

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales





The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) 2015 Annual Report is based on the financial year reporting period from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2015.

P&C Federation operated under Administrator Garry Payne, appointed by the Minister for Education, for the period 1 June 2014 to 23 January 2015. Elections were held by the Electoral Commission and the Board of Councillors were elected on the 20 November 2014.

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Message from the Minister for Education

The Honourable Adrian Piccoli MP

A message from the Minister for Education

The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP

I am delighted to be continuing as Minister for Education following the State election in March 2015.

Over the past four years we have undertaken significant reform across NSW public schools — more local decision-making power for schools, more resources for schools delivered through a needs-based funding model, reforms and investment targeted at enhancing classroom practice and closing student performance gaps.

I want to see the impact of these reforms felt in every classroom, in every school, every day. Parents, many of whom participate in their school Parents and Citizens Associations, have a crucial part to play in making this happen.

I am very pleased to continue to work with the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales which began a new chapter with a new Board of Management in January. I would like to offer my congratulations to the recently elected Board and Executive and in particular to President, Jason Vials.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Garry Payne who, as administrator, ably guided the organisation through its transition to a new governance structure. We now have councillors and delegates in place to represent 16 electoral areas across the State.

Along with the Secretary of the Department of Education, I have met with the new Executive to offer my full support as it re-establishes the Parents and Citizens Federation as the representative voice of New South Wales parents.

I look forward to consulting with the newly elected Federation Executive as the key parent body representing students in NSW government schools.

The Federation plans to hold forums in all electoral areas across the State throughout 2015. These forums are designed to re-engage the Federation with school based Parents and Citizens associations and to identify the topics that are important for parents across the State.

I encourage school Parents and Citizens associations to attend and support your local forum and contribute. The forums will further strengthen the organisation while providing valuable input and guidance to the Executive and Board, which in turn can provide this to the NSW Government. And rest assured, the Government greatly values this guidance and will continue to listen to and learn from the Federation during the development and implementation of our education reforms.

Parents are the backbone of any school community. Students achieve their best when they have an engaged and active parent body. As we increase the opportunities for schools to make decisions in consultation with their communities, parent engagement only becomes more important.

With increased local decision-making in schools there is now a far greater ability for schools to tailor themselves to their local communities and to the needs of their parents. The local Parents and Citizens association is a linchpin in this structure.

The Government is committed to supporting this and building stronger partnerships with parents and communities with more opportunities for parental engagement and better customer service for parents.



We're also providing \$120 million to enhance the physical condition of high schools, their amenity and how they present to their local community. Nearly 60 high schools across the State are receiving major upgrades which will make schools modern, pleasant environments to learn and grow.

Contemporary, clean and well-functioning schools encourage greater community participation and greater parental engagement.

We're also focusing on student wellbeing, because we know from research that wellbeing is linked to better results as well as better mental health. Appropriate behaviour and positive relationships, good health and self-esteem – these factors all contribute to students enjoying school more and achieving more while they are there.

Parents entrust their children to principals, teachers and school staff with confidence that they are leaving them in an environment that is conducive to learning and positive wellbeing.

We're providing schools with resources so they can work with their communities to support students at each stage of their development through quality teaching, learning and engagement. As part of this, a new behaviour code for students will also support principals and teachers in providing students with clear expectations of behaviour.

We also know that we have vulnerable students in our schools. That is why we're providing the first increase in the number of school counsellors in nearly 20 years. Public schools will benefit from 236 extra counsellors, as well as flexible funding to allow schools to hire 200 additional student support officers or other professionals.

It's our shared responsibility as parents, politicians, teachers and community members to equip our children and young people for the opportunities and challenges they face as they develop and grow. This includes strengthening their physical, social, emotional and spiritual development.

I would like to thank the hard working school Parents & Citizens associations throughout New South Wales that work closely with us to deliver this, and who achieve so much for our schools and our students.

Adrian Piccoli MP

Minister for Education

Message from the Secretary of the Department of Education

Dr Michele Bruniges

Dr Michele Bruniges AM

Secretary of the Department of Education

The Department of Education and the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales have long had a common goal, sharing a passion for excellence for every student in every school.

