



ACT Council of
Parents & Citizens
Associations

The parent voice on public education

NOTES FROM THE ACT COUNCIL OF P&C ASSOCIATIONS

HOT TOPICS/GENERAL MEETING OF 23 October 18 at Bonner

Attendance 12: Including delegates from 10 schools plus T Sanders- Executive Officer and M Spurgun – Early Learning Officer.

Presentation: Patrick Chapman from the Education Directorate's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Education section spoke about the Cultural Integrity (CI) in ACT schools policy. CI describes the environment a school creates to demonstrate both respect and high regard for ATSI histories, cultures, knowledge systems and languages; welcome and engage with ATSI families and local community members; meet the learning needs and aspirations of all ATSI students. He noted that the policy seeks higher achievement for ATSI students and promotes higher expectations for them. There is a CI Tool kit available for schools, a Google page and School self assessment tool. CI workshops are also conducted for teachers (three P&C Council Executive members were invited to attend the recent workshop and found it most informative & useful). An annual celebration of ATSI culture organized by inner city schools in Corroboree Park Ainslie which is open to everyone, was a great success and could be copied in other regions if P&Cs/schools were prepared to organize. Patrick showed a short video on the Cultural Competency Continuum. In response to a question about how P&Cs can participate, he suggested P&C could:

1. Encourage schools to participate in the Cultural Integrity (CI) activities.
2. Buy and use CI resources.
3. Encourage schools to build bush tucker gardens and use the produce in classes.
4. Advertise CI activities through P&C communications.
5. Review and amend our documents/publications to be more CI compatible.
6. Ask their schools where they are with the CI program.

Patrick offered another two positions for P&C Council members on the next CI work shop.

In response to a question about how we can engage more with ATSI parents, Patrick suggested:

1. Encourage the school to use their public areas to display cultural artifacts, publications etc.
2. Use some indigenous language in our communications and encourage study of local languages.
3. Join in the Corroboree Park games day and start similar days in other areas – **Patrick will send TLS contact details for organisers at Dickson College).**
4. **He also agreed to send TLS contact details for Ngunnawal elders and others who could assist P&Cs.**

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for P&C Council

The Council Executive has agreed to develop an RAP following the attendance of three members at the recent CI workshop. A working group of Executive members has been working on this and will develop a draft for consideration by the Council. There are 4 stages to an RAP – Reflect, Innovate, Stretch and Elevate. In Reflect we try to understand what we don't know and why we need an RAP. An RAP contributes to good governance practices. There are 5 dimensions to Reconciliation and these will be explained as the plan is developed. We will submit the Plan to Reconciliation Australia for advice and endorsement. P&Cs and delegates will learn more about what the plan will look like and how it can be used as the process proceeds- see the attached Power Point Presentation.

Items for the EDU Senior Executive Team meeting on 11 December 18

1. EDU response to Grattan Institute report finding ACT students under performing based on socio economic status.
2. Early learning developments activities and grant
3. Violence in schools
4. CCTV determination of schools/P&Cs to install.
5. School Fences, school Buses, Active Streets program updates
6. Defence Liaison Officers in schools, their role and effectiveness.

7. Asbestos in schools
8. School banking

Gungahlin and Belconnen Schools

Council has had a further meeting with EDU's Robert Gotts on school capacity calculations and we are satisfied that he understands the issues facing parents. He advised:

1. That there has been a noticeable shift back to Tuggeranong schools recently.
2. EDU are checking on parent's reporting the priority enrolment area system.
3. EDU are to continue the refusing of enrolment of NSW students in other than designated schools.
4. Streaming of students and selective based programs in school to continue.
5. Gifted and Talented students needs are being met (Council would not agree).
6. P&Cs need to contact Robert if they still have traffic problems.
7. It is EDU's intention that there will be no disadvantage in attending any public school.
8. Community Liaison Officers are being provided for some schools.

Local schools comments:

1. Neville Bonner PS advised that they were to receive another 4 demountable classrooms to meet their expected continued enrolment growth.
2. Defence housing locations are having an impact on enrolments and some schools.
3. Defence Liaison Officers have been provided to some schools with high Defence family enrolments.

CCTV installation

Council has been advised that the trial of CCTV cameras in 2 or 3 schools was awaiting Ministerial approval. Caroline Chisholm School has been advised to wait for further information but they and other schools are frustrated at the delays and are prepared to go ahead with the installations without further delay. The P&Cs are prepared to pay for the cameras/installation and cannot understand the continuing delays while their schools continue to be damaged/burgled.

Asbestos Update

1. Harrison School has had all remediation work completed and EDU has advised Council that there are no further risks to schools following comprehensive testing.

Matters raised by P&Cs

1. Neville Bonner noted the continuing problems they have with dangerous and illegal parking by parents during drop off and pick up times.
2. P&Cs that had requested greater monitoring of parking/traffic by ACT Policing were advised to ensure their school parents/community are given plenty of advance notice of Police attendance at their schools.

Next Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Council 7pm on 27 November 18 at Stirling.