

Information Sheet No.32

Delegates to P&C Council

P&C Council represents parents of government school children on educational issues by:

- lobbying local education authorities and political representatives on issues of relevance to both the wider ACT educational community and issues of particular schools and
- having representatives on many advisory and policy making bodies.

P&C Council needs to be both regularly and fully informed about parent opinion in the ACT to be both effective and credible. It is therefore important that personal contact with Council be maintained throughout the year and that the exchange of ideas between parents at the school level and their representative body does not break down.

Your school community should also be kept informed of what is happening in the wider educational arena and that you have some feel for your school's response to those events. When feedback is asked for, or there is a current campaign, delegates have a role in engendering interest and possible action in their schools. The school delegate is a vital link to the broad base of the pyramid of parents' opinions on the education of their children.

P&C Council delegates attend the monthly meeting of the ACT Council of P&C Associations and are responsible for representing the views of their P&C associations at Council meetings and reporting back to the school on meetings as well as for relaying information between the P&C association and the Council.

Council meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month during school term. A standing agenda item "Issues from Schools" enables delegates to raise matters on behalf of their own school communities, for discussion and possible action. Meeting also include discussion of major issues and items of interest to all schools, followed by reports. People are quite entitled to leave before the meeting finishes. It may be helpful to share the load by appointing an alternate delegate. P&Cs can send more than one person to a Council meeting. Most delegates, once they have been to a few meetings and understand more about the school system, find the discussions about educational issues very interesting and informative. Often a speaker will address the meeting on a key issue.

Agenda papers which include the minutes of the previous Council meeting and information papers about current issues are posted/emailed to delegates approximately a week before the monthly meeting. Primary schools are entitled to one delegate while high schools and colleges are entitled to two. P&C associations should appoint alternate delegates so that if delegates cannot attend a meeting for some reason, the P&C is represented by another parent. ★