



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Minutes

Early Learning Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, June 2, 2022, 5.45pm,
online via zoom

Contact: Early Learning Officer [email](#) P&C Council [website EL](#),

Announcements: Council's live [online training](#) for P&Cs. Training for P&C Association Committee members.

Committee background

Council's Early Learning Committee (ELC) was established in 2018 to continue the work of Canberra Preschool Society (1943-2018). Representing the parent voice, promoting the importance of preschool education, supporting parent engagement in public education.

1) Open/Apologies

acknowledgement of country

2) **Approval of previous minutes** - meeting Feb 14, 2022. Approved [via email](#)

3) ELC Budget

P&L 2022 annex

4) **Feedback from Parents: Covid-19 challenges term 1-2 preschool and kindergarten children**

Children benefit from good relationships and opportunities to develop relationships in school. Parents often model this process with teachers and other parents. Covid has limited this.

McGregor kindergarten moved to remote learning (Macgregor's third time). The School provides learning materials but kindy children don't learn by themselves. Some parents might be struggling as they haven't had a lot of exposure to what the classroom environment is like due to Covid restrictions.

Council has new [resource links](#) that are helpful for parents/carers with preschool and kinder children in remote learning.

Split classes due to teacher shortages are also disruptive with routines changing and anxiety for younger learners. Reports of increased screen time in schools and different teachers coming in. Increased inconsistency isn't good for younger learners.

Parents may also be more reluctant to engage with teachers. Putting it off because they've heard so much about how overloaded teachers are.

5) **Preschool/Kinder Parent Reps - P&C early learning focus**

a) **P&Cs with a preschool-kindy parent representative** can access support for responding to early years families. The role, whether vacant or otherwise, is both an acknowledgement and an invitation to parents of preschool and kindy children. P&Cs have reported that small gestures have big impacts when welcoming new families. [Council is assisting P&Cs](#) to plan and apply for funding to welcome families starting preschool and kindy in 2023.

b) Collaborating with teachers and staff

Parent representatives also provide a valued link for preschool and kinder teachers. Council is working with the Directorate to outline guidelines that can help when collaborating with school administrators and teachers, and early learning parents/carers.

6) Surveys

a) Council's Starting preschool or kindergarten in 2022 (open to 31 July 2022)

A positive transition to school helps establish good foundations for children's learning. [Council's survey](#) seeks feedback on family experiences of starting public school education in 2022 (preschool or kindergarten). Finishes 31 July. Results will be shared with participants and used to inform Council's advocacy and transition to school forum. Please share with your preschool and kinder families.

b) The National Children's Commissioner surveyed over 7,000 Australian children and young people, parents, carers and grandparents about how living through the past two years of COVID-19 has affected their mental health and wellbeing. Report due mid year, [subscribe](#) to receive results.

7) Transition to School Parent Forum. Is scheduled for September 15, 2022, registrations open in August for this online event.

Next meeting: August 18, 2022

Meeting closed 6.45pm

**ACTION LIST
EARLY LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

2 June 2022

Minute	Action	Who	
	Distribution Minutes Summary Points to members and stakeholders EL reps, presidents and EDU	MS	Jun 88
	Transition to school - Registration and invitations	MS	Jul 29
	Preschool and kinder welcome funding	MS	Jul 16
	Covid-19 advocacy strategy for EL members	MS	Jul 29
	Survey on starting school updates and results	MS	Jul 20
	National Children's Commissioner Survey results	MS	Jul 29