This partnership is vital to success at school, because students reap the rewards when parents are actively involved in their education and this is reflected in academic and social outcomes.

The research evidence tells us that when schools and parents work closely together students' results improve and they stay at school longer.

With more local decision-making in our public schools, through our Local Schools, Local Decisions policy, the involvement of parents is increasingly important. We want our schools to plan their future strategy and direction in close consultation with their school communities.

There are thousands of parents, carers and community members who volunteer with P&C associations in our schools, whether it is fundraising, helping out with reading groups, in the canteen, or providing expertise and advice to the principal. The department greatly appreciates your dedication and commitment.

There are many ways parents can support their children's education at home by placing a high value on learning as the pathway to opportunity and success.

Parents and teachers need to have high expectations of what students can achieve. High expectations are linked to higher performance and all students need to be appropriately challenged to learn. We want our students to reach their potential and then to aim higher.

The Department has undergone a significant reform journey since 2011 and we continue to implement policies to improve teaching and learning in our schools. Students are always at the centre of decisions we make.

The Federation, too, has undergone reform in 2014 and we look forward to working closely with the revitalised organisation to improve learning opportunities and educational outcomes for all students.

I visit many schools and I value the opportunity to listen to and talk with parents across NSW. I know parents share our vision for our schools to be safe and supportive centres of learning excellence.

I want to extend my thanks for the time and energy the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales devotes to our schools, our students and our staff. Together we are creating new magic moments to celebrate in public education in New South Wales.

Michele Bruniges

Dr Michele Bruniges AM
Secretary
Department of Education



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The new management of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) took office on 23 January 2015.

The new Board of P&C Federation, together with Delegates to P&C Federation's Annual General Meeting, were determined by an election run by the NSW Electoral Commission. The voting period for this election ended on 20 November 2014 and the results were declared later that day.

The new board, comprising 16 councillors voted for the appointment of a 7 person executive, with the roles of President, Vice President and Secretary being filled from within that group.

May I state at the outset my thanks to all of our councillors. We have all been surprised by the level of work that has been required, but have all stepped up to the extent we can to try and make a difference for the students of public education in NSW.

This followed a period in which P&C Federation had been in the hands of a government appointed Administrator, commencing 23 May 2014 and originally scheduled to end 19 December 2014, but extended to 23 January 2015

This report covers both, part of the administration period as well as the initial period managed by the new Board.

A new constitution was gazetted on 16 January 2015 prior to our appointment. We have identified a number of issues with this document and will be seeking some changes.

During the administration period, a new General Manager was appointed on a two and a half year contract. Steve Carpenter has proven to be an invaluable resource to the new board, and we take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts

P&C Federation has been acting in the interests of public education for 90 years. While the troubles of recent times have been well documented, it is important to note that we are starting from a position developed over many years by many committed people. The policies we follow represent the wisdom of many years and our aim as a group should be to build on the good things that P&C Federation has achieved, and move forward from the division of the recent past.

A lot of things have been achieved since January. Key amongst these has been the reestablishment of relationships with the key stakeholders of education in NSW. P&C Federation has been welcomed back by all of these groups. The Department of Education has been very keen to build strong working relationships, and I would like to thank Secretary Michele Bruniges, Deputy Secretary Greg Prior, and our liaison Debbie Hockings (Director, Public Schools NSW, Operations) in particular for their support. We have now met with many of the senior staff of the department, and re-established P&C Federation presence on many of the key advisory and management committees.

Strong relationships are being developed with the Teachers Federation, Primary Principals Association and the Secondary Principals Council.



Our Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, has been very supportive. He is as keen as we all are to see the parent's voice reintroduced at the heart of education.

There is much to be done at P&C Federation. The last few years have left a legacy that will take time to overcome. Your board is very aware of many of the issues, but is more than willing to work on other issues as they arise.

On assuming office, a number of significant issues were identified.

Service standards

It is very clear that the service expectations of our members have not been met for some time. Unfortunately this is not a quick fix. Our new General Manager Steve Carpenter has a big job to turn things around, and we are seeing steps in the right direction, but the board acknowledges there is much more to do. Some suggestions we have received have focused on helping P&C Associations meet their obligations at a school level. We are developing a check list that will help P&C Associations do what they need to do, depending on the complication of their business.

