



Term 1 2017, Edition 1

February 2017

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Welcome to 2017!

P&C Federation would like to firstly welcome our members back after the Christmas break and look forward to providing support and advise to you throughout the year.



We start the year with a new Education Minister Mr. Rob Stokes, following a cabinet reshuffle after the resignation of Mr. Mike Baird as NSW Premier and Ms. Gladys Berejiklian being appointed NSW Premier.

Ms. Berejiklian stated "There is absolutely no doubt how strongly we feel about the Gonski reforms, and it's not just about the money — it's about making sure it goes to where it's needed most."

With a new Minister for Education in NSW and changes in the roles for the Secretary and Deputy Secretary for Education in 2016, it is vital they ensure a world class public education system for all students.

Current P&C Federation Electorate Vacancies

Electorate	Councillor Position	Delegate Position/s
Riverina	1 vacancy	1 vacancy
South Coast	1 vacancy	1 vacancy
Hunter		2 vacancies
New England		1 vacancy
Southern Sydney		2 vacancies
South West Sydney		1 vacancy
West Sydney		2 vacancies

Below is the timeline regarding the nomination and election process.

Date	
Wednesday, 1 February 2017	Enrolment Notice emailed to Associations
Tuesday, 14 February 2017	End of notice period
Wednesday, 15 February 2017	Nominations Open
Tuesday, 4 April 2017	Close Nomination
Wednesday, 26 April 2017	Ballot Papers Issued if required
Wednesday, 21 June 2017	Ballot Closes

Please make sure your P&C Association checks your emails regularly so you don't miss important information.

Back to school – Article in ABC Nth Coast

Costs rise as families supply tech devices and lose Schoolkids Bonus

The removal of the Federal Government's Schoolkids Bonus and the introduction of Bring Your Own Device policies, has many parents reporting an increase in school costs this year.

The annual Schoolkids Bonus of \$430 per primary school child and \$856 per secondary student was phased out in July 2016. Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales councillor Terry Timms said the payment removal coincided with an increase in equipment costs for many parents. "One of our big concerns is the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) issue where many schools are asking parents to bring technological support for kids to learn," he said. To read the full story [here](#)

ACNC – Upcoming Webinars

ACNC compliance - This webinar will provide an overview of the work of the ACNC Compliance directorate. This is a great chance to learn about the types of concerns the ACNC can look into and how the ACNC approaches compliance. **21 February 2017**



Helping Parents & Citizens Associations (P&Cs) - Is your P&C registered with the ACNC? This webinar will help P&C's understand their relationship with the ACNC as a registered charity. This is a great opportunity for newly elected committee members to learn about their P&C's obligations to the ACNC and what they need to do. **21 March 2017**

For further information, to register or find other webinars ACNC are running in 2017, click [here](#)

Scholarships ease cost for struggling kids

More students from disadvantaged families will have the chance to pursue higher education with the NSW Government's expansion of a successful scholarship scheme.

Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward said the FACS High School Scholarship Program now offers \$1,000 a year to students in Year 10, 11 and 12 as well as those studying a VET course, school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

"Previously this program was only available to students in Year 12 living in social housing to complete their HSC studies but we are expanding it across the board. Now students in social housing or on the waiting list, in Out of Home Care, receiving private rental assistance, or living in crisis accommodation, can apply".

Students are encouraged to apply online at www.facs.nsw.gov.au/education. Entries close 7pm, Fri 24 February 2017

Grant Opportunities

Don't forget to keep an eye out for grants that may be available for your P&C to apply for, local councils often have grant information on their website. This webpage is also worth a look: [Community Grants Hub](#)

Affiliate Email Account

Is your P&C Association a member of P&C Federation? If you said yes, does your P&C Association have an affiliate email account?

This is a free account available to P&C Federation members, it enables a consistent email account so you won't miss information sent to your P&C Association, you can save files and important documents and when office bearers change that information isn't lost. The new office bearers simply change the password or if they don't know the password just contact P&C Federation for it to be reset.

To ask further questions, reset your password or request an affiliate email to be setup, email Debbie at mail@pandc.org.au

Is Your P&C Association interested in hosting a P&C Federation Forum in 2017?

P&C Federation would like to invite P&C Associations to host a forum in 2017

Is there a specific topic your P&C would like to hear more about or would you like the roles, responsibilities and activities of a P&C clarified?

P&C Federation forums are friendly and interactive and there is always time to ask questions.

If your P&C would like to host a forum email Debbie at: projects@pandc.org.au

Make sure you include your schools name, your name and contact details.