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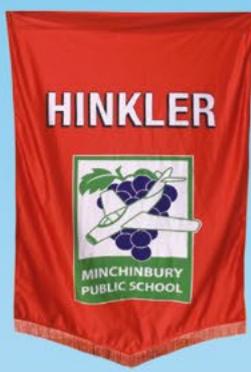
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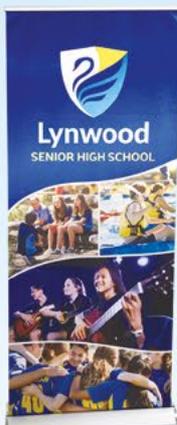


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Share your story with us

The Parent & Citizen Journal is published once a term and is a great way to showcase what your P&C Association and school community is up to. If your school, students or P&C Association is doing something special this year, share your story and photos with us and fellow school communities.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tim Spencer

As our school communities face a challenging term due to COVID-19, I'd like to use this column to highlight some positive news.

Throughout this year, the testimonies of many young women have significantly raised awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence against young people. In response, the heads of the three education sectors in NSW have signed a Statement of Intent which commits to strengthening consent education. P&C Federation is partnering with the Department of Education to raise awareness and engage parents on the topic. On 17 June, I co-hosted a webinar with the Department's Gillian White, Executive Director, Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy, and Renee West, PDHPE Advisor (7-12), discussing this initiative and providing information on how consent is currently taught in schools (see p12 for more details). This will be followed by a survey for parents and carers and a future webinar this term. I am confident that this partnership will have a positive impact for young people moving forward.

P&C Federation is also in discussion with the Department in relation to Working with Children Checks, which have been presenting some recent challenges for P&C Associations. Feedback is showing inconsistencies in the requirements schools have for Working with Children Checks clearances. This may unnecessarily discourage volunteer support or impact P&C operations. We are currently working with the Department to clarify the responsibilities and obligations of P&C Associations, and we trust that a solution that is advantageous to everyone can be found without compromising child safety.

We are very excited to announce the launch of the P&C Federation's Learning Hub. This is a self-paced online platform to help Office Bearers learn about roles and responsibilities, governance and business operations. P&C Federation will be expanding this service over time, based on the feedback from members. The Learning Hub can be accessed through the Member Portal on our website and we hope all Office Bearers, new or old, take the time to log in and learn (see p19).

Term 3 is the time for P&C Associations to renew their membership with P&C Federation,

including the renewal of insurance. Last year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, P&C Federation offered a member hardship program to help those P&C Associations most in need. This year, we are offering a similar program to provide further time for badly impacted P&C Associations to recoup the losses of last year. I strongly encourage any members that are in hardship to contact the P&C Federation team on 1300 885 982 or email mail@pandc.org.au to find out more details.

Elections for the P&C Federation Board are now complete, with the new Board taking up office at the end of July. There are still a number of vacant positions and I would urge anyone with an interest in representing your electorate at state level to nominate. By-elections for unfilled positions will start mid-July and details on how to nominate will be emailed to P&C Associations and also available on our website at www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-elections-2021/

While it is an exciting and busy time at P&C Federation, it is with a great deal of sadness that I write this, my last message as President and Councillor of P&C Federation. I thought it would be an appropriate time to briefly reflect on just how far P&C Federation has come over the past 6½ years that I have been involved.

Many of you may not know that in 2014, P&C Federation was placed into administration after protracted in-fighting. This was probably the darkest time in the organisation's history. Administration brought with it a significantly different organisation with many new challenges and unknowns. Although it was a new start in some ways, we also had to consider the organisation's more than 90 years of history when taking on the significant task of rebuilding.

In terms of that rebuilding, financial stability has been restored along with the introduction of solid governance and business practices to ensure the future sustainability of the organisation. We sold the old office in Granville and moved to a new and more fit-for-purpose office in Parramatta. Member resources and services have been improved by the introduction of member guides, affiliate emails, Office 365 services, the Member Portal and, just recently, the new Learning Hub. Expert help has been provided on employment in the



Tim Spencer,
P&C Federation President

form of sample employment contracts and the introduction of P&C enterprise agreements. We have started to engage in a more focused way with our members, including face-to-face information sessions, webinars, town hall online events, surveys and case management of complex issues. Just as important has been the slow but steady rebuilding of strong and professional relationships with key stakeholders so we can advocate more effectively.

These are just some of the many things P&C Federation has managed to achieve and there are more exciting things on the way, including P&C Federation's 100th year celebrations in 2022. We would love P&C Associations across NSW to join us in marking and celebrating this important date for P&C Associations' support of public education.

As a final note, it has been my privilege and honour to have served at State level and to have worked with so many dedicated, passionate and knowledgeable people, not just parents but teachers, educational leaders and students. I would especially like to acknowledge my colleagues on the Board both past and present, and the passionate staff at P&C Federation, under the leadership of our General Manager Hannah Pia Baral, and our former General Manager Steve Carpenter. It has been an incredible journey, but as I move on to other things I know that P&C Federation is in very capable hands.

Tim Spencer
P&C Federation President

THE VALUE OF SKILLS & PATHWAYS FOR OUR STUDENTS

By Georgina Harrison

This is my first article for the *Parent & Citizen* journal as Secretary of the NSW Department of Education and I'm excited to share with you some of the work we are doing around Skills & Pathways for our students.

In conversations that I have with parents I sometimes sense a concern that vocational education is the 'poor cousin' of tertiary education. There are many cultural and historical influences – and perhaps even personal experiences – at play here. We all want the very best for our children, and for many families 'the best' has become synonymous with a university degree and a job in the professions.

Certainly, this is a career path that is a great fit for many of our students. They will thrive on academic study, they will be well positioned for the work they are interested in and find fulfilment in those roles. However, I'd very strongly urge families not to discount the value of vocational study – whether that be at school or as part of tertiary study.

You may have heard about the recent Gonski-Shergold report into the vocational education and training (VET) sector in NSW. Among other things, the recommendations (adopted by the NSW Government) aim to better integrate secondary, vocational and higher education learning, re-imagine co-operation with industry, and improve career advice to support lifelong learning.

There are two Gonski-Shergold recommendations that I think will be of

particular interest to parents. The first is that we should improve the breadth and quality of VET delivered in NSW high schools. We want to keep improving VET in secondary schools so that all students gain practical, job-relevant skills along with work exploration and career education. Most importantly, what students learn should count meaningfully towards either an ATAR or a VET credential under the Australian Qualifications Framework.

