

Parents Unite to Tackle Challenges of Education

In an unprecedented move, the three peak bodies representing all school parents in NSW have joined forces to discuss key issues facing education, including parent engagement, teacher wellbeing and student achievement levels. Combined, the three parent bodies represent parents in all Government, Independent and Catholic Schools in NSW.

The myriad of challenges and issues facing schools and parents will be discussed at a major forum hosted by the Federation of Parents and Citizens NSW (P&C Federation), the Council of Catholic School Parents (CCSP) and the NSW Parents Council in Sydney today.

State Education Minister Adrian Piccoli will open the Collaboration Forum which will also be attended by representatives of principal associations, universities, education department and commissions, independent education, BOSTES, and other national bodies.

CCSP Executive Director, Linda McNeil says media reports of helicopter parents; declining student achievement levels, the poor wellbeing of principals and teachers dominated the press at the beginning of the year and painted a less than hopeful picture of schooling in NSW classrooms.

"As the peak parent bodies in NSW, we felt these were very serious issues and that we needed to bring together all the stakeholders for a meaningful discussion", she said.

"By rethinking how we do things and building a positive framework for interactions between teachers and teachers, teachers and students, parents and teachers, principals and teachers, we can improve the environment for everyone. It also teaches students skills that can be used in their working life too," she said.

Keynotes speakers are Katherine Henderson from the University of Melbourne Network of Schools Project and Peter Anthony, an expert in collaborative programs and conversations in industry and education.

There will also be a panel comprising Lila Mularczyk, President, NSW Secondary Principals Association, Mark Mowbray, National President of Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association, parent of three, Neisha Licitra, teacher from Forbes, Tessa Ziser and student Aidan Turner.

Jason Vials, President of P&C Federation stated "Working together collaboratively is key to getting results.

"It is only through collaboration between the parent bodies that this forum is able to proceed in this form. Regardless of the type of school you attend, we need collaboration between parents, teachers and administrators to ensure our students are getting the best possible outcomes" he said.

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