

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 28 May 19 (attended by 25)

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.

Notices: **Violence in Schools Workshops for parents** – numerous between 12 to 18 June details TBA.
P&C Constitution workshop – 7pm Tuesday 30 July 19 at Stirling.
P&C Audit workshop – 7pm Thursday 12 Sep 19 at Stirling.

1. Presentation by Julie Dixon and Kate McMahon from EDU on the New Student Reports and Gifted & Talented Students - An article on the new report format in the latest edition of the ParentACTion newsletter. The new student reports will be nationally consistent and use the A to E scaling. A “C” grade means the student is working at the required standard and should be highly valued. An “S” grade means circumstances prevented the assessment of the individual’s achievement. There is space at the top of the report for the school to include comments about the school’s goals, standards and performance, as well as a place at the bottom for teacher’s individual comments on the student. For Pre-schoolers there is an “Effort in Learning” rating. Personal and Social Capabilities are also assessed. A “P” reference is used when a student is unable to access the Australian Curriculum in a learning area for their year level or if they require extension beyond what can be offered by their enrolled year level. An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) may be required in such cases. Also, there will be an EAL/D report which will reference the Australian Curriculum EAL/D Learning Progression. There may also be reference to the Introductory English Centre (ICE) for those lacking. *Kate’s Power Point presentation is available from TLS for any parent or P&C that wishes to view it.*

2. School traffic - The Macgregor PS and Charnwood PS concerns about the need for pedestrian crossings had been advised to Transport Canberra.

3. Items for EDU Senior Executive Team (SET) Meeting on 4 June (now 2 July) 19

We are still unhappy with the Directorate’s delays in deciding on CCTV in schools and do not understand why non-government schools have CCTV, while the government schools have not. The issue is facing schools in all ACT regions. We are sending a letter to EDU and the Minister advising parents frustration at the delay and our intention to make this a political issue for the next ACT elections if necessary. A similar letter is being sent to Transport Canberra about the future of the School Transport Liaison Committee.

4. Violence in Schools initiatives and workshops

Workshop 3 of the series under the Changing Challenging Behaviours (Violence) project, would probably be held between 12 – 17 June at various times. Invitations being sent out within the week. The results of the first two workshops would be presented and discussed. Parents will have a further say on this subject, it is not just about presenting the previous results. Parents were encouraged to attend the third workshop.

5. Recruiting Volunteers & new P&C associations business model

A draft paper on a possible future business model for P&Cs has been developed and is being refined. It would be presented to members either at a General Meeting or a separate seminar on the topic. It aims to see P&Cs lead their activities rather than manage them, reducing the administrative load on volunteers, while maintaining and improving services. Communication is still a big factor in having a successful P&C and the School Administrative System (SAS) is being investigated to see if it can help communication.

6. New Bus Routes, Active Streets & Individual School Traffic Plans

a. The Active Streets program is still current and schools had to sign up for it to receive any benefits as shown in the response paper from EDU. It was noted that parents accompanying their children to school via the Active Streets program, often had insufficient time to get to work on time.

b. Concerns about the new school bus routes and timetables were being gathered by Janelle in the Council office for feedback to Transport Canberra (TC). The greater the number we receive the more

bargaining power we will have with TC. Members noted the security risk of children being left at bus stops due to full buses passing them by, students having to catch earlier or later buses where space was more available to them and the issue of students arriving very early or staying very late in an unsupervised school yard.

c. The ability of non-government schools' principals to lobby TC for the reinstatement of dedicated school buses against the inability of government schools to do the same, was seen as a lack of equity between the sectors. The denial of non-government dedicated buses to government school students on the same route was considered discriminatory and illogical. We will ask for any statistics from schools on late arrivals of students due to bus issues.

d. A letter is being sent to Transport Canberra (TC) expressing our dissatisfaction with the School Transport Liaison Committee (STLC) to adequately address or even consider our concerns.

7. Employsure proposal for free advice to P&Cs on legal, OHS & HR matters

Miles Franklin already use Employsure and found their service very useful in helping with employment etc matters of their after hours program, canteen etc. Fees may apply after the initial free advice, if you wanted their further help. QLD P&C Federation had recommended them to us, as they also offer free seminars on a range of useful topics. It was agreed that we proceed with Employsure but monitor their performance for P&Cs.

8. Teaching Students Financial responsibility in schools

We had been approached by Ken Swan of the Wealth Academy about his program for teaching financial responsibility in schools. He is seeking our support through P&Cs to engage with high school and college principals. Concern was raised that this could be duplicating or in conflict with the national curriculum. It was agreed that we proceed to assist Ken Swan and also discuss his program with EDU.

9. Other issues from P&C Associations

a. Before & After School Care (BASC)/Out of Hours School Care (OSHC) programs.

Telopea School requested advice from other P&Cs that were providing these services and noted the concerns their P&C had about their continued operations. Miles Franklin, Ainslie and MacGregor all run successful programs. Kaleen HS has external service providers. It was noted that these programs were historically established by P&Cs to provide low cost after/before care for the school students. It was agreed to call a meeting of the Council's Before/Afters School Care Working group to discuss following the Council's meetings with EDU in June on the revised OHSC service deeds.

b. School Bag Weights

Concern was again raised about the weight of students' school bags and the effect this can have on the physical and medical safety of students. Council had investigated this issue in past years and would revisit the correspondence with EDU and advise accordingly.

c. Equity in High School subject selection by students

It was advised that this was done on line and was up to each student/parent to do at the allotted time. It was really a matter of getting in early to ensure students get the subjects they want. However, each school should have a process for allowing selections by students unable to access on line selection. Parents concerned about this should discuss the matter with their school. If still not satisfied they should refer the matter to the Council for investigation with EDU.

10. NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is a Hot Topics General meeting on Tuesday 25 June 19 at Stirling.