That is exactly what we are rolling-out in our Virtual VET courses. In addition to existing skills and pathways opportunities in schools, the program will create new avenues of co-operation between schools and TAFE. From 2022, 20 vocational courses will be available through every NSW high school, offering real-world, in-demand and future-focused skills needed for the 21st century workforce. The courses will be teacher-led, digitally enabled, virtual TAFE NSW courses and will contribute to a student's HSC and ATAR. The courses will address emerging skills needs, including topics such as cloud computing, robotics, digital supply chain, health administration and cyber security. This is a great opportunity for our students and I'd encourage families to have a good look at the courses available, so that students can sign up to the course that is the right fit for them.

A second important initiative to come out of the report is the establishment of an Institute of Applied Technology, an entirely new form of tertiary institution that integrates the

deep theoretical grounding that a university can offer with advanced managerial, professional and entrepreneurial skills. It will be an educational setting where industry, universities and TAFE are in the one classroom. Courses will be co-designed with



Georgina Harrison, Secretary
NSW Department of Education

industry, so that employers will be committed to the graduates they help create.

Piloting of this exciting project will begin soon in two sites – Meadowbank and Kingswood TAFE campuses in Sydney. Students will be able to undertake a mix of vocational and academic study to progressively receive qualifications. For example, a student can complete a Certificate IV in year one, progress to a Diploma in year two and have the option of achieving a Bachelor in Applied Technology in year three.

One of the many things that COVID-19 has taught us is that vocational roles are very often essential roles. These are jobs that the community cannot do without – and often jobs that are therefore relatively secure in times of rapid change.

We all want our kids to leave school set up for a good job and a happy future. For some students the right path is to immediately set off for a university education. For others ('even' if they are academically inclined!), the path to a career that's both well-paid and fulfilling may well include skills-based learning. I'd encourage all families to consider the benefits of vocational study while their kids are still in high school – it could be the start of a career they love.

Georgina Harrison
Secretary NSW Department of Education



From 2022, 20 vocational courses will be available through every NSW high school, offering real-world, in-demand and future-focused skills needed for the 21st century workforce. Photo: NSW Department of Education

NESA NEWS

By Paul Martin



Welcome back for Term 3, and what a productive period it is set to be.

We are delighted with the quantity and quality of consultation that has occurred on the draft K-2 Mathematics and English Curriculum and look forward to releasing the final syllabuses later this year.

Some key, evidence-based changes to the Mathematics syllabus are set to include a stronger focus on reasoning – ensuring children understand the process they use to find an answer, as well as increased emphasis on the application of maths in everyday life.

Meanwhile, key changes to the English syllabus are set to include mandatory use of phonics (letter-sound teaching of words) and an increased focus on core skills such as spelling, handwriting and structuring a sentence.

In 2022, schools will start implementing the revised syllabuses, and the 2023 school year will see the new K-2 Mathematics and English syllabuses fully implemented in schools across the state.

On the topic of literacy, the Premier's Reading Challenge – an initiative that encourages students to read more and to read more widely – comes to a close this term, as does the annual WriteOn competition – an initiative through which students have the unique

opportunity to become published authors. It's been fantastic to see so many of our younger students take up both challenges. Parents, friends and family play such an important role in encouraging reading and writing, so thank you to all who have encouraged them along the way.

As for numeracy, the NSW Department of Education has established the 'Everyday Maths Hub' – an engaging and dynamic online platform for parents and carers of children in Kindy through to Year 10 (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/mathematics/everyday-maths>). This fun and interactive space encourages mathematical learning in a new and vibrant way, through a range of different age-appropriate activities. I hope you will explore the hub and find it useful in bringing maths to life and 'off the page' for your family.

I am also pleased to announce that a new Year 11 and 12 HSC mathematics course, 'HSC Numeracy', will be rolled out from next year. The course has been developed with a real-world focus on budgeting, shopping and account keeping, and students will learn practical skills such as how to analyse a mobile phone contract, read a payslip and understand taxes to better prepare them for life after school. The new course and the Everyday Maths Hub are part of the NSW Mathematics Strategy, aimed at ensuring



Paul Martin, CEO
NSW Education Standards Authority

all students have the support they need to develop key numeracy skills and apply them to life.

Continuing on with our senior students, HSC preparations are set to kick into gear now, with lots of information and resources to roll out over the coming weeks, and practical and oral exams and projects due at the end of the term.

Watch out for our annual *HSC Study Guide* – a comprehensive guide designed to help students achieve their best in the 2021 exams. The guide contains subject-specific exam advice and tips, essential HSC information, including key dates and explainers, and tips for staying healthy throughout the exam period. NESA publishes the *HSC Study Guide* in partnership with *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

With the added stress and pressure of final exams and assessments looming, students' mental health and wellbeing is of the utmost importance. Another useful resource for parents, students and teachers is the 'Stay Healthy HSC Hub', which offers a wide variety of useful tips and resources. For more information, or to access the Hub, visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/stay-healthy-HSC>

I wish the senior students the best of luck in their final exam preparations and everyone else all the best for the term ahead!

Paul Martin

Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)



The 'Stay Healthy HSC Hub' offers a wide variety of useful tips and resources for students, parents and teachers



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PARENTS STRUGGLE TO CONTROL CHILDREN'S DIGITAL HABITS: REPORT

New research by the Gonski Institute for Education at UNSW Sydney reveals just how distracting digital media and technology is in Australian family life and how much access children have to digital devices.

More than 90% of Australian parents surveyed felt they were negatively distracted, to some extent, by digital technologies and 83% of parents, carers and grandparents felt that their child was negatively distracted. More than four out of five children own at least one screen-based device, and an average of three devices, starting as young as four years old.

These are among the key findings in the *Phase 2 Technical Report* of the Growing Up Digital Australia research project, released by The Gonski Institute for Education in April 2021. This ongoing research project seeks to understand how digital technologies are impacting Australian children.

Partly funded by P&C Federation, this latest study surveyed nearly 2500 parents and other caregivers between August and November 2020 and collected data about more than 5000 children across Australia and their use of digital technologies. The report also looks

at how the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the use of digital technology in 2020.

While parents find digital technologies useful in staying connected with their children and keeping them safe, three-quarters think it is difficult to control their child's digital habits. About half would welcome more support from their child's school to help them and their child to manage digital media and technologies use at home.

The report says that the problem lies in the widespread parental perception of digital media and technologies as an entertainment device, rather than a learning tool, with more than 50% of parents and grandparents primarily allowing their children to use digital media and technology for entertainment value. Comparatively, only one in five predominantly use it for learning purposes. About a third of families allow their children to use their devices after bedtime every single day. This climbs to 47% when families are in the lowest income bracket, and 59% when their child is experiencing educational struggles.

Almost four out of five felt that their child's use of technology at school was 'about right'.



Parents believe that the impact of digital media and technologies on their children has been more positive than negative in relation to mathematical and reading abilities, and social skills and friendships.

