

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 26 November 2013

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.

- 1. ACSSO/APC seminar at 1pm on 8 December in Canberra by David Price OBE on Opening Learning in a Socially Connected World** – see the Communicator email newsletter for registration details.
- 2. Disability Working Group with Ros Donohoe from ETD**, regarding disability issues and the role of the Disability Education Officer in the schools. All members were invited to the meeting at 7pm on Wed 4 Dec 13 at Sports House in Hackett.
- 3. NSW Non Recognition of ACT College Student cards** – Following our letter to ETD, they advised that they are following up recognition of ACT college student cards with the NSW transport authorities and confirming that they also recognized other ACT student cards.
- 4. Health Requirements for BBQs etc Run by Volunteers** -The Chair advised that the recent publicity over this issue indicates that volunteer community groups may be exempted from the regulations. However, it is Council's belief that P&Cs should make use of the ACT Health Directorate's free on line training for food supervisors and also use the food preparation guidelines book issued by ACT Health.
- 5. School Canteen Improvement Project** – Rob Milliken gave a short presentation of the online ordering system and it was advised that P&Cs can order the system by signing the written agreement with Flexischools by the end of April 2014.
- 6. Continuing Concerns Re Volunteers Back Ground Checks** - the ETD guidelines for schools were not being uniformly used by school Principals. It seems that some Principals are applying them regardless of any risk assessment for individual volunteers who actually may not need to have a background check. We will write to ETD on this matter.

Issues From P&Cs - Concerns were raised about the change of mind that the Federal Minister was having about the Gonski funding model and financial commitments to the states beyond 2014. We note that the original Gonski funding model provides greater fairness in allocation of funds and delivers more to those with the greatest need. No changes should be made which will remove those benefits. The Executive will issue further media statements on this matter.

- 7. REPORTS - President's Report.** She noted the good meeting with the Minister on 20 Nov and the Minister's interest in the reporting of critical incidents in all schools, including nongovernment. There should be a total for all schools which would not be broken down to schools or sectors. Gonski funding is being applied to the outcomes of the Learning Difficulties Taskforce recommendations. Development was being undertaken for a uniform interpretation of NAPLAN results for all sectors. This would be released before the results are published, thus taking some of the imbalance out of league tables.
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS** – There are concerns about some nongovernment schools in NSW attempting to change the sexual inclinations of students (eg homosexual students). It was suggested Council take action to ensure such re-education of students does not happen in the ACT. Also suggested we include preventing radical evangelistic religious movements active in Victoria and Queensland from teaching religion in our schools. It was agreed that we take these issues to the Minister.
- 9. Next meeting.** 7pm Tuesday 25 February 14 at CTL, Stirling.