

## **ACT Council of P&C Associations Inc**

Maitland House  
100 Maitland St, HACKETT ACT 2602  
Ph: (02) 6241 5759 Fax: (02) 6241 8839



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

### **Report on P&C Council General Meeting 25 October 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.*

#### **• P&C association Treasurers' audit workshop 7pm Thursday 10 Nov 16 at Hackett**

##### **1. Policy Document Approval**

The Council's revised and updated Policy Document was approved.

##### **2. Results of the ACT election and Council's lobbying**

The Council's major strategies during the election campaign included lobbying major candidates, Council's election forum, engaging the media and releasing Council's report card.

It was agreed that Council's lobbying efforts were successful. The election forum was a useful event for parents and several delegates commented on the coverage they saw in the media. It was suggested that Council engage with RiotACT for future elections.

There was a mixed response to the report card. It was recognized as a useful tool for leveraging the parties and the media, but individual P&Cs are less likely to use it or distribute it. In future a digital distribution would be preferred. However, the main benefits of the report card remain behind closed doors and in the media.

##### **3. Windup of Canberra Preschool Society**

Council's Executive Officer & representatives of the CPS met with the Directorate. 20 CPS members would continue to be provided support by the CPS albeit through CPS as a sub-committee of Council. They will need continued part time staff as well as EDu funding for a physical office.

##### **4. Issues from P&C Associations**

###### **a. Harrison Room Parents**

The implementation of room parents to facilitate communication links was discussed and Chapman PS referred to their class carers program, where at the start of the year people can opt in to the program and share their email details. Details can be either provided to the class carer coordinator or to the entire class. The program is a way for teachers or the P&C to get information out. Gold Creek has started a similar program this year. All these programs are strictly for school related activities, not purely social events. It is important to define roles and responsibilities at the start, otherwise the program isn't as effective. It's also a great way to engage parents with English as an additional language. Chapman's template will be sent to P&Cs

###### **b. School Packs**

Arawang PS P&C will be organizing their own school Back To School packs. This will raise thousands of dollars for the P&C and also help parents save money.

###### **c. Provision of grants to Individuals**

A P&C had a situation recently where a parent asked for funding for their child to attend an out

of school representative sporting event. The P&C declined which upset the parent. Delegates discussed the various approaches they take to this request. It was agreed that if you have financial stability and the P&C is happy to provide funding, then there should be a constitutional monetary cap on these grants and that it should be for a wide range of activities, not just sport. These decisions are for individual P&Cs to make and there is nothing wrong with deciding to decline such a request. P&Cs can also refer people to other grants available like the government InterACT scholarship which is decided on a monthly basis. JH referred people to the 'fundraising whisperer' in the last ParentAction.

#### **d. Constitutions**

The Council office is considering running a constitutions workshop. Delegates agreed this would be a good idea, May would be the best time to hold it.

#### **e. Google Suite**

Kingsford Smith School P&C advised they were storing various documents on a Hotmail account, then discovered the Google Suite could provide many benefits. P&Cs are eligible due to non-profit status. Other P&Cs use Dropbox and other cloud based software which has enormous benefits as to continuity and the centralisation of documents. At Duffy there is a P&C website with documents, forms and useful links. Delegates thought that it would be useful if a set of guidelines were created around the use of IT and cloud software. Focus should be on consistency/continuity and long term document retention.

#### **f. Tablets In Schools**

David Pollard noted the Labor commitment for a tablet for every secondary student. It was noted that this policy had still not been finalized and Council will ensure parents and students have some choice in what type of device will be implemented (keyboards are considered important for students at this level).

#### **g. School Crossing**

Lake Ginninderra College have issues with their school crossing and will be writing a letter to the Minister/Directorate.

- 5. NEXT MEETING** - The next General meeting follows the Council AGM on 22 November at 7pm at HBCTL Stirling.