The final phase of the research begins later this year, to capture the views of young people on their use of digital media and technologies.

The full report is available at <https://apo.org.au/node/311990>

ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE FOR CARERS

eSafety has made some updates to the Parent's section of its website by adding a new resources page for parents and carers. The downloadable resources include books, information sheets and family activities to help you start the chat about online safety issues with your child. To access, visit www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources

Parental controls webinar

Due to popular demand, eSafety will rerun its Term 2 webinar, *eSafety's Guide To Parental Controls*, on 16 and 31 August. It is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 8-13. The webinar will cover: popular apps used by young people; case studies, research, and targeted advice; how you can support the young people in your life to have safe, enjoyable online experiences.

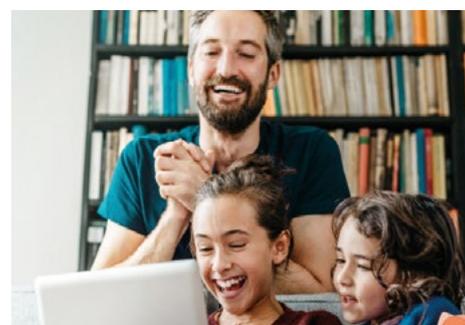
Register for the webinar at: www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars

New webinar series

eSafety will be hosting a new webinar series on 28, 29 July and 10, 24 August, called *eSafety Parent Guide To Online Sexual Harassment and Image-Based Abuse*. The webinar will provide parents and carers with an understanding of online sexual harassment and non-consensual sharing of intimate images (image-based abuse). It is designed for parents and carers of young people aged 13-18.

The webinar will cover:

- The difference between online sexual harassment and image-based abuse.
- How to report online sexual harassment to social media companies.
- How to report image-based abuse to eSafety and when to report to police.
- Where to get support if you feel upset or worried about something that has happened online.



Register for this webinar at: www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars

*eSafety is a world-first Australian Government agency committed to keeping its citizens safer online. To learn more, visit www.esafety.gov.au

Paul Tournas

Education Strategy Advisor
eSafety Commissioner

MEMBERS SHARE THEIR GRANT APPLICATION TIPS

There are many grant programs available each year that P&C Associations can apply for to fund projects that will benefit their school. To help you get started, P&C Federation has asked three current or former P&C Association Office Bearers to share their top tips on finding and successfully applying for grants – large and small.

Tracey Lowrey, Belinda Davey and Gloria Hill all have ample experience in writing successful grant applications, over many years, on behalf of their P&C Associations. Each was also a finalist (and Tracey the winner) in the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 Award, announced earlier this year.



Tracey Lowrey - Hunter



Belinda Davey - Sydney



Gloria Hill - North West Sydney

.....

TRACEY LOWREY **P&C Association Vice-President** **Dungog Public School** **(Hunter Electorate)**

Describe your experience in applying for grants

I was first introduced to writing grants in the 1980s when local sporting organisations could apply for roughly \$500 for small equipment. The application consisted of less than 100 words with a catalogue price to substantiate requested funds and a photograph for acquittal purposes. In the last 20 years I have written grant applications ranging from \$2000 to \$2 million, consisting of community projects and community infrastructure, requiring weeks of preparation, project plans, budgets, milestones and acquittal processes.

Your recommendations for grants available to P&C Associations

There are numerous grants available, but P&C Associations need to be smart in regards to what they apply for and how. To gain confidence and experience, I'd suggest starting with small equipment grants, including the NSW Government's Office of Sport Local Sport Grant Program (<http://bit.ly/local-sport-grant>), Local Councils' Small Community Grants Programs, and the Australian Government's Volunteer Grants Program (<http://bit.ly/Volunteer-Grants-Program>), and then work towards infrastructure grants like the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership Grants program (www.nsw.gov.au/projects/

[community-building-partnership](#)). The Office of Responsible Gambling also has three streams of funding that could be explored (<http://bit.ly/responsible-gambling-funding>).

Your top tips for grant applications

- Appoint someone on your committee to look for grants.
- When application guidelines are published, carefully follow the instructions.
- Do not send the same generic proposal to a random list of funding bodies. Always tailor the proposal and the specific budget request based on your research into the funding body's priorities and guidelines.
- Use 'declarative' rather than 'conditional' verbs – that is, avoid the words 'if', 'could', 'may' and 'might'. Instead, boldly declare that the grant 'will'/'would' create a positive outcome!
- Shorter is better. Keep your proposal tight and the details condensed. Never exceed the recommended page length or fiddle with margins to squeeze in more words. Make your proposal an easy read.
- Be explicit on the benefits for the grant provider, such as visibility through media releases and media coverage as well as recognition on brochures or on signage.
- Avoid dwelling on problems. Although proposals traditionally document the 'need' for funding, make sure that the challenges do not sound impossible. Focus on opportunities that result from the challenges and the problems that the project, through

adequate funding, will address.

- Remember that funding bodies commonly require considerable time to deal with masses of paperwork to process grant applications. Your proposed timeline must reflect both the need for urgent action and the realities of funding cycles.
- Provide supporting evidence for your application. Grant providers need evidence; letters of support, photographs, links to government plans, community and local council are high priorities.
- Check formatting for supporting/attached evidence and include your project name and registration on all supporting evidence documents.

Common mistakes to avoid when applying for grants

- Don't apply [just] because the grant is available; an incomplete grant application does not provide a positive grant history or reputation for your P&C Association.
- Not ensuring that all parties involved are aware of the application, ie the Local Council if permissions are required; the school's principal for both permission and recognised support.
- Not ensuring outcomes are achievable in the timeframe required.
- Not identifying a responsible person to 'project manage' the grant.
- Not understanding the grant guidelines.



Resources you would recommend

- Network with other organisations and your local council.
- Provide your P&C Association’s details to receive updates and grant announcements from government departments, including State and Federal Members.

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BELINDA DAVEY
P&C Association Treasurer
Darlington Public School
(Sydney Electorate)

Describe your experience in applying for grants

Darlington Public School P&C Association has been successful with three NSW Government Community Building Partnership (CBP) program grants (www.nsw.gov.au/projects/community-building-partnership) over the past five years. The online application process was extremely straightforward, though in-depth, and self-explanatory.

Your recommendations for grants available to P&C Associations

CBP is, in my opinion, the best grant for P&C use. There are a wide variety of community projects that individual P&C Associations could easily target and tailor their applications to. The grants are designed to provide positive community outcomes at a local level. Other than this, our P&C subscribes to the *Easy Grants Newsletter* (<https://explore.fundingcentre.com.au/membership>), [administered by Our Community’s

Funding Centre], to look for opportunities.

