

1. What are the types of resources that P&C Associations are purchasing for their schools? (Are there such things as staples, photocopiers, pencil sharpeners, home readers, and basic sport equipment? Computer technicians for help with computers?)

- Colour photocopiers
- Scissors
- Window glazing
- Whiteboards
- Air-conditioning
- Teaching salaries – IT special needs school brochures
- Swimming sporting caps
- Electronic whiteboards
- Teachers aide salaries for Kindergarten for Term 1
- Thank you gifts
- School bands/ string ensemble instruments
- Key learning areas resources e.g. books
- School sound equipment
- Large shelter sheds
- Garage into workshop
- Part payment for lease of school bus
- Electric wiring for air-conditioning
- Seating
- Books for library
- Automotive shed
- Storage containers
- Computers
- Clay extractors for sculpting
- Carport
- Uniforms for school captain representative role eg blazers
- Book packs for High school students
- Tissues
- Paper
- Pens
- Colour pencils
- Computer equipment
- Bus costs to transport students for swimming lessons
- Lettering for school signs
- Craft material
- Carpet
- Blinds
- Curtains
- Playground equipment
- Covered outdoor learning area (COLA)

- Textbooks in various curriculum areas
- Painting around school
- Garden and ground maintenance
- Money to be put into global budget
- Prizes and trophies
- Refrigerators for classes to keep lunches cool in summer
- Travel expenses to allow country school representatives (Captains/ SRC/ sporting) to attend events
- Performance hall
- Science labs
- Photography lab
- Teaching aids
- Sports equipment
- Gross motor equipment (usually in Primary schools or Special education settings)
- Notice boards
- School lockers
- Fencing
- Printers
- Home readers
- Excursions
- Curtains for hall
- Toilet paper/ holders/ soap

2. What are the worst case scenarios P&C members have had to deal with in regards to providing resources for schools?

- A Principal leading the P&C and OOSH (out of school hours activities) committee into debt
- Raising money that was not used for its advertised purpose ie money to purchase playground equipment being used on a telephone system instead
- Having to provide teaching resources and providing an environment conducive to learning eg heating and cooling in the classroom
- P&C members being approached by teaching staff and being challenged as to why the P&C did not give them as much money for their pet project as they had asked for in their request (some requests are exorbitant)
- Having to provide basic items like pens, pencils, paper to classrooms
- Having to purchase library books to cover course material when new courses are introduced or others changed
- Principals dictating to the P&C how much money they want donated to the school
- Definite expectation that P&C's are only there to raise money and don't have a role in other areas of school policies

- Parents not included in such things as Finance committees, uniform committees. Decisions are made by the teaching staff and then the P&C are told
- Principal dictating where funds raised are to be spent with no consultation to the P&C
- P&C having to purchase textbooks for students so they can access the curriculum
- Having to replace a photocopier as the school did not have one otherwise
- Having to pay for transport for students so that they could access shared curriculum (it is not uncommon for a P&C to pay \$2000 for this per term)
- Purchase tools for TAS students to replace the teacher tools (their personal ones) which they have been using until new tools were available
- Photography room was condemned under OH&S. The new room when it was built had no equipment in it so the P&C were approached to refurbish it
- Principal spending money for new photocopier on other things including staff badges so asked the P&C to buy the photocopier
- P&C being asked to spend money they did not have on electronic whiteboards
- Insurance costs
- Pressure being put on P&C's to pay for an electronic whiteboard in every classroom even though they don't have the money – pressure to increase their fund raising

3. Do schools in wealthier areas have to raise more money? Do they have better programs funded by the parents? Do they have more literacy teachers?

- Yes there is an expectation that they have to raise more money for their schools
- No they do not have to raise more money but there is the ability to and this means the school ultimately has more resources available to it.
- DET school formula funding takes no account of P&C contribution leading to inequity between schools
- Wealthier schools do raise more money due to the clientele and the number of parents willing and able to do so
- Where are the wealthier areas?
- By nature of an areas wealth they tend to raise more money with less effort. More money means greater resource levels and/ or programs. Not sure about more literacy teachers.
- It is debatable as fundraising is largely unknown or assumed. School innovate to their personal circumstances. And as there are no figures published in relation to the number of literacy teachers, this is just a guess or an assumption on the part of people

- Yes. Our schools P&C pays for 2 days per week STLA (Maths and English) as well as for a choir teacher. They have paid \$1000 per classroom for class material. We are a well financed school.
 - The extra teacher would still be under the staffing criteria unless the P&C paid all costs.
 - It is harder to raise money in some areas due to 'wealthier' families attending private schools
4. Do your Regional affiliates want the DET to set up a special contingency fund for next years H1N1 flu outbreak? Why?
- Yes. This should not be part of global funding as it could swallow a huge lump of school money. The amount of money required can not be predicted
 - Global budgets should not pay for casual teachers in these situations
 - Yes. Parents don't always realize the contagious nature of school environments
 - Money is needed as well as sufficient relief staff
 - This is a Public Health issue
 - Is there going to be an outbreak next year?
 - Yes so there is not a burden on the finances of the school
 - Some schools in our area pay for the staff to be vaccinated to try to reduce the time lost and the costs to the school from flu outbreaks
 - No. We had an outbreak this year and while many students and staff were off, there were no significant issues
 - Yes but there are more concerns with whooping cough
5. DET is suggesting schools get enough global funding to cover such things as flu epidemics. Is that correct in your view? Comment on your response
- No. There is always a short fall in casual staff funding
 - We have used a lot of funds on casuals. This year we went close to being 'in the red'. Some days no casual is employed and children are farmed out to other classes 'to be minded'. This is a funding issue, not a problem with the availability of casual staff
 - The global budget should not have to pay for casual teachers in these situations
 - This is a State wide government responsibility
 - Global funding is never enough
 - Quality education is the key element. Students need to be at school and so do their teachers for this to happen
 - No
 - No. Vaccine should be available free to staff and students

- In some schools they had between 170 and 300 students away on any one day with up to 10 staff away. I don't think they are getting enough funding when it is a known epidemic
- Nothing has been raised at a local level about this being a problem. The main issue is the need for lots of tissues and schools requesting parents to provide these

6. Is the NSW government avoiding its own responsibilities by shifting the costs of resourcing of schools to P&C associations?

- Yes. P&C are more often replacing and repairing essential classroom requirements
- Yes. P&C fundraising should be for 'extras' rather than for basic maintenance such as fixing toilets in a timely fashion
- Yes. We do not get enough STLA help for the children who need it. Reasonable results do not mean that no-one needs help.
- In schools with mostly older staff, the cost of casuals to replace staff for Long Service leave and medical appointments are an increasing portion of the school budget so P&C's have to support the classes in other ways
- Yes. There is a pressure to increase voluntary contributions in schools – so much for free education
- Yes. They are relying on parents to fill in the deficit gap but fails to formally acknowledge P&C contributions to school budgets.
- Yes!!
- Yes. In low SES areas, school communities struggle to feed their children let alone fill the short fall in funding issues for their schools
- Yes! BIG TIME!
- There is too much reliance in the generosity of a few.
- All schools should be adequately and equitably funded
- No. P&C's in the main make a contribution which is not material to the operation of the school
- Yes! Yes! Yes!