

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 24 May 2016

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.

- **Repeat of the Effective P&C workshop Thurs 2 June 16 at HBCTL Stirling.**
- **Me and My School - engaging migrant & refugee families, 2-4pm Tuesday 9 June 16 at HBCTL Stirling**

PRESENTATION: Cyber Bullying & Safety by Kal Thompson & Jayne Crossing

ThinkUKnow is a program of the Australian Federal Police and DataCom, with volunteer presenters able to attend schools or P&C meetings to inform parents about cyber safety (book via online form at www.thinkuknow.org.au, or call 1300 362 936). Major points made were:

- Ask kids what they do online. Be prepared for unexpected search results (not their fault!)
- Beware 'free' games: you often pay by providing personal information which is sold on to third parties, or they have 'micro-transactions' (small fees for game boosts) which can quickly accumulate!
- Privacy: Always read the Terms and Conditions of the sites they use, especially if sharing content; turn off location/GPS in device settings (or for each App); secure websites begin https, don't make payments without this; be careful and cynical of links from emails; have your child's login details and monitor their account if they are underage for a site; choose a good password (using a password manager can help) – 8+ characters, capitals, symbols or even a whole phrase.
- Online Grooming is a commonwealth offence which is committed as soon as an adult makes online contact with child with the *intention* of sexual contact. Perpetrators often pretend to be someone they are not. Alert authorities quickly.
- Staying safe: Make sure kids know how to block and report in every social site, game and App they use; NEVER send photos or reveal personal information to people online who you don't know in the real world; sharing nude images of under 18s is an offence; identify trusted people to support your child if they are uncomfortable coming to you.
- Cyberbullying: affects 1 in 4 kids; bullies have access 24/7 so kids feel they can't escape; kids may not confide in parents for fear of device being removed; important to balance online/offline balance – have a device 'bedtime' before actual bed time.
- Emphasise the importance of 'positive bystanders' who don't re-share, who block and report or delete inappropriate content
- Nothing really disappears on the internet, even on sites which claim to delete images, so think of your future reputation before posting. 'Googling' yourself/child is a good exercise.
- Take Action! Report scams (to Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN), suspected grooming (thinkUknow, Federal police), child pornography (Office of Children's e-Safety Commissioner), and bullying (ACORN or safety commissioner). Work with school & police.
- Three essential steps to teach kids: 1. Take steps to secure your information (see above); 2. Think before you post! 3. Know who to talk to and how to report.

1. Election 2016 lobbying plan and education priorities

Our first meeting with a federal election candidate is with Senator Katy Gallagher on 31 May. It was agreed that we add the issue of funding equity for schools and the need for a new formula for

schools that includes assets testing for all school funding, with the aim of moving funding to schools with the greatest needs.

2. Meeting of P&C Council IT Committee with Edu re BYOD

Only 16 schools are using BYOD. Edu policy states there should be a 1:3 ratio of school supplied devices to students. Currently they had achieved about 1:2.4. Edu should be more proscriptive about the use of such devices in schools, where there are great differences in how the devices are supplied and used. EDu does not believe that there is a great risk of children acquiring RSI from using their devices as the students' use of the devices was not constant. EDu is providing teachers with more training in the use of BYOD and their integration into lessons, with professional development and training courses.

3. Items for the ETD meeting 16 Mar 16

The list of items for the meeting was considered and an additional item added on the funding inequities that exist between public and private schools, where the total funding for some private schools exceed the funds for public schools. We are proposing a new formula for funding private schools formulated on the needs based model for school funding and an assets test.

4. Issues from P&C Associations

5. Best Communication methods to engage parents & P&C branding

P&Cs may need to clearly identify themselves as the school parents' organization in correspondence, communications and activities. P&C branding ie logo or design style possibly using their school logo or colours could be used. Some P&Cs have their own branding on their letters, website, etc. incorporating their own design with their school colours and/or their school logo. It was agreed that P&Cs have a similar branding style or logo, to clearly differentiate the school P&C from the school administration. The P&C Council logo was well known and easily identified with the voice of parents. It was suggested that P&Cs should consider adopting the Council's logo but in their own school colours. Any P&Cs so doing must clear their design with the Council office (Janelle) before adopting the Council logo.

6. Using parent reps in the classroom

A number of delegates advised that they use parent representatives for each class in the school, with parent class networks for the passage of information from and to class teachers and students and the P&C. The system relies heavily on the parent network leaders who use an email list to communicate with their class parent reps. It was noted that email communications used the BCC (blind copy protection) of email addresses, that some P&Cs found the use of generic email addresses for their officers helped in communications and passing on of committee officers roles/information. Clear guidelines for the use of email lists and generic email addresses are essential. Mail Chimp and Google Groups are also useful.

7. NEXT MEETING - The next General meeting is a Hot Topics meeting to be at 7pm on 28 June 16 at CTL Stirling. The guest speaker for this evening will talk about school planning for new suburbs and urban renewal impacts.