Your top tips for grant applications

- Know what you want and be very specific about what the outcomes will be.
- Work with your school leadership to target exactly what they need.
- Be realistic about what you are asking for, but reach for the stars! If you don’t ask, you don’t get.
- If you have the resources, it is worthwhile allocating ‘Grants’ as a specific role within your P&C Association. It is lots of work to sift through and find opportunities, but the rewards can be great.

Common mistakes to avoid when applying for grants

- Not being prepared or researching the area sufficiently.
- Missing opportunities due to lack of organisation or planning. Try not to rush. Grants demand attention and time.
- Not having the right people within the P&C Association available.

Resources you would recommend

- Easy Grants (\$125 per year annual subscription fee) for access to its grants database (www.ourcommunity.com.au).

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GLORIA HILL
Former P&C Association President
North Kellyville Public School
(North West Sydney Electorate)

Describe your experience in applying for grants

I found most of the grant application processes to be quite easy. All the information relating to the grant, as well as information on how to apply for the grant (and the assessment criteria) was readily available. The online portals made submitting the applications quick and easy.

Your recommendations for grants available to P&C Associations

Grants that focus on improving the school’s facilities, such as the Community Building Partnership Grant (www.nsw.gov.au/projects/community-building-partnership) and the Stronger Communities Programme (<http://bit.ly/stronger-communities>) are useful, as well as grants that are specifically aimed to increase the volunteer workforce (such as the Australian Government’s Volunteer Grants Program (<http://bit.ly/Volunteer-Grants-Program>) and boost the engagement of the school community (such as Life Education’s Growing Good Gardens Grants, <http://bit.ly/Goodgardens>). There are so many more available!

Your top tips for grant applications

- Work closely with the school to identify the most important items on their ‘wish list’. Our school Principal and his executive team have a strategic plan and vision for the school, and it is important to identify the key items to then apply for grant funding to deliver the projects.

- Ensure all of the P&C members are involved and engaged with the process, all proposed applications are communicated at P&C meetings in an open and transparent manner, and seek the members' feedback/comments/support on the grant applications.
- Include all the benefits that the grant-funded project will bring to the whole community (school community and local community) in alignment with healthy living and social engagement elements, eg, the Growing Good Gardens Grant to teach the students the lifecycle of growing their own vegetables and the benefits of a healthy diet incorporating fresh produce, with the home-grown produce not used at the school to be shared with the local community.
- Establish a relationship with your State MP and Federal MP (and their offices). They are a wealth of knowledge and are usually happy to share their vision for the area, and provide good guidance on grant applications.

Common mistakes to avoid when applying for grants

- Don't count your chickens before they hatch! There are no guarantees that the grant application will be successful, or that the full amount originally applied for will be awarded. Be prepared to reduce the scope of the project, or shelve it completely, depending on the outcome.
- Don't be greedy. Where possible, get quotations to support the grant application. Most grant programs now note the range of funding amount, so try not to go over the stated upper end of the range.

Resources you would recommend

- Sign up for e-newsletters from your Local Council, State MP and Federal MP. They often include news about grant programs available in their newsletters.
- Community Grants Hub (www.communitygrants.gov.au/): subscribe for regular updates on available grants.
- NSW Government Grants and Funding page (www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding).

P&C FEDERATION RESOURCES



For more ideas and advice on sourcing and applying for grants, P&C Association current Office Bearers can view a recording of P&C Federation's May 2021 webinar, *Applying for Grants Workshop*, through the Member Portal on the Federation's website at www.pandc.org.au/member-links/

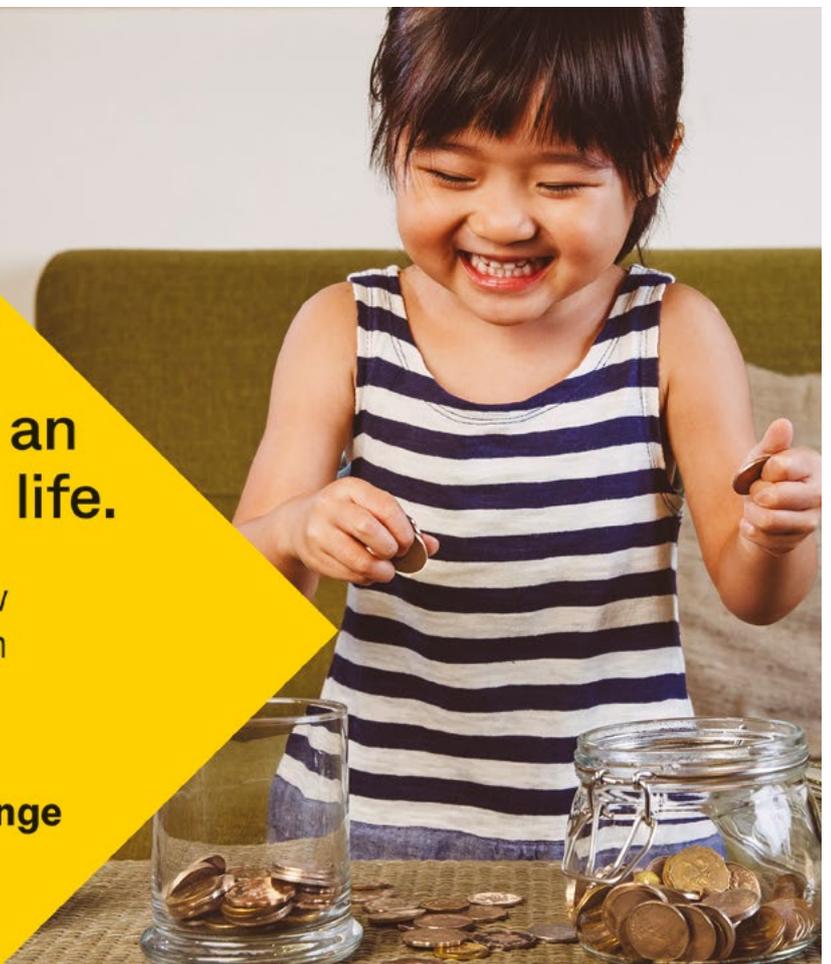
P&C Federation will be holding further grants and fundraising workshop webinars later this year. Keep an eye on the Federation's fortnightly *E-Bulletin* newsletter, emailed to all P&C Association members, for dates and registration details.

You'll also find a list of just some of the many grant programs available, along with grant directories and resources, in the Term 2 2021 *Parent & Citizen* journal (see pp19-20), available online at www.pandc.org.au/journals/

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WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN CONSENT EDUCATION

Supplied by the NSW Department of Education

In Term 1 this year, then NSW Department of Education Secretary Mark Scott signed a Statement of Intent with the heads of the Catholic and Independent sectors – outlining the role of schools in strengthening students' understanding of consent and preventing sexual violence among young people.