We are also looking at significant investment in our website. This will make it easier to navigate, more useful as a source of information, and help us to deliver information more efficiently to our members

Reconnection with our members

A number of forums have now been held, with more to come. Unfortunately attendance numbers have been fairly low, reflecting the low base that P&C Federation needs to build on.

We have also been able to assist a number of schools directly, be it on site or by phone. P&C Federation is here to assist members, and I encourage members to contact our office at first instant.

As the state peak body for P&C Associations, P&C Federation is able and willing to run state-wide campaigns on behalf of public education and our P&C membership, our current Gonski campaigning being an example of re-establishing P&C Federation's role in this area. P&C Federation is also now re-establishing itself as a contributor to government policy formulation and parliamentary enquiries.

Since we have taken office, some P&C Associations have approached P&C Federation for assistance with campaigns of a local nature. While we do not have the resources to run campaigns for individual P&C Associations, we have been able to provide advice and, on behalf of P&C Associations, ask questions and raise issues with our contacts within the Department of Education and the Minister's office. Typically, this is done by the involvement of one or more of the Board, drawing on their own, often extensive, experience and contacts.

Finances

The financial security of P&C Federation has been substantially reduced over recent years as a result of one off costs. We are also carrying substantial fixed costs as a result of long term lease agreements on things like photocopiers and franking machine. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our vice president Alan Gardiner, who has been working closely with Steve Carpenter to determine where we are and what we need to do.

We have recently received unsolicited offers for the purchase of the Granville building. This is nothing new, as we are aware that offers have been made both before and during the administration period. We are proceeding diligently with assessing the offers we have received, as the Board is obliged to do as custodians of P&C Federation's assets, and as we presume our predecessors did with earlier offers. At one end of the spectrum, it is possible that nothing will come of anything and we will stay where we are, and at the other end of the spectrum we may sell and move to smaller, more suitable premises and have substantial assets available for investment and production of new income, with potentially a very significant and positive impact on P&C Federation's finances.

A DoE grant was provided to P&C Federation in consultation with the Administrator shortly before the Board took office, although with various conditions that were quite unattractive. Fortunately, the Department was sympathetic to the issues we raised and we have been able to negotiate the acquittal of the grant. This means that our immediate cash flow is assured, and we are currently in negotiation for a new grant for the work of the Federation.

Structure and Constitution

Many will be aware that a new constitution was issued during the period of administration. Your board has identified a number of problems with the document, and is working to address those issues by way of recommendations to the Minister. Rather than do this piecemeal, we are recording issues as we find them, with a view to fixing it once. We expect to seek Legal advice on this prior to recommending any change, but we hope to have this addressed prior to the appointment of the next board. Currently, we are hoping to publish a discussion of potential changes later this year and seek feedback before making final decisions as to what changes to carry forward.

As a board, we recognise the need for more support. There is so much to do, and limited number of Councillors. The role of delegates needs to be discussed. Some delegates have expressed enthusiasm to be more heavily involved. For others, attendance at the AGM is the extent of the commitment they signed up for.

We are assisting in the reestablishment of Department links to district councils, and other education based groups. Once again, the opportunity may exist to make better use of these groups, which are committed to public education, with some commonality of interest, be it geographical, or based on school type or need. All of those interested in public education should have the right to be involved, and it is not part of P&C Federation's brief to stifle those voices. We have consistently said to both the Department and the Minister's office that it is not P&C Federation's role, past, present or future, to tell them who they should or should not be talking to or meeting with, and this has been accepted.

P&C Federation is still important and relevant. The Board was very pleased to assist schools in our Eastern suburbs fight against a proposal to substantially increase access fees that were to be charged for access to Centennial Park. A guarantee was received from Centennial Parklands that future increase in field hire fee payable by Sydney Coastal Primary School Sports Association will be equal to or less than the annual state CPI.

We have been actively involved in assisting a number of schools with internal and external issues.

