

## 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 Nov 2015**

*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.*

- **Effective P&C workshop Thurs 31 Mar 16 at Stirling or 2pm Sat 2 Apr 15 at Hackett.**
- **P&C Treasurers' & Insurance workshop (combined) 7pm Thurs 7 Apr 16 at Stirling.**
- **School Canteen managers & committee members' workshop to be conducted in early 2016 dates to be advised.**
- **Parental Engagement consultation meeting conducted ARACY 4pm Thursday 26 Nov at HBCTL – all parents are invited to attend.** The late notice of this meeting was noted and will be raised with ARACY by TLS. The poor timing of these events for parents was also noted and we will again raise our concerns about this with ARACY and ETD

#### **1. Report of 6 Nov 15 meeting with ETD on student reporting**

- Some schools preferred their own reports and it was noted that each Principal has their own ideas on how students' reports should be done. However, this is an attempt by ETD for a more uniform approach so that comparison of reports from different schools can be more easily made. Principals can still introduce their own variations to the standard report.
- Problems with special needs students being subjected to assessment against their ILP and the A to E report.
- It was suggested that at least one baccalaureate school be included in the report trial – to be followed up with ETD.

#### **2. Report of 12 Nov 15 meeting with ETD Senior Executive**

- The new Director General, Natalie Howson, was very supportive of the Council.
- She offered to provide a speaker for us to talk on the urban renewal suburban planning process and ETD was to reinstate the Learning Difficulties officer following the Shaddock review.
- She agreed to try to find funds to employ a consultant to come up with suggestions on ways we can deal with the dearth of treasurers' issue and she invited Council to write to her about facilitating the proposed taxi driver training and resources.

#### **3. Items for the Minister meeting on 25 Nov 15**

The Chair referred to the list of items in the papers. He advised that Nicholas Hall from Giralang PS was attending the meeting to speak on the cross directorate consultation that we were proposing.

Additional items were suggested- discussion of the Shaddock review recommendations, how schools decided or are chosen to be specialist schools eg for languages, music etc, the impact of school autonomy on the hiring of specialist teachers (it was mentioned that in the future new teachers were to have a speciality when they graduate).

#### **4. Discussion of Public Education Priorities in 2016**

The Chair referred to the list of public education requirements that the Executive had prepared for use in our election lobbying next year. The meeting agreed with these but added encourage

schools to employ more specialist teachers by either targeted funding or other incentives.

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

### **5.1 School requests to assist with funding teacher professional development**

A P&C had been requested to consider funding teachers' professional development as the school funding for next year would be insufficient to provide for such expenses. It was noted that this matter had been raised in the past and it had been agreed that it was up to the individual P&C to decide if this was an appropriate and reasonable use of their funds, given that such use did not relieve ETD from the responsibility of providing adequate funding for teacher professional development. This matter should be raised with the Minister.

### **5.2 P&C Committees effectiveness**

The situation of a new P&C committee struggling with retiring committee members who are not necessarily being helpful in assisting the new committee to move forward. Suggestions from the Conflict Resolution briefing were discussed and other advice given after the meeting.

### **5.3 Turnover of teachers problem**

This is again causing concern in a school where 30% of teachers were leaving in the one year. ETD advice was that this was not unusual. However, the meeting believes that this matter must be raised again with ETD and a solution pursued.

### **5.4 Standard of information provided to parents in school incident notifications**

Where schools issue a notification to parents about an incident at the school, there is a disturbing lack of information about the actual incident. This inhibits parents from being able to comfort or counsel their children after such incidents. This will be raised with ETD and a request to explore how more detailed information can be provided to parents in such notifications.