Mr Scott said the Statement was an “important first step” in supporting and keeping young people safe, after a petition by former Sydney student Chanel Contos led to thousands of young women sharing their harrowing stories of sexual assault and harassment.

Ms Contos' petition and the stories of other victims who shared their testimonies demanded that education place a greater focus on consent.

The Department has committed to work as equal partners with parents and carers to address this whole-of-society issue.

Since March, the NSW P&C Federation and the Department have been collaborating to make sure parents and carers have the information they need about the Statement of Intent, what students currently learn through the curriculum and how parents can engage in this discussion.

The first joint initiative was our well-attended 17 June webinar for all public school P&C Associations, co-hosted by P&C Federation President Tim Spencer and the Department's Executive Director of Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy, Gillian White (and available at www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-webinar-recordings/).

PARENT SURVEY COMING SOON

Shortly, you will receive an email inviting you to take part in a parent survey being conducted by the Department in partnership with P&C Federation.

We would greatly appreciate your participation and feedback.

Survey results will provide valuable insights into current understandings of consent education and the kind of supports parents and carers would find helpful in continuing these important conversations at home.

THE STATEMENT OF INTENT: AT A GLANCE

- In March 2021, a Statement of Intent to improve consent education and to help drive cultural change around sexual violence was signed by the heads of all three education sectors in NSW.
- The Statement identified key areas of focus in which education systems could lead meaningful change, including: promoting student voice and agency, working as equal partners with parents and carers, providing quality curriculum, and supporting teachers and school leaders.
- It identified parents and carers as critical partners in this work as they are the primary and continuing educators of their children.
- Through the Statement, the NSW Department of Education committed to providing greater support and resources for parents and carers to continue these conversations beyond the school gate.
- The Department and P&C Federation have been collaborating on the most effective way to provide this support and achieve the goals set out in the Statement.

To read the Statement in full and for more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/statement-in-full>

We will share the survey results and seek further input into the next stage of collaborative work at a second webinar later this term.

Stay tuned to the P&C Federation website and *E-Bulletin* newsletter for more information about the upcoming webinar.

Changing the culture around sexual violence is a shared responsibility and requires continued collaboration to best support young people. Both teachers and parents play a significant role in equipping students with



P&C Federation President Tim Spencer and NSW Department of Education Executive Director of Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy Gillian White co-hosted a webinar for P&C Association members in June. The webinar focused on work underway to strengthen consent education in NSW, and the ongoing partnership between P&C Federation and the Department to address this whole-of-society issue.

Photo: NSW Department of Education

NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT TEACHING OF RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning Sarah Mitchell has announced a suite of new initiatives to support teaching of respectful relationships as the first major step following the signing of the Statement of Intent.

A range of teaching and learning resources – aligned with the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum – will be available to all teachers in the coming school term on the Department's Learning Resources Hub (<https://bit.ly/respect-resources>).

The resources will include lesson sequences and stage-appropriate teaching activities that teachers can use or adapt to assist them in the classroom.

the skills and confidence to navigate these challenging situations.

**Ed.
week**
26-30 July
2021

EDUCATION WEEK 2021: LIFELONG LEARNERS

Supplied by the NSW Department of Education

Education Week is almost here and will run from Monday 26 July to Friday 30 July 2021.

Ed Week is an annual statewide event that celebrates NSW public education and the achievements of our schools, students and education system.

This year's theme is Lifelong Learners, which recognises continuous learning is critical for success throughout life.

We know that everyone can be a lifelong learner and learning can look different for individual students, with our education system equipped to provide learning support for all the students in our care.

Parents and carers have a critical role to play in their child's learning journey and we know everyone benefits from strong, respectful relationships in our school communities. This year we continue to acknowledge the role parents and carers play in their local school

community and invite you all to take part in Ed Week activities.

This year Ed Week kicks off with a live stream launch video on Monday 26 July, followed by a host of other events organised by school communities across the state.

Find out what your local school is doing to mark this annual occasion and see how you can get involved. Education Week is your chance to celebrate the achievements of your school, students and learning community.

Share your photos, videos and stories of how you're a Lifelong Learner on social media using the hashtag #EdWeek21 and join us as we celebrate #LifelongLearners this Education Week.



Education Week will be held from 26-30 July 2021. This year's theme celebrates Lifelong Learners. Photo: NSW Department of Education

Wherever you live, you can take part in Education Week activities.

Find out more and sign up to receive updates at: www.education.nsw.gov.au/edweek

GAME CHANGER CHALLENGE 2021

Supplied by the NSW Department of Education

The NSW Department of Education's annual design thinking challenge is back with a brand-new student-led, dual-stream challenge.

Now in its fourth year, the Game Changer Challenge is open to all NSW public schools and centres on students exploring solutions for a real-world, wicked problem.

This year we've given our teams the opportunity to choose their adventure and decide whether they want to become a Game Changer or a Social Changemaker!

The Game Changer stream requires teams to create a solution to our wicked problem while the Social Changemaker stream is about advocating for social change to our wicked problem in the community.

The challenge started in May with almost 600 teams of five students working through our challenge playbook at their school to solve our



Almost 600 teams have registered to take part in this year's Game Changer Challenge

Photo: NSW Department of Education

wicked problem of 'Humans have unlimited needs, but the planet has limited capacity to satisfy them'.

This problem encourages students to think about sustainability, global thinking and ethical behaviour, while developing general capabilities in creative and critical thinking, and personal and social capability.

Our junior and senior teams were tasked with working through the first two of five design

thinking processes to develop a video pitch based on the wicked problem.

The teams with the best ideas and video pitches are now participating across eight virtual heats for the chance to compete in the ultimate challenge final event from 8-10 September in Sydney.

Find out more at www.education.nsw.gov.au/game-changer-challenge

SHARE OUR SPACE OPENS UP SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Supplied by the NSW Department of Education

With schools once again opening their outdoor spaces to local communities during the next school holidays, as part of the Share Our Space program, it's a perfect opportunity to explain the origin, benefits and future of the Department's initiative.

The Share Our Space program encourages public schools across the state to open up their playgrounds, ovals and sports courts to local communities for use during school holiday breaks. Gates open each school holiday, from the first Monday to the last Friday – including weekends and public holidays. The program will be operating during the next school holidays from Monday 20 September – Friday 1 October 2021, 8am to 5pm.

When the Premier's Priorities (14 key social priorities set by NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian) were announced in 2019, they included an increase in access to quality green, open and public space. This is a priority in which all NSW public schools have an important part to play. Since the Share Our Space program started in 2017, it has attracted thousands of users who have enjoyed safe, open areas that include more than 1244 football fields, 958 sports courts, 298 ovals and 368 play areas.