P&C Federation records

One of our tasks after taking office was to obtain an assessment of the state of P&C Federation's records. This was also prompted by some comments from P&C Federation's auditor. Investigations are continuing, but the short summary of our current findings are that records of meeting outcomes, such as signed, final minutes, over the past few years are not what we would have expected, and there appears to be significant gaps in email records.

Membership numbers

Until recently, P&C Federation membership had been reasonably stable at around 1,900 P&C Associations, with comparatively little variation year-to-year. There is a total of about 2,200 public schools in NSW, so a very high proportion both have a P&C and that P&C has been a P&C Federation member.

P&C Federation membership remained at around 1,900 through the 2013-2014 year. In other words, membership renewal in mid-2013 was essentially unchanged from prior years. However, with the increasing conflict, litigation and ministerial intervention that followed, the membership numbers for the following year, 2014-2015, dropped by roughly 80 P&C Associations. Of that drop, about 50 were high schools. As there are only about 400 public high schools in NSW, 80-90% of which have P&C Associations with P&C Federation membership, the loss of 50 represented about 1 in 7 of high school P&C Associations, a substantial reaction to what had occurred and despite the membership renewals occurring after the Minister appointed Administrator had taken over. Remembering that the majority of P&C Associations are incorporated under the Parents and Citizens Incorporation Act and are therefore compelled by law to be P&C Federation members, this drop was quite significant.

Membership renewals for the current year are well under way, and we are hoping that many of the P&C Associations that did not renew their membership last year recognise the efforts of the new Board and structure and choose this year to re-join P&C Federation. We are welcoming and striving to improve P&C Federation and want to convincingly speak on behalf of all of the state's public education students and parents and their P&C Associations. The return of our membership numbers to their previous levels will be a measure of our success.

As I stated at the beginning of this talk, there is much to be done to get P&C Federation to where I hope we all want it to be. I again thank all councillors for their efforts. I believe we have made a great start on P&C Federation 2.0.

Jason Vials

President

FINANCE REPORT

P&C Federation Cash Position

Upon taking office in late January 2015, the new Board immediately sought to understand P&C Federation's financial position and outlook.

While P&C Federation's cash balance at January 2015 was approximately \$660,000, some \$350,000 of this was a prepayment to P&C Federation of a Department of Education grant that tied the funds to defined activities, and not available for general P&C Federation use. The remaining, unencumbered \$210,000 was insufficient to guarantee P&C Federation's ability to fund day-to-day operations through until the influx of membership renewals in June and July 2015.

The Board's response to P&C Federation's cash position was to immediately put a clamp on discretionary expenditure, not replace a member of staff who resigned in March 2015, and successfully renegotiate the terms of the Department of Education grant to allow for those grant funds to be more generally available to fund P&C Federation's operations.

The \$290,000 cash on hand as at May 2015 (compared to \$425,000 as at May 2014) is lower than previous years, but it is sufficient given that it immediately precedes the influx of membership renewals for the 2015-2016 membership year and is not encumbered by any onerous spending restrictions.

Department of Education Grant

In prior years, other than 2013-2014, P&C Federation has received grant funding from the Department of Education, typically accounting for 20-25% of P&C Federation's total annual revenue.

The reinstatement of Department of Education grant funding in 2014-2015 was on a different and more conditional basis than previously, and, while the arrangement was subsequently amended as described above, the original agreement was in place as at May 2015 and this is reflected in the grant revenue for the year to May 2015 being recognised as \$83,867, this being the funds expended to May 2015 on the activities specified in the original grant agreement. The remainder of the reinstated grant (approximately \$275,000) will be reported as income in the 2015-2016 year. The total grant funding of \$358,800 is identical to the funding provided in each of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 financial years. A further grant of the same figure is expected in the 2015-2016 year.

Restatement of 2014 Financial Statements

During the course of the reviewing P&C Federation's financial position and accounting records, it became apparent that a number of adjustments would be required to the (audited) 2014 Financial Statements. These adjustments are explained in Note 4 to the 2015 Financial Statements. The net result of these adjustments is that the loss of \$258,000 previously reported for the 2013-2014 year has now been restated to a loss of \$380,000, substantially worse than previously reported and the largest annual loss in recent P&C Federation history, if not ever.

