



Canteen Sub Committee MINUTES

Wednesday 23 June, 2021, 7-8:30pm via Zoom

Present

Janelle Kennard (Council, Chair), Fiona Green (Caroline Chisholm School), Josephine Ponsford (Arawang Primary), Will (Arawang canteen manager), Janaline Oh (Aranda Primary), Alyssa Nevin (Campbell High), Kim Todd (Miles Franklin Primary), Kate Rowntree (Mt Rogers Primary canteen manager), Katie Whitehouse (Farrer Primary), Alison Elliott (Macgregor Primary), Lauren Cornish (Macgregor canteen manager).

Apologies: Merisha Percival (Aranda)

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.

[A slide presentation](#) was created to accompany the meeting (unavailable on the night).

Council's canteen approach, connections and resources for P&Cs

Janelle described how Council supports member P&Cs who run canteens. This is mostly through lobbying ACT Health and Education Directorates for better support and conditions for our canteens – eg menu support from Nutrition Australia in enacting the Food Policy. Janelle also outlined some great resources available for helping run your canteen – links to all from the [Canteen Support](#) page on the Council website.

Flexischools – issues; does it meet needs?

Janelle informed the meeting that almost all P&C-run canteens use Flexischools. Almost everyone present was unhappy with it now. Many have already decided to leave Flexischools and are actively looking for an alternative. Issues include:

- recent company changes – in particular that there is no longer have local representative
- poor support
- system often crashes, particularly on Fridays when very busy – makes some days impossible and they offer tiny fee relief as compensation for outages/lost orders, which doesn't make up for it at all
- effect of any outage is especially hard to manage for schools with 11am lunch
- expensive
- not enough functionality
- functionality even more limited for uniform shop – have to manually manage stock.

ACTIONS – Kate to share her research on alternatives (DONE – [see file here](#)), Janaline to update the committee on Aranda's research as it progresses.

Canteen issues

People brought challenges and issues currently affecting their canteen:

- Volunteer management and recruiting (Will). Janaline commented that they recruit parents via class reps, a different class is responsible for providing a helper each week. Others use students volunteers. **ACTION:** Janelle to share paperwork for student volunteers.
- Kitchen facilities in disrepair (eg missing tiles at Miles Franklin), or not appropriate for the volumes or to move to lower waste options – eg everyone would love a commercial dishwasher. P&Cs are paying for new cupboards and bench tops – what is the service agreement here? Failing health inspections? **ACTION:** Janelle to write to EDU about this and raise at cross-govt Collaborative Working Group
- Packaging and sustainability – for upcoming meeting

Reducing canteen waste – Aranda’s journey

Janaline from Aranda Primary P&C outlined their waste-reduction efforts – [see video](#). She told us that engaging school leadership was crucial – via plastic oceans program. A waste audit was really important for revealing just how much plastic waste at the school came from the canteen and really focused people’s efforts. Then they did a survey (one for parents one for kids) about food and canteen – included questions about waste and whether people prepared to pay 5% or 10% more for lower waste options (only 12% said no!). This gave them the backing to continue. The school’s ‘plastics oceans team’ are looking at alternative containers – washable, re-useable. They installed a commercial dishwasher.

ACTIONS – Janelle to share Waste Management presentation which was part of Council’s Canteen training session in May – [it is here](#).

Janaline to share surveys – [parents](#) and [students](#)

Request to lobby suppliers re plastic packaging

Janaline from Aranda Primary P&C outlined their campaign to encourage suppliers of canteen foods to move away from plastic packaging. Kids wrote to Bulla (they are going to go plastic free!), Just Juice and Mrs Mac’s pies (see [letters](#)). Janaline looking for support to continue or join forces – Kate R and Kim supportive and would like to be kept in the loop.

Aranda have also approached Husk and Dobinsons to get pies from them (they would need to alter their recipes to meet ACT guidelines). UPDATE: Dobinsons no longer interested.

ACTIONS – Janelle to get some media coverage for Aranda’s activism with suppliers.

Janelle to feed back to ACT no waste team on the need for ACT govt to provide place to compost packaging – eg kurb side bins.

Canteen policies and procedures – Arawang

Josephine from Arawang Primary P&C explained that she had taken on the position of canteen co-ordinator and discovered they have no written policies or procedures. She asked what other canteens do. Discussion followed. Others happy to share their documentation. Many find the [ACT Canteen Business Essentials Manual](#) really helpful.

ACTIONS: Janelle to follow up with ACT health Re: hard copies of Manual for canteens.

Kim and Josephine to chat - Janelle to share contacts (DONE)

Janelle to set up area on One Drive for all to share documents.

Continued operation of subcommittee

Janelle asked how often people wanted to meet; online or face to face, desire for expert speakers, or to share info? Everyone was very keen to meet regularly, chat and share tips and answers to questions. Suggested once a term. Some found 7pm a very difficult time and suggested 4pm.

Next meeting

Janelle to schedule.

ACTION LIST

ACTION	By whom	By When
<i>Flexischools</i> Kate to share research on online ordering systems (see file here) Janaline to update us on Aranda's research as it progresses.	Kate Janaline	DONE As progress is made
<i>Volunteer recruitment:</i> Share paperwork for student volunteers.	Janelle	Before next meeting
<i>Canteen disrepair:</i> Write to EDU about canteen maintenance and raise at Collaborative Working Group	Janelle	Early term 3 Late term 3
<i>Waste reduction</i> Ask Bonnie to talk at next meeting Share Waste Management presentation which was part of Council's Canteen training session in May – it is here . Share Aranda's surveys – parents and students Arrange media coverage for Aranda's activism with suppliers. Feed back to ACT no waste team on the need for ACT govt to provide place to compost packaging – eg kurb side bins.	Janelle Janaline Janelle Janelle	Before next meeting DONE Asap Before next meeting
<i>Policies and procedures</i> Follow up with ACT health Re: hard copies of Manual for canteens. Set up area on One Drive for all to share documents.	Janelle	asap