The Share Our Space program encourages schools across the state to open up their playgrounds, ovals and sports courts to local communities for use during school holiday breaks. Photos: NSW Department of Education



Share Our Space has attracted thousands of users who have enjoyed safe, open areas that include more than 1244 football fields, 958 sports courts, 298 ovals and 368 play areas



United Nations
Association
of Australia
NSW Division

United Nations Day Peace People Planet

UNAA NSW School Program

22 October 2021

Join UNAA (NSW) in inspiring young people to be kind, perseverant, and motivated global citizens.

Multiple ways to get involved:

- ✓ Mufti Day: Wearing blue to raise awareness of the United Nations (UN) mission and fundraise
 - ✓ Run an art competition
 - ✓ Integrate UN themes into lessons
 - ✓ Hold a United Nations Day assembly & more

Complete the UN Day Registration Form (<http://bit.ly/UNDay-registration>) and you'll be sent a complimentary UN Day Resource Pack with resources and many more ideas on how to get involved.

Find out more: UN Day Program Webpage (<http://bit.ly/UNDay-program>)
Contact: unday@unaa.org.au



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



This important initiative, delivered by School Infrastructure NSW, supports the Department's aim to place our schools at the heart of their communities. People are free to use the spaces how they like and we've heard of a variety of uses of playgrounds over the years, ranging from reading a book and hosting a birthday party to sprint training and basketball tournaments.

Share Our Space is continuing to grow, and we are excited to announce the expansion of the program to now include events and activities, short courses and clinics being operated by community groups and local councils. These activities have already included Fit For Life training by Police Citizens Youth Clubs and White Card accreditation courses. We envisage this will evolve to incorporate gardening groups, mindfulness programs, mobile libraries and more. The Share Our Space team is open to all suggestions.

Hundreds of schools take part in the program, and the number is growing fast. As it grows, we are eager to promote the special features of some schools' playgrounds, including nature paths, accessible play equipment and strength training equipment. At the very least, all schools offer a place to unwind, enjoy some blue sky and safe, open spaces in local neighbourhoods across NSW.

For the list of participating schools, visit <https://edu.nsw.link/ShareOurSpace>. If you have any questions or would like your school to host activities, please contact the Share Our Space team via [sinsw.shareourspace@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:shareourspace@det.nsw.edu.au)



In its 24th year of trading, **Sun Shade Australia** is a leading supplier of **Sun Shade products** to the education and community sectors.

We at **Sun Shade**, enjoy an excellent reputation for our customer service, attention to detail and the exceptional quality of our products.

With changes and improvements to the shade cloth fabrics being made regularly, we can now offer **up to 99.7% UV protection**, an exciting range of colours to co-ordinate with your setting and importantly, the consistently high quality structural components for which **Sun Shade Australia** installations are recognised.

Each installation is structurally designed for the specific site by Northrop Consulting Engineers – one of Australia's leading engineering firms, offering reliability, safety and integrity in the consistency of our product.

Improve sun safety and the appeal of any playground by providing covered areas for learning and play with **Sun Shade Australia**.

Our team look forward to continuing to supply excellent Sun Shade solutions to the Australian community and welcome the opportunity to meet with you for an obligation-free consultation and shade assessment of your site.



t: 1300 784 481

e: sales@sunshade.com.au

w: sunshade.com.au



STARTING A P&C ASSOCIATION

Establishing a P&C Association is a great step to take for any school community. P&C Associations provide numerous services that may not otherwise exist, such as school canteens, local parent representation for merit selection panels, and fundraising for various school projects.

If your school does not have a P&C Association and you are interested in starting one, P&C Federation can assist with information and guidance, including a factsheet that clearly explains the steps involved in establishing a P&C Association. It's available on the Federation's website at www.pandc.org.au/faqs/ (see *Starting a P&C*).

We also encourage you to contact the P&C Federation team to guide you in the process. You can phone them on 1300 885 982 or email mail@pandc.org.au

The three P&C Associations featured on the following pages – Plunkett Street Public School, Estella Public School and Aurora College – are all new Associations, established in the six months since December 2020. We asked an Office Bearer from each Association to outline their experiences in setting up their P&C Association, how they overcame any challenges, and their advice for other school communities who are considering starting a P&C Association.



FIONA PAKES
P&C Association
Treasurer
Plunkett Street Public
School
Woolloomooloo
(Sydney Electorate)
P&C Association
established
25 March 2021



Plunkett Street Public School in Woolloomooloo, Sydney

What prompted you and your community to start a P&C Association?

We saw the benefits of having a P&C to encourage parent, carer and community participation and to access grant funding that the school was not eligible [to apply] for. It was also a way for us to support the teachers, support staff and Principal at the school who have, up until now, mostly done all the fundraising and community event organisation themselves.

The school has had a Parent Advisory Group that met regularly with the Principal and a group of parents that were actively involved in school-led fundraising activities, but we don't believe there has ever been a P&C Association at the school until now.

Did you face any challenges in setting up your P&C Association?

Communicating to the parents and carers about what a P&C Association is and what is involved in forming one, and *why* you would [do so] was difficult. A P&C sounded too formal to some. And trying to encourage parents and carers to be involved and convince them that it doesn't matter how

big or small their involvement is, [that] is an on-going challenge. Everyone is valued and welcome, yet some are fearful they have nothing to offer, some may have English as a second language or some simply don't have the time.

We very much want [ours] to be an open and inclusive P&C and to do that you need to be active in inviting and encouraging others to participate, and looking at interpreters and thinking about other barriers like childcare that might be stopping people from taking part.

We also set our membership fee at a minimum 50¢ so as not to discourage people due to financial reasons.

Do you have any advice for other school communities that are considering starting a P&C Association?

Don't be afraid of the paperwork! The P&C Federation team were so supportive the whole way through the process. None of the parents knew how to set one up and it was daunting to some, but we were guided through the process and no question was left unanswered.

Already, by having a P&C at the school, there is an added feeling of support amongst the school community and a sense of belonging. We were only a relatively small group of parents [plus] the Principal, but we feel that we have a starting point from which to grow our school community.

What are your Association's goals for this year?

As soon as the Incorporation Certificate came through, we applied for a NSW Community Building Partnership (CBP) grant (2021) to upgrade the school's only K-6 toilet block. The



toilets are badly in need of an upgrade, the children really don't like using them and they did a survey to support our grant proposal.

It is an amount of money that we would never be able to raise from the school community. Our school is only small, but the amount to upgrade a toilet block and make sure it is accessible and to building code [specifications] is huge. New toilets would also allow us to have facilities to host community events and co-curricular activities on site. This is a grant that the school wouldn't have been eligible to apply for.

