

## Congratulations Rob Stokes, New Minister of Education

P&C Federation would like to congratulate The Hon Rob Stokes MP, on his appointment as the new Minister of Education in New South Wales.

His appointment comes amidst a host of pressing issues surrounding New South Wales public education, in particular the enormous \$775 million maintenance backlog in our public schools requires immediate action!

As the most recent Minister for planning we feel that experience should assist in addressing another area of concern, which is ensuring we have capacity to meet the demands of our growing communities, by opening of schools in areas where they are needed NOW and where they will be needed soon.

Moreover, there is level of uncertainty over what a new Minister of Education will mean for the general direction of public education in NSW, whether previously agreed plans will be implemented or if new strategies will be devised.

P&C Federation President Susie Boyd commented "What we need for now is clarity."

"Mr Stokes' appointment comes in a six month period that includes changes in the roles of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary for Education.

The fact that the three highest roles in New South Wales Education have changed in such a short period compounds the uncertainty, and we need the Minister to share his vision or goals with us sooner rather than later, after all, it is the education of approximately 750 000 students we are talking about, and their parents want to know their children's educational leader has a plan."

Ms Boyd added "His predecessor, Adrian Piccoli - MP, was committed to helping us increase parent engagement, and we expected to hold round table discussions in term 1. We would urge Minister Stokes to move ahead with these plans, as it will be a valuable forum to address these and many other concerns"

**Sydney, NSW, 30 January 2017**

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