Results for 2014-2015 Year and Cumulative Results for 2010-2015

A net surplus of \$115,000 has been achieved for the 2014-2015 year. However, the revaluation of P&C Federation's Granville property contributed a gain of \$371,000 (as reported in Note 11 to the 2015 Financial Statements) and without this revaluation gain a loss of nearly \$257,000 would have been reported for the 2014-2015 year, which would have been the second largest loss (after that for the prior year) in recent P&C Federation history.

Over the financial years 2010 to 2015, P&C Federation's cumulative loss excluding property revaluation gains has totalled in excess of \$780,000, with the 2014 and 2015 years together contributing \$637,000 of this total. This total has been partly offset by property revaluation gains totalling \$609,000, though these revaluation gains are of a non-cash nature and are therefore not readily available to fund P&C Federation's operations. Over the last six years, P&C Federation has reported a net surplus in just three, and two of those profitable years (including 2015) were profitable only due to property revaluation gains exceeding the losses which would otherwise have been recorded. This history of losses cannot continue, and the current Board is working to put P&C Federation's finances on a more stable and sustainable footing. To illustrate the cumulative decline in P&C Federation's financial position and emphasise the need for action, the valuation of P&C Federation's Granville property as at May 2015 (\$2,000,000) exceeds P&C Federation's net assets of \$1,828,000. In other words, were it not for the (illiquid) Granville property, P&C Federation would be reporting a position of negative equity.

Capital Expenditure

The only significant capital expenditure during the 2014-2015 year was the acquisition of a new telephone system in November 2014 for approximately \$18,000. This purchase replaced equipment that was leased from P&C Federation's telecommunications provider and the consequent reduction in lease costs is expected to rapidly offset the purchase cost of the new equipment.

Current Assets vs Current Liabilities

As at May 2015, P&C Federation's current liabilities of \$534,000 exceeded its current assets of \$349,000. Normally, this would represent a significant threat to an organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. However, there are two alleviating factors, in that included within P&C Federation's current liabilities as at May 2015 are:

- \$275,000 of 'deferred government grants' (nil as at May 2014), which represented government grants received but not yet expended as at May 2015, and for which P&C Federation now has a clearer claim following the amendment to the Department of Education grant agreement (as described earlier in this report) and for which P&C Federation will continue grant-related activities over the remainder of calendar 2015 with little likelihood of needing to repay the grant.
- \$152,000 of 'deferred revenue' (up from \$89,000 as at May 2014), which represents membership fees collected in respect of P&C Federation membership year which straddles but ends after the May 2015 date of the 2015 Financial Statements and for which there is no likelihood of needing to pay to an external party. (The increase of this figure from the prior year is due to the changing definition of P&C Federation's 'membership year' in P&C Federation's constitution, as explained in Notes 5 and 15 to the 2015 Financial Statements, and is expected to revert back to a figure closer to the 2013-2014 deferred revenue amount in the 2015-2016 Financial Statements, as the effect of the constitutional changes washes out.)

Excluding these two items reduces the current liabilities to approximately \$107,000, comfortably less than current assets of \$349,000.

Impact of Administration Period

Over the period from May 2014 to January 2015 P&C Federation was directed by an Administrator appointed by the Minister for Education, with the elected officers previously in place being dismissed. The cost of the Administrator himself was not borne by P&C Federation. However, there were some material, one-off expenses paid during the period of Administration, including, in round figures:

- \$128,000 to the law firm representing Lyall Wilkinson, one of the parties to the litigation immediately preceding the Administrator's appointment, following representations by that law firm and the Administrator's obtaining of legal advice with respect to those representations. This is reflected in the legal fees (included in Administration expenses in the Financial Statements) increasing in the 2013-2014 year from \$58,000 (as originally reported) to \$186,000, as the costs were in respect of activities occurring in the 2013-2014 year.
- \$70,000 of additional employment costs covering the employment and termination of previous permanent and interim general managers and a short period of overlap with the current P&C Federation general manager as he transitioned from the previous general manager. This is reflected in the aggregate compensation for key management personnel increasing from \$152,000 in 2013-2014 to \$227,000 in 2014-2015, as disclosed in Note 19 to the 2015 Financial Statements.
- \$80,000 for the employment of a part-time administrative assistant for the Administrator. This and the prior point are reflected in the employee benefits expense increasing from \$478,000 in 2013-2014 to \$628,000 in 2014-2015.

