

Information Sheet No.43

The Department of Education and Training

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- operates primary schools (including preschools), high schools and secondary colleges in the ACT;
- provides policy advice to the Minister for Education;
- administers the funding and registration of non-government schools;
- co-ordinates the vocational education and training services;

The Department's website is located at <http://www.det.act.gov.au>

The Centre for Teaching and Learning provides professional services for staff teaching in ACT schools, both government and non-government. It is located in Stirling in the Weston campus of the Canberra College. P&C Council uses this venue for its P&C workshops as it is centrally located with ample parking.

The Australian Education Union is the body that represents the views of teachers in ACT government schools. Regular teacher forums are attended by delegates who are appointed from the staff of each school.

The Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO) is the national parent organisation representing the interests of over two million children enrolled in government schools throughout Australia. It is the peak body for parents in government schools. It comprises eleven government school parent organisations in all States and Territories, of which P&C Council is one.

ACSSO was formed in 1947 to develop national parent organisation policies in education and to represent these policies and the interests of its affiliates at the national level. At the Annual Conference, an Executive representing the affiliate member organisations is elected to co-ordinate the activities of ACSSO during the year. The National Office moved from Hughes Primary School to the former Melrose Primary School in Chifley in December 2007.

The Government Schools Education Council was established in 2003. It has an advisory role to the Minister for Education. Council has two representatives on GSEC. There is also a Non Government Schools Education Council. ★