At this stage we've only applied for the CBP grant, but we are actively on the lookout for other grant funding opportunities. [If we're not successful with the CBP grant] we need to find some way to upgrade the toilet facilities.

We'd also like to [get] a rainwater tank to service the preschool garden area, and to raise funding for mental health programs and co-curricular opportunities for the children. Our P&C also wants to support the school to host its Family Fun Day event and run a barbecue at one of the polling stations during the local council elections.



CHRISTINA COTTER
P&C Association
Treasurer
Estella Public School
Wagga Wagga
(Riverina Electorate)
P&C Association
established
23 February 2021

What prompted you and your community to start a P&C Association?

The school started its first classes on 29 January 2021, the first day of Term 1. We had seen other schools with P&C Associations and it seemed like a great opportunity to set up one for our new school. We had our initial meeting to set up the working party in conjunction with a school information evening last year, where we had lots of interest in starting the P&C.

Did you face any challenges in setting up your P&C Association?

The main challenge was the time taken to set up a P&C Association – each step seemed to take longer than anticipated. We applied as soon as possible to become incorporated, and we had to wait for that to be approved before we could fundraise.

Based on advice from P&C Federation, we also waited for the incorporation approval to come through before registering as a charity, applying for an ABN and opening bank accounts, since changing these things after becoming incorporated is difficult.



[As a new school] it is also a lot harder to start from scratch in creating all the rules and policies than to step into an existing P&C.

Do you have any advice for other school communities that are considering starting a P&C Association?

Speak with the team at P&C Federation – they are very knowledgeable and able to assist with all questions; and keep in mind the time taken for all the steps to be completed.

What are your Association's goals for this year?

We are starting to fundraise already this year for a playground for the children, and giving the children activities to do at lunch time.



DAVID DUBOIS
P&C Association
President
Aurora College
(North Sydney
Electorate)
P&C Association
established
16 December 2020

Aurora College is NSW's only virtual selective school, catering since 2015 to primary and secondary public school students living in regional, rural and remote areas outside the catchments of traditional selective schools.

During its first six years of operation, Aurora parents were unable to form a P&C Association due to regulations that required P&C meetings be held face-to-face at the school. However, changes to the regulations last year (due to COVID-19) finally permitted the establishment of a P&C Association that would meet exclusively online.

Most of the work of this group involved developing specific Rules of Association which reflected the needs of NSW's first virtual P&C Association.

An online public meeting was held and a working group of parents was formed last October to begin this process. In this process we were ably supported and guided by the kind participation and advice of P&C Federation President Tim Spencer, General Manager Hannah Pia Baral, and Projects Officer Debbie Clifford.

Most of the work of this group involved developing specific Rules of Association which reflected the needs of NSW's first virtual P&C Association. Unlike other P&Cs, it was clear that we would not be running a canteen, selling uniforms, or employing staff, and that fundraising would be quite challenging.

Privacy issues were also important, as we would need to safeguard the personal information of members in an online environment, and allow secure voting on motions.

We also felt that supporting the wellbeing of students was an important priority, given the sense of isolation that can affect students attending classes at a virtual school. As much as possible, we wanted to support their participation in educational activities, such as workshops and competitions, above and beyond the excellent residentials organised twice a year by Aurora College.

After much drafting and fine-tuning with the assistance of P&C Federation, the Aurora College P&C Association (ACPCA) held its Inaugural General Meeting on the last day of term in 2020, adopted its governing documents, and elected its first

Executive Committee. Then came the two-month wait for the official letter of approval from the NSW Education Minister, which arrived shortly before our Term 1 2021 General Meeting, and then the almost three-month wait for approval from the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), which came just before our Term 2 General Meeting. By contrast, getting our ABN and Tax File Number was lightning fast.

With a healthy 28 members, a web page and social media policies under development, and an enthusiastic Executive planning our first fundraiser, a Facebook group, and outreach to Aurora students, the ACPCA is now well on the way to providing a vital connection between the scattered parents, ex-parents, staff and students who make up the Aurora College tribe.



Aurora College is a virtual selective school for students in regional, rural and remote areas of NSW

CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY INCORPORATED P&C ASSOCIATIONS OF 2021

P&C Associations incorporated in 2021	P&C Federation Electorate
Aurora College	North Sydney
Booragul Public School	Hunter
Bunnaloo Public School	Riverina
Corowa High School	Riverina
Estella Public School	Riverina
Ilford Public School	Southern and Central Tablelands
Kingsgrove High School	South West Sydney
Melrose Park Public School	North Sydney
Narrabri High School	New England
Narrabri West Public School	New England
Plunkett Street Public School	Sydney
Woongarrah Public School	Central Coast

We encourage all P&C Associations to become incorporated, as an incorporated body can apply for government grants, own assets and borrow money from financial institutions. Also, if a P&C Association is incorporated, any debt or liability of the P&C Association will typically be held against the P&C itself, rather than individual Office Bearers. If your P&C Association is not currently incorporated, or you're unsure, contact P&C Federation on 1300 885 982 or email at mail@pandc.org.au

SUPER RATE INCREASE FROM 1 JULY 2021

On 1 July 2021, the super guarantee rate will rise from 9.5% to 10%. If your P&C Association has employees, you must ensure your payroll and accounting systems are updated to incorporate the super rate increase. Use the ATO's **super guarantee contributions calculator** to work out how much super you need to pay for your employees. The ATO's **superannuation guarantee eligibility decision tool** will help you determine if your employees are eligible for super. For details and to access the calculator and decision tool, visit: <https://bit.ly/ato-super-guarantee>



P&C FEDERATION'S NEW LEARNING HUB FOR OFFICE BEARERS



Illustration Ellen-Mary Terrill - Pointsbuild

P&C Federation has launched an online Learning Hub for members to provide P&C Association Office Bearers with flexible learning opportunities.

Initially, four on-demand training courses are available, with the development of more courses planned. These courses are specifically designed for newly-elected P&C Association Office Bearers and those already in the role who are wanting to update their training. The four courses now available via the P&C Member Portal are:

- **P&C Governance Induction:** this looks at the principles of good governance and how these can be applied to the effective running of P&C Associations.
- **Introduction to Roles and Responsibilities:** outlines the roles of the five P&C Association Office Bearer positions and the functions of the Executive Committee and Sub-committees.
- **Understanding the Foundations of Your P&C:** gives answers to a collection of commonly asked questions about P&C Associations and the member roles within them.

- **Introduction to Financial Management:** looks at why we need good financial management and accountabilities and provides tips on making financial management of P&C Associations effective and successful.

The Learning Hub courses are complemented by a range of other resources – downloadable documents, video clips, and video webinar recordings.

P&C Federation looks forward to receiving members' feedback on the new Learning Hub courses and suggestions for topics for future courses. A Feedback Survey form will be provided at the end of each course for this.