All else being equal, the avoidance of these one-off costs in the current (2015-2016) and subsequent financial years will significantly improve the reported financial results of the current and future years. Ignoring the property revaluation gain and the one-off costs listed above, the underlying loss for the 2014-2015 year was, indicatively, of the order of \$100,000.

Outlook for 2015-2016 Year

Financial results for the 2015-2016 year are also expected to be better than those for 2014-2015 due to:

- The bringing to revenue of the remaining \$275,000 Department of Education grant as associated activities are completed through the remainder of calendar 2015, as previously described;
- The negotiation, receipt and bringing to revenue of much of a subsequent Department of Education grant expected to total \$358,800; and
- The reversion to a 'normal' deferral of membership fee income (ie, the deferral of two months, out of twelve, to the following financial year, rather than two months out of eight in the 2014-2015 year, as mentioned above and described in Notes 5 and 15 to the 2015 Financial Statements).

Legacy decisions which will have some impact on P&C Federation's expenses for the next few years include:

- Renewal in November 2013 of the lease agreement for a postage franking machine, for six years, at a cost of approximately \$5,500 per year. Given the decline in the sending of physical mail, both before and after the renewal of this lease, it is hard to see, in retrospect, why the decision was taken to renew this lease. These lease costs and associated maintenance and consumables now account for the bulk of P&C Federation's postage-related expenses.
- Renewal in July 2014 of the lease agreement for multiple photocopiers, for five years, at a cost of almost \$32,000 per year. Given the decline in the amount of photocopying and in-house production of material physically mailed to members, it is hard to see, in retrospect, why the decision was taken to renew this lease.

The possible early termination of these leases has been investigated, but no satisfactory agreement could be reached.

P&C Federation Membership Fees for 2015-2016

The Board has proposed that P&C Federation membership fees for the 2015-2016 year be set at the same amounts as for the 2014-2015 period, which were themselves unchanged from 2013-2014. Prior to that, the

membership fees had risen by about 2½% in 2013-2014 and between 5% and 6% in each of 2012-2013 and 2011-2012.

The decision to set the membership fees at the proposed level is subject to endorsement of the AGM, as specified in section 5(c) of P&C Federation constitution. This endorsement should occur prior to the membership fees being collected, but the constitutional revisions gazetted in January 2015, prior to the current Board taking office, stated that P&C Federation membership fees are due by 1 August each year (changing from 30 November in the previous version of the constitution, as gazetted in June 2014) while stipulating that P&C Federation AGM must be held in August. These defined timings mean that the membership fees cannot be approved by an AGM prior to the renewal notices being dispatched in late May or early June for payment by the end of July (ignoring the ludicrous proposition that an AGM in August would set the membership fee due just prior to 1 August of the following year – this would require P&C Federation to be budgeting two years ahead). This and other anomalies created by the constitutional revisions of June 2014 and January 2015 are being addressed by the Board.

Other Matters

The new Board, as a result of reviewing P&C Federation's finances and associated reporting, has also taken a number of other actions, including:

- Updating P&C Federation's internal accounting systems, processes and reporting, as of the start of the 2015-2016 year, to bring them more into line with normal accounting concepts;
- Reviewing and addressing various matters raised in recent years by P&C Federation's auditors;
- Terminating the 'Fighting Fund for Government Schools' and merging the \$3,500 set aside in this fund with P&C Federation's general reserves; and
- Worked with P&C Federation's insurance brokers to update and improve the member insurance offering for the 2015-2016 year.

