

Information Sheet No.2

What is the P&C's role?

The role of the P&C association in ACT government schools is to promote parent participation in the work of schools and to provide strong positive community support for the school by encouraging parents to be involved in various ways.

The P&C can encourage parents to do this by:

- * seeking effective home/school communication, determining parent needs about reporting on student progress, encouraging language translation where necessary and appointing class representatives contacts;
- * encouraging parents to participate in decision-making and school policy development by providing forums for parent discussion of problems and issues, ensuring that interested parents stand for election to the school board and being involved in school development reviews.
- * supporting parent involvement in learning at home with information to help parents assist learning at home, a well-publicised homework policy and by organizing workshops for parents;
- * encouraging volunteers in the classroom and for excursions, sports day, etc;
- * operating school support services such as the canteen, before/after school care programs, uniform shop;
- * fundraising;
- * establishing a parent presence in the school;

The role of principal

The Principal is an ex officio member of the P&C, that is, he/she is a member because of holding the position of principal. At a P&C meeting the Principal is a member like any other member present. The Principal is included in the quorum and has the right to move motions, second motions, speak for or against motions, and to vote (unless the P&C constitution specifies that the Principal is a non-voting member). Like any other member the Principal is obliged to take direction from the Chair and should speak through the Chair during discussions. The Principal is **not** entitled to be on the Executive of the P&C Association nor any of its Subcommittees.

An alternative practice is for the P&C constitution to specify the Principal as a non-voting member to emphasize the advisory role that he/she plays in relation to the P&C. Whichever practice is specified in the constitution a P&C uses, it is appropriate for the Principal to facilitate and encourage active participation and decision-making by the parents of the committee. ★