



What is a P&C Association?

A P&C (Parents and Citizens) Association is an association constituted under the NSW Education Act 1990 "consisting of parents of children attending any government school together with other residents of the district served by the school who are interested in the welfare of the school".

The *Education Act 1990* sets out the objects and functions of a P&C Association in section 116 as follows:

The objects of an association are:

- To promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation, and
- To assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and in promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school, and
- To encourage parent and community participation in curriculum and other education issues in schools where there is no school council.

The functions of an association are the following:

- To report, when requested by the Minister, on the material requirements of the school and to advise on the subject of maintenance of the school, alterations and additions to school facilities, and the selection of new sites,
- To assist and co-operate with the teaching staff in public functions associated with the school,
- To be responsible for the election of parent representatives to any school council constituted at the school in consultation with the principal of the school to ensure consistency with any guidelines for elections issued by the Director-General,
- To assist in any other matters in which the Minister may seek the co-operation of the association and to exercise such other functions as may be prescribed by the regulations.

These objects and functions are included in the prescribed (incorporated) and standard (unincorporated) constitutions for associations.

The national *Family-School Partnerships Framework* argues that effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement which can be related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour, regardless of the social or cultural background of the family. Family engagement is therefore seen as part of the core business of schools.

The Department of Education and Training issued memorandum DN 09/00306 'Schools and their Parents and Citizens Associations' which outlines the role of parent organisations in school and stated a "key focus of the P&C is to provide a forum in which parents can articulate their needs and aspirations for their children and contribute to a developing partnership with the school".

Contact your school Principal to find out when the P&C is next meeting and how to contact the P&C Executive to see how you can participate.

Reference Links

Education Act 1990 – Part 11 : Education Act 1990

P&C Incorporation Act 1976 : P+C Incorporation Act 1976

P&C Prescribed Constitution – clause 2 : Prescribed Constitution

P&C Standard Constitution – clause 2 : Standard Constitution

DET Memorandum to Principals 30 Aug 2009 : DN 09/00306

DEEWR Family-School Partnerships Framework : Family-School Partnership document