

NOTES FROM THE ACT COUNCIL OF P&C ASSOCIATIONS

HOT TOPICS/GENERAL MEETING OF 27 April 2021

at HBCTL Stirling and via Zoom



ACT Council of
Parents & Citizens
Associations

The parent voice on public education

Attendance 29: including delegates from 21 schools.

Acknowledgement of country made and delegates welcomed and introduced.

1. **Briefing on the role, responsibilities & opportunities of delegates to P&C Council.**

Janelle and Veronica gave a short presentation on the structure of the P&C Council and the role of P&C nominated delegates to the Council, what their responsibilities are to their P&C and Council, and the opportunities that are available to them. Their Power Point presentation can be viewed on the [Council website](#).

2. **Discuss the recent changes to school board elections of parent representatives.**

Veronica gave an overview of the changes to school board elections following amendments to the ACT legislation. Previously, three (3) members were elected to the school board by the P&C of the school. Now schools with P&Cs will elect one (1) P&C member and two (2) parent representatives. Schools without P&Cs will elect two (2) parent representatives and one (1) community member (or three parent representatives). Delegates were asked to advise and discuss their position on the role of the parent representatives on their school board and the level of involvement of the P&C in the nominating /election of those representatives. There was a strong feeling expressed that P&Cs should be able to at least nominate their representatives. While a number of delegates expressed concern at the failure of current parent/P&C school board representatives to attend and report to P&C meetings, some noted the opposite performance by their representatives. It was advised that EDU would be reviewing this years' board elections to assess the procedures and recommend changes as necessary for 2022. The P&C Council will be involved in this review and make our own recommendations as necessary.

3. **Discuss is NAPLAN delivering what parents want?**

The P&C Council's current position on NAPLAN was referred to and it was noted that on past and recent surveys of P&Cs/parents there was majority support for national standardised testing of students. However, we also wanted to remove the stress many students experienced in preparing for and doing the testing. Also, it was noted that our research showed very few parents used the NAPLAN data on the My School website to decide on which school they wanted to enrol their children. Whereas, a number of delegates advised that they found the NAPLAN results much more useful in identifying their children's performance in the tested subjects, compared to the A to E teacher reports. It was advised that the review of NAPLAN had recommended a number of changes which, if implemented, may address parents' concerns.

4. **Discuss the review of P&C Council Communications.**

Janelle gave an overview of the Council's various communication means to P&Cs/parents and delegates participated in a wall chart exercise nominating their preferred methods of communications. The results of this will be advised in due course.

5. **Other issues from P&C Associations**

The issue of school capacity was raised, in particular to the inner-city schools, but also an issue elsewhere, which were already at or over capacity. It was advised that P&C Council has been discussing these concerns with both the EDU and Minister for some time and their response has been to provide more demountables at those schools. This was not seen as a long term solution and raised other issues of school facilities not being adequate for the number of students. Council will seek a briefing from EDU on capacity and their modelling. The recent announcement of the ACT Legislative Assembly Inquiry into school infrastructure is an opportunity to press the capacity issues. Following input from P&Cs, Council will make a submission to the Inquiry, and P&Cs may also make their own submission if they wish.

6. **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is a General Meeting on Tuesday 25 May via Zoom.