

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 27 Oct 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.

- **P&C Council AGM 7pm Tuesday 24 November 15 at HBCTL Stirling.**
Guest speaker on handling conflicts within P&Cs and schools – by Susan Rockliff from the Conflict Resolution Service

1. Presentation by Liana Dobson on ETD's promotion of Canberra Public Schools

Liana and she gave a short brief on how ETD was currently promoting our public schools and their plans for future promotional activities. She noted the excellent media coverage of the ACT Public Education Awards, their success in having 20 to 30 media reports per month and their trial of advertising such as the big banner in the Civic Centre. In the future, they were developing an online photo album of schools and were planning to celebrate the 40th anniversary of colleges in the ACT. They are also offering assistance and advice to schools that are using or plan to use Facebook and websites as tools for communication with parents, students and the community.

2. School Uniforms

2.1 The John Haydon and Matt Williams attended a meeting at ETD on 26 Oct about the draft Dress Standards and School Uniform Guidelines and policy. He noted that this appeared to be an initiative of the Minister but one which seems to have been supported by students particularly in high schools, where they had expressed support for dress standards & uniforms. School boards would be required to implement the policy. Colleges were not included in the policy. The advice from schools to ETD was that there was strong support from students and parents for some form of school uniform.

2.2 School uniform & clothing shops run by P&Cs were likely to become more important as this policy is implemented. It was also noted that security in schools would be enhanced with uniforms as intruders and trespassers would be easily identified.

2.3 The meeting generally supported the draft dress standards and uniforms guidelines and policy.

3. Commercial Sponsorship of P&CS

This topic was raised by Telopea School in response to questions raised at their P&C. TLS Schools have advised that ETD policy is that no school may entered into an exclusive arrangement with any company and that this would apply to P&Cs activities on school property. This does not prevent P&Cs (or schools) from accepting appropriate sponsorship for any activity or event, provided that there is no exclusivity in the arrangement ie sponsor's competitors must be free to also sponsor such activity/events.

4. Issues from P&C Associations

4.1 Lack of volunteers

This is an item we are to raise with the Minister and we will be proposing to explore strategies with ETD and the Minister to address this issue. Recognition of volunteers, face to face approaches to parents, event availability time sheets and volunteer forms were all suggested and had worked in many schools.

5. Reports

5.1 President

- a. On the Lyneham oval issue, he advised that a letter had been sent to Minister Rattenbury advising the Lyneham PS P&Cs opposition to the BCC proposal.

- b. Other matters discussed included the draft ETD Safe and Supportive Schools policy and the requirement for special needs students with travel support to provide their NDIS number to ETD. Also, the recommendations about school validations and parent involvement in the process. The amount of work that schools need to put into these validations was recognised and the proposed move to 5 year validation visits was accepted as there were also built in “trip” measures that would result in early validations if problems were being experienced in schools before the programmed visit.

5.2 Other matters

Information was provided for schools and P&Cs on the Schools Plus charity organization that had been established to assist disadvantaged schools.