Alan Gardiner

Vice President

BOARD AND EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Jason Vials

VICE PRESIDENT

Alan Gardiner

SECRETARY

Susan Boyd

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Christine Cameron

Tim Spencer

Kathleen Styant

Terry Timms

DELEGATES AS PER ELECTORATE

CENTRAL COAST

Craig Kettle

Nicole Mottlee

Gregory Colby (resigned February 2015)

FAR WEST

Donna Ambler

Bob Dyson

HUNTER

Nicholas Adam

Vacant

MACARTHUR

Ray Mosley

Paul Sabatier

MID NORTH COAST

Tracy Hunt

Jason Ryan

NEW ENGLAND

John Rosberg

Rachael Sowden

NORTH COAST

Sharon Bright

Lisa Naumovski

NORTH SYDNEY

Mishell Currie

Mark Van Kerkwijk

BOARD MEMBERS

Natasha Coster

Roslyn Deal

Petra Hines (resigned 30/01/2015)

Angela Martin

Joel Matthews

Samantha Rudd

Carla Stacey

Natalie Walker (appointed 20/04/2015)

Yve Weinmann

Jason Yeo (appointed 02/02/2015)

NORTH WEST SYDNEY

Veryan McAllister

Lisa Wilmhurst

RIVERINA

Jane Paterson

Vacant

SOUTH COAST

Rob Ingram

Mihyun Lim

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY

Natalie Frolov

Vacant

SOUTHERN CENTRAL TABLELANDS

Kym Bush

Bryce Wilson

SOUTHERN SYDNEY

Vacant

Vacant

SYDNEY

Stephen Jackson

Kelly Kershaw

WEST SYDNEY

Tania Bailey

Kirsten Boerst

BOARD ATTENDANCE

| Name | Position | Board Meeting* | | | | | Executive Meetings | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|
| | | No. Meetings | Attended | Apologies | Leave | Absent | No. Meetings | Attended | Apologies | Leave | Absent |
| Alan Gardiner | Vice President | 3 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Angela Martin | Councillor | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Carla Stacey | Councillor | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Christine Cameron | Executive Councillor | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Jason Vials | President | 3 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Jason Yeo** | Councillor | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Joel Matthews | Councillor | 3 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Kathleen Styant | Executive Councillor | 3 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Natalie Walker** | Councillor | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Natasha Coster | Councillor | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Petra Hines** | Councillor | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Roslyn Deal | Councillor | 3 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Samantha Rudd | Councillor | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Susie Boyd | Secretary | 3 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Terry Timms | Executive Councillor | 3 | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | |
| Tim Spencer | Executive Councillor | 3 | 3 | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Yve Weinmann | Councillor | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | |

* Includes induction meeting

**Not eligible to attend all meetings

P&C FEDERATION REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

A 16 person Management Board took over the running of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) from the Minister appointed Administrator on the 23rd of January supported by the newly appointed General Manager Steve Carpenter.

Electing an Executive Committee and a 3 person Office Bearer team was their first action, followed by meetings with various Department of Education Leadership Team members and fellow Education Stakeholders.

Members of the Management Board have been elected to positions on various committees' and panels including but not limited to those named below, generally each of the committee's meet once a term.

Connected Communities Steering Committee

Connected Communities Steering Committee provides advice to the Secretary, from their respective representative bodies, on the implementation of the Connected Communities Strategy.

Secretary's Multicultural Education Advisory Group (MEAG)

The Multicultural Education Advisory Group (MEAG) provides advice to the Secretary on strategies relating to multiculturalism, teaching and learning and consults with key stakeholder groups on significant matters relating to education and training in a culturally diverse society.

MEAG examines communication and consultation strategies; curriculum issues; quality teacher training; qualification requirements and accountability mechanisms. MEAG aims to develop culturally inclusive learning environments, which contribute to intercultural understanding, community harmony, social cohesion and civic participation in a culturally and linguistically diverse context. MEAG is currently reviewing the Department of Education (DoE) Anti-Racism and Multicultural Education Policies; developing a NSW Languages Action Plan and investigating the in-school and post-school study options for asylum seeker students in immigration detention.

Schools Religious Education Consultative Committee

Under the Education Act 1990, public schools provide special religious education. This is provided by authorised representatives of approved religious groups to students who have nominated that religion. Times for these classes are negotiated with the school.

The role of the committee is to ensure transparent and open consultation with stakeholders.

