

Information Sheet No.36

Council activities

The activities of P&C Council encompass the following:

Informing the parent community on matters affecting the education of their children and on issues across the education system.

- *FEEDBACK*, the Council newsletter, is a major source of this information and contains articles on current educational issues, on developments of educational policy, on the work of P&C Council as well as background information for parents and useful information for P&C associations. *FEEDBACK* is published six to eight times a year and forwarded to all ACT government schools for distribution to the principal (and staff), P&C committee members and School Board members. Many of its articles are reprinted in school newsletters. It is on Council's website too.
- *Information Sheets (you are reading one!)* are directed at P&C associations. They cover a range of topics providing a very considerable amount of information for the operation of P&Cs as well as useful knowledge about the school system. These are on the website under *Parents & P&C Associations*.
- Submissions, background papers and publications together with workshops/forums are other regular sources of information.

Council's website at www.schoolparents@canberra.net.au increasingly includes electronic versions of publications such as *FEEDBACK*, and Council reports and other publications.

Providing support services for P&C associations including information on the operation of the P&C, management of financial affairs, an insurance package, employment requirements and the promotion of parent participation. Useful material is available from the Council office.

Consulting with its P&C affiliates at its monthly Council meetings to develop views and to decide on strategies for dealing with a wide range of issues. A special item on matters of interest to P&C associations is on the agenda of each Council meeting.

Lobbying the Government and the Department of Education by means of submissions and personal delegations and representing the views of parents on a variety of education-related committees.

Researching information which forms the basis of submissions, policy development and information for parents about the changing practices in schooling.

Council Office

This is located in the north wing of Majura Primary School and is open forty-four weeks of the school year. The main tasks are to act as a secretariat and support the Executive members of Council, to liaise with P&Cs, to produce *FEEDBACK* and other publications and to organize workshops. ★