Wholesale unit price for beef pie = \$4 and sausage roll = \$3.80 (GST inclusive). Aranda are selling pie for \$5.40 Aaron from Husk is happy to discuss supply with any other canteens interested: huskbakery@outlook.com, please let him know Aranda Primary sent you!



ACTION: Council to check with NSS - are sugar free fizzy drinks ok? List of all commercial pies that meet the guidelines.

3. Flexischools

Janelle outlined Council's meeting with the Flexischools team to represent the feedback on Flexischools which we collected at previous Canteen meetings. They feel they have addressed or are addressing many of our complaints. Their help line is open again to assist canteens: 1300 590 044. See Meeting Report attached for details of the discussion.

Those at the meeting said that they were still unhappy with fees.

Other online ordering systems

Will is going to arrange a meeting with **My school Connect** and invite Janelle to hear more about their system.

Janelle noted that Kate Rowntree (sub-committee member last year) had done research on different systems last year (see [her comparison spreadsheet](#)) and had decided to go with 'Spriggy Schools'.

4. Plastic Straw Ban

Plastic straws are banned in the ACT from July 1 this year. Straws which are integrated with food items (eg Juice boxes and Sippah straws) are not included in the ban. Everyone present was already aware, and most said that their canteen simply didn't use straws, or were phasing them out, rather than offering alternative materials.

5. COVID check in

There was chance to everyone to say how they were going with the current COVID restrictions, Lauren – counter sales would be Great in primary schools – not possible due to cohorting. \$500 down a week. It is easier for High Schools at the moment where there are fewer cohorts, so counter service has been able to be arranged.

6. Q&A

Lauren asked if canteens being were required to re-tender and establish a new Deed of Service with the school. Janelle informed the meeting that many canteen Deeds were out of date and were being revised by EDU, but Council had been assured that there was no plan for existing providers to retender.

Janelle asked all present – **Running the canteen is hard - What would help?** Responses:

IT equipment and support; internet is terrible! Takes so long to get a network logons, and has to be just one staff member, and when they leave, it takes ages again. Principals and other staff are using their logons to make it work, or managers are using their own phone wifi. Canteens have been told they must go to EDU shared services themselves. Would like IT person at the school to set it up, to have Canteen Generic logon, rather than individual.

Some canteens still have no wifi (deadspot)

Phone – some are paying for their own; have none in the canteen.

Friday staff needed. Would be great to have a shared list of possible relief staff – for discussion at next meeting

ACTIONS: Council to ask EDU for clear, workable process, individual logons, wifi coverage and phone lines to be provided to all canteens. Ensure this is stipulated in upcoming drafts of Deeds. Further discussion of "what would help" and shared relief staff at next meeting.

Next meeting

Wednesday June 1 (week 6, Term 2)

Suggest focus on "What would support your canteen?"

ACTION LIST

ACTION	By whom	By When
Council to check with NSS - are sugar free fizzy drinks ok? List of all commercial pies that meet the guidelines.	JAnelle	Next meeting
Make a plan for advocating IT provision to canteens to EDU; including stipulating this is canteen Deeds.	Council Team	asap

REPORT: Meeting between Council and Flexischools
DATE: March 1, 2022

Attendees	<i>Michael, Liz and Cam from flexischools. From Council: Janelle, Veronica, Marina. From P&Cs: Lauren and Eleanor Bates, Macgregor. Apologies: Merisha Percival, Aranda.</i>
Meeting Place, Time:	2pm, via Teams
Key Issues Discussed	<p>We presented issues collected from the Canteen subcommittee and detailed written feedback from Merisha, plus Eleanor and Lauren provided in-school perspective. Fleischools were already aware of all the issues raised. Some had already been addressed. Others are 'on the radar'. Some are due to commercial pressures and are not going to change. Details:</p> <p>Flexischools in general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all money held in trust - financially responsible service • Priode themselves on deep customer service and system availability • Believe their platform is useful to schools/P&Cs in "pushing out" comms to parents <p><u>Response to our issues:</u></p> <p>System outages, especially Fridays. No Friday outages in 10 months</p> <p>Poor client support, only a webform: Their contact phone line was not operational during COVID, but is now back up and running. There is an Australian-based team (11 people) ready to take calls. They will provide details for Council to pass on.</p> <p>Flexischools promo comms overwhelm the App and emails to parents. Fleischools way they have already reduced the number of ads, that they are fussy about who they let advertise. In response to feedback have made the "order food" button clear and up front in the App. They pointed out that can parents can unsubscribe from the emails.</p> <p>Lack of functionality such as stock count/supply: Flexischools told us that they are aware that these are requests from users – others share your concerns. They "have it on their radar" for future upgrades.</p> <p>Multi- level double-dip fees: Some of these fees are charged by other parties (eg banks for credit card and upload fees). Some other competitors have arrangements with banks to cut these fees, but they are not big enough to partner with the banks like that.</p> <p>Mobile device left-right scroll (not intuitive) In response to feedback, the latest App update removed this.</p>
Follow up Executive	Nil
Follow up Office	Provide help line service details in Communicator and at Canteen Subcommittee meeting Ask members if they want a training session, potentially at the next canteen meeting.
Next meeting	None scheduled or expected