

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 October 2014

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.

- School Canteen Working Group meeting 7pm Thurs 30 Oct 14 at HBCTL
- Education Exchange EALD forum with Companion House 5.30pm Wed 12 Nov 14
- ACSSO National Education Conference 7-8 Nov 14 at Rydges Hotel Melbourne
- ARACY parental engagement consultation with parents 7pm Thurs 6 Nov 14 at HBCTL

1. RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO APPLY FOR SECURITY CLEARANCES

- Hold a group meeting for parents and fill out the volunteer's clearance application together eg an evening event those that work during the week, followed by a Saturday event for other parents.
- Have a parents' booth at the school fete and assist parents to complete the form while at the fete.
- Have forms available at other school events for parents to complete on the spot.
- Council to invite the ORS to attend a P&C Council evening to brief parents and answer questions directly.

2. ITEMS FOR ETD MEETING DUE 17 OCT FOR 17 NOV

The list of items is attached and also raise the concern that in many schools maintenance was consuming most of the school budget.

3. ARACY CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS ON PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Request from ARACY researchers to meet with as many parents as possible. A room has been booked at the HBCTL for 7pm on Thursday 6 Nov for parents to meet with the ARACY staff.

4. ISSUES FROM P&C ASSOCIATIONS

- **Canteen management audits:** Majura PS had benefited greatly from the Healthy Kids canteen review and management audit conducted by Jo Gardiner. Their assessment and recommendations were helping to get the canteen back to break even operation. Being an independent review it avoided any claims of personal bias by P&C members and facilitated difficult staff management changes.
- **HKA canteen management workshop:** The recent Healthy Kids canteen management workshop was acknowledged as a great success. P&Cs were encouraged to attend the next such workshop in 2015.
- **Advertising preferred suppliers:** Torrens PS had problems when they wanted to advertise a preferred supplier in the school newsletter. Following enquires on their behalf by the Council office, ETD had advised that they could only do so if they follow the ETD procurement guidelines eg obtain at least three quotes/tenders. The full formal tender assessment process was not necessary, as long as the P&C could demonstrate that 3 quotes had been received and fairly considered.
- **Successful use of Flexischools in uniform shop:** Duffy PS had success in using Flexischools for their uniform shop sales and orders.
- **School traffic survey final report:** The school traffic survey final report was completed and was being sent to all ACT government ministers, with a covering letter seeking their urgent action to address the serious issues identified in the survey. A media release and article in ParentACTion would follow shortly.
- **Fund raising event:** A fund raising event suggested, involving party plan agents and local businesses to attend a school P&C fair/market and promote their products/services, with local trades' people and professionals. Need to check stall holders indemnity insurance certificates where applicable.

- **Retention of P&C Records:** Council has written to the ACT Attorney General seeking advice on the need to retain records involving children under adult supervision or instruction, awaiting answer. The ACT Heritage Library might accept P&C records/minutes etc, given they may have historical value.

5. Reports

- Acting President Amanda Bichard (AB) gave media interview on our position on the national curriculum review. A media release on our chaplaincy funding position early next week, following our sending of letters to Ministers Pyne and Burch. Our opposition to the chaplaincy funding was reaffirmed.

- She also attended the ARACY stakeholders meeting & ACT Curriculum Taskforce meetings. The ACT curriculum was not likely to be effected by the national review for at least a year.

- English is now a compulsory subject for the Yr 12 certificate.

- AB reported on the Need To Succeed (NTS) seminar held in Sydney. It was attended by people from all sectors who wanted to see the Gonski recommendations implemented fully and a more equitable funding model used. She noted that NSW had signed on to the 6 year Gonski funding model. The seminar recognized that public schools accepted the majority of challenged students. There is likely to be another NTS seminar held next year in Melbourne.

GSEC. The Minister is proceeding with plans to amalgamate the Government Schools Education Council and the NonGSEC. Council is to ensure our voting power on the amalgamated body is not reduced by the increase in the number of independent school parent bodies.

CLOSE AND NEXT MEETING

The next General meeting is to be held after the AGM 7pm on 25 Nov 14 at CTL.