

P&C Information Sheet No. 1

Parents & Schools

A partnership in education

Parents are partners in schooling by virtue of their role as the central provider/carer and the role they play in their children's learning and development.

Parents have the right to be involved in all aspects of education of their children, at home, at school and at the system level.

There are many ways in which parents can be involved. These include:

- supporting learning at home;
- helping in the classroom and with a variety of school programs such as craft, sport, excursions;
- helping in the school canteen or school library;
- assisting with fundraising;
- attending interviews with teachers about their children's progress;
- participating in discussions with other parents about school programs and policies;
- becoming an executive member of the P&C association;
- becoming a member of the school board;
- representing the parents of your school at P&C Council meetings;
- representing the wider parent community on ACT education committees and advisory groups.

Parent participation is a democratic right. It contributes significantly to better outcomes for all students. It enables the school system and individual schools to respond more effectively to community values, aspirations and needs. It enhances the strength and vibrancy of the public education system and, most importantly, it builds a stronger school community.

Each school should develop its own policy on parent participation to clarify the nature of the partnership between the parents and the teachers and the school. The Department of Education and Training has developed a system-wide policy called *Parents/Carers as Partners in Schooling*. This policy can be found on the Department's website www.decs.act.gov.au (under "Policies"). ★