Schools Ethics Education Consultative Committee

Under the Education Act 1990, public schools provide the option of special education in ethics to students who are not attending special religious education. This is provided by authorised representatives of approved providers.

The role of the committee is to ensure transparent and open consultation with stakeholders.

Special Religious Education/Special Education in Ethics (SRE/SEE) Program Review Reference Group

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has commissioned an independent review of the implementation of Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE) in NSW public schools.

The review is being conducted by an independent research company, ARTD Consultants. It will inform ongoing improvement of SRE and SEE for the Department and providers.

The role of the reference group is for ARTD Consultants to interact with stakeholders.

Network of Community Activities – Out of School Hours Care

The OOSH Reference Group, coordinated by Network of Community Activities, meets twice a term to discuss factors affecting the Out of School Hours Care industry sector. Members represent NSW regional and metropolitan Before and After School services and Vacation Care.

Assisted School Travel Program – Appeals Panel

This Committee assesses appeals for transport assistance where the initial application has been denied by the DoE.

Learning Difficulties Committee (LDC)

The LDC is a coalition of individuals and parent support groups which provides support and information about children with learning difficulties and related conditions. The first learning difficulties support group was established in 1983 to address the needs of children with learning difficulties/learning disabilities and/or attention difficulties, and their families and to create an information network with teachers and other professionals. The success of the first group led to other local parent support groups being formed throughout NSW. The rapid growth of local groups created the need for a state body to support parent groups and assist in the establishment of new groups. The Learning Difficulties Coalition of NSW Inc. was formed in 1988.

Today the LDC is a coalition of parent group organisations representing learning difficulties, AD/HD, dyslexia, Tourette Syndrome, Autism and Aspergers Syndrome, Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome, Dyspraxia and Anxiety Disorders. Our support groups include Autism & Aspergers Support Group, R.A.I.S.E Network and Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia Inc.

Ethnic Community Council (ECC)

As the peak body for all culturally and linguistically diverse communities in NSW, the ECC undertakes a range of activities, including government-funded projects, to fulfil their constitutional objectives.

Peer Support Program

Peer Support Australia provides school communities with evidence based, peer led approach to enhance the mental, social and emotional wellbeing of young people. The Peer Support Program is integrated into curricula and sustained through all year groups. It supports positive cultural change within schools by incorporating a range of strategies developed through collaboration with members of the whole school community for the specific needs of the school

Schools Animal and Care Ethics Committee (SACEC)

The Schools Animal and Care Ethics Committee (SACEC) supervises the use of animals in teaching or research within all public and independent schools. SACEC interprets the Animal Research Act 1985 (NSW); publishes a list of approved animal activities; considers animal activity applications; monitors schools' animal activity

compliance; liaises with teachers and other representatives; investigates animal ethics complaints and reports to school authorities.

SACEC is composed of at least two members from each category: A - Veterinarian, B - Teacher, C - Welfare and D: Independent Public. SACEC currently provides feedback to a proposed NSW DPI Department of Primary Industries (DPI) biosecurity checklist relating to the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) and National Vendor Declaration (NVD) programs. SACEC conducts regular school visit programs in rotating metropolitan and rural areas with the aim of discussion, evaluation, monitoring and provision of feedback to visited schools.

BOSTES NSW Vocational Education and Training Advisory Committee (VETAC)

VETAC advises BOSTES on matters relating to the vocational education and training (VET), including the development of VET courses as part of the HSC. This committee ensures that there is a consistent approach across VET curriculum frameworks.

Great Teaching Inspired Learning Steering Committee

The Great Teaching Inspired Learning (GTIL) Steering Committee reviews the implementation of the GTIL program within the Department of Education. This program includes a set of initiatives focused on improving teacher quality through improved entry standards, training, mentoring, supervision and professional development. The committee is chaired by the Secretary of the DoE and brings together public education stakeholders including representatives of teachers, primary and secondary school principals and public school parents.

LSD Implementation Advisory Group

Key role in ensuring stakeholders are well informed of the progress on the LSD reform agenda, including key projects such as RAM. Stakeholders will also have a process to provide input.