

ACT Council of P&C Associations Inc

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To: All P&C Delegates, P&C Presidents & Secretaries

Report on P&C Council General Meeting 22 Oct 19 (attended by 16)

This report is issued after Council meetings to assist delegates in reporting back to their P&C associations and to inform parents generally about the activities of P&C Council.

- **P&C Grant Writing workshop** – 7pm Tuesday 29 Oct 19 at Stirling
- **Play Fest (Early Learning expo)** – 9.30am to 1pm Tuesday 22 Oct 19 at Cook

1. Mobile phones in classrooms

The matter of mobile phones in classrooms had been raised with EDU and it had been agreed by the Director General that P&Cs should take a lead in discussing the issue in their school.

2. Constitution amendments for new membership categories of Council

The constitutional amendments to introduce new membership categories for Council were reviewed and agreed to be presented at the AGM for approval. These are aimed at ensuring parents in all ACT public schools will have a voice through the Council. They should also offer some flexibility for some struggling P&Cs.

3. Councils next Membership survey

The new Council membership survey will identify how successful P&Cs and Council are in delivering our services and achieving our goals. The online survey was to be released this week. The results should help both the Council and P&Cs in their ongoing services and activities.

4. Recruiting Volunteers & Social Enterprise model

We are planning to move ahead with a trial of the social enterprise model for P&Cs, which should change P&Cs from a volunteer managed to a volunteer lead organisation. The adoption of this model should reduce workloads on individual volunteers and grow their school community even further.

5. Council's ACT budget submission

Council's submission for the next ACT Budget covers such items as community liaison officers in schools, teacher librarians, new schools, violence in schools follow up action, etc. There are 20 recommendations.

6. Election Priorities and plans for 2020 ACT elections

We have reviewed all the previous election plans and materials and the lessons learnt. And consider they were successful and should form the basis of the next election planning. We are waiting for P&Cs to advise what they see as priorities for public education in the next 4 years. P&Cs were asked to send their priorities to the office as soon as possible.

7. Healthy Kids Association membership renewal for P&Cs with canteens

P&C's with a P&C managed canteen that want Council assistance to pay for HKA memberships next year must forward the renewal form to the Council office.

8. Building Safe & Supportive School Communities project follow-up.

A meeting was held with the EDU Director General on the outcomes of the Building Safe & Supportive School Communities project. Differences in language between EDU staff and parents was recognised as an issue and it was noted that an outcomes letter from the joint project team (CDT) was still being prepared. Also, EDU has appointed a new director to manage a complete review of the EDU complaints management process. We are encouraged by the planned scope and promise of the review which includes a proper case management system for complaints.

9. Problems using "Hotmail" email addresses when communicating with schools.

A problem advised to our Early Learning officer by a parent trying to enrol her child in preschool, on investigation found that the school emails had been sent but not received by the parent, who was using a Hotmail address.

Problems with Grapevine and it appears that there may be a problem with the schools' SAS system communicating with those email services. EDU are investigating.

10. School banking.

It was agreed that CBA managers had no right to interfere in P&C matters and that there was always the option to offer the school student banking to competitor banks. Formal contracts or agreements between the P&C or school and the bank may be out-dated or non-existent. It was agreed that the commercial aspects of the school banking should not override the educational benefits for the students.

11. NEXT MEETING – Next General Meeting will be after the Council AGM on 26 Nov and we are planning on having an interesting speaker.