To access the Learning Hub

The Learning Hub is available to current Office Bearers of P&C Associations and can be accessed through the P&C Member Portal at <https://bit.ly/membersportal-pandc>

If you don't have access to the Member Portal

Please contact P&C Federation at mail@pandc.org.au to request access. Alternatively, you may use your affiliate email to gain access to the portal. You can do this by going to the portal (<https://bit.ly/membersportal-pandc>)

and clicking on 'Forgot Password?'. Enter your affiliate email and follow the prompts.

SUPPORTING YOUR P&C ASSOCIATION



Resources on the Learning Hub form part of a broader package of support that P&C Federation provides to P&C Association members and their Office Bearers (see next page for more details).

A range of information and resources can be found on the P&C Federation website (www.pandc.org.au) and members are kept up-to-date with the latest information through the regular *E-Bulletin* newsletter (www.pandc.org.au/e-bulletins/).

The Member Services team also assists with inquiries by phone and email and offers face-to-face information sessions for P&C Associations. Phone 1300 885 982 or email mail@pandc.org.au

CORRECTION The article titled 'Community Building Partnership [CBP] grant success', published on p13 of the Term 2 2021 edition of *Parent & Citizen*, included incorrect figures for grant money allocated to P&C Association projects under the CBP Grants program. It should have read: *The successful applications, announced in late November 2020, include 171 P&C Association projects receiving \$4.5 million in total. The individual grants range from \$4215 to \$153,357.* We apologise for this error. The article has been corrected in the Term 2 2021 *Parent & Citizen* journal, available online at www.pandc.org.au/journals/



P&C ASSOCIATION RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP AND INSURANCE IS DUE 1 AUGUST 2021

It is now time to renew your P&C Federation Membership and Insurance. P&C Federation offers a range of member benefits for P&C Associations and is committed to empower P&C Associations and to promote public education in New South Wales.

MEMBER BENEFITS



Information Technology

P&C Federation members are offered exclusive access to Office365 online version, affiliate emails, Member Portal and a discounted Zoom account.



Professional Development

Gain access to the Member Portal where member P&C Associations can access related information and resources. P&C Federation has recently launched the Learning Hub, an online learning platform to support the training needs of Office Bearers.



Direct Member Support

P&C Federation staff are on hand to provide support over the phone (1300 885 982), face-to-face, virtually or by email (mail@pandc.org.au).



Public Liability Insurance

Included in the membership is a \$50 million Public Liability Insurance for P&C Associations. A number of optional covers are also available through Andrews Insurance, providing additional protection (see below).



Employment Legal Advice

In partnership with Hicksons Lawyers, P&C Federation offers resources and base level employment-related legal advice.



News & Publications

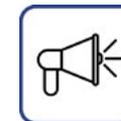
P&C Federation publishes a fortnightly *E-bulletin*, along with the *Parent & Citizen* quarterly journal and communicates directly with members on the latest news and information relevant to members and the wider public school community. We also strive to give

voice to P&C Associations by sharing their success stories in recognition of their service to their school and wider community.



Volunteer Recognition

P&C Federation recognises the contributions of individual volunteers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their public school community through the Volunteer of the Year Award.



Community Advocacy 'Voice with Value'

P&C Federation is committed to a free public education system which is open to all people irrespective of culture, gender, academic ability, and socio-economic class. We represent the voice of parents through elected Delegates and Councillors to work with the Department of Education and other stakeholders on a range of public interest topics in education.

To renew your Membership and complete your Member Register Update visit P&C Federation's website: www.pandc.org.au

MEMBER BENEFIT

**P&C Association Member
\$50 million Public
Liability Insurance**

OPTIONAL COVERS AVAILABLE

Liability

Extensions for OOSH Centres, Before & After School Classes, Vacation Care, Tutors & Stall Holders

Property

Cash & Property cover for P&C owned buildings, contents & stock

Accident Classes

Voluntary Workers Insurance for members and volunteers whilst participating in P&C Association events & activities, Student Injury Insurance

Financial Lines

Association Liability, Fidelity cover & Directors & Officers Liability

Membership with P&C Federation entitles your P&C Association to \$50 million Public Liability Insurance.

P&C Federation Associations are also encouraged to consider other classes of insurances to ensure that your business needs are met (see options at left).

It is recommended for all P&C Associations to review their operations to ensure that the appropriate, adequate cover is in place.

If you would like to speak to someone further about your specific insurance needs, please contact Andrews Insurance on **1300 885 982** Option 1
Email: ela@andrewsinsurance.com.au
angela@andrewsinsurance.com.au

ANDREWS

INSURANCE
SERVICES
TO BUSINESS

CLOSING THE EDUCATION GAP

Supplied by Schools Plus

The importance of family and community engagement in children's learning is undisputed. How to deliver this effectively in diverse school communities is less clear-cut. Schools Plus' Fair Education program develops the capacity of teachers and school leaders in communities facing disadvantage to help them address this very issue.

Australian Schools Plus is a national charity and was founded following a recommendation in the 2011 *Review of Funding for Schooling* (Gonski Review) to deliver philanthropic support to help children facing disadvantage succeed at school. Schools Plus works with teachers and school leaders to help close the education gap caused by disadvantage (see box at right for eligibility details).

Since launching in NSW in 2016, Schools Plus' Fair Education program has supported over 140 schools in three states: NSW, Queensland and Victoria, with 40,000 plus students benefiting from the program.

The Fair Education program comprises coaching for school leadership teams, funding for school-specific projects and ongoing project management and evaluation, over a three-year period. Schools can apply to join the Fair Education as a standalone school, or as part of a community of schools in an area.

Now that the program has been running for over five years, there are some great stories emerging from schools that have benefited. **Hassall Grove Public School** is just one example. This primary school in Sydney's west was finding that many children were entering kindergarten unprepared to start school. The children lacked key skills in areas such as social interaction, play, language, emotional development, physical skills, early literacy and numeracy and fine motor skills. It is widely acknowledged that children who start school behind struggle to catch up, and as many as one in four children will not be earning or learning at the age of 24 if they miss out at key educational milestones at a young age (Lamb *et al* 2015).

Hassall Grove Public School launched a parent involvement program to build a school community, and help teach children and their carers essential skills for emotional and behavioural development. Parent participation in the school increased from 45% to 99% and parent participation in learning increased from 30% to 84%. Learn more in this video made by the school: <https://vimeo.com/229114035>

Granville East Public

School launched 'connected conversations' between teachers, parents and students. For example, it has introduced an app (Class Dojo) which allows real-time communication between the classroom and home, and has replaced written reports with three-way learning – conversations that involve the student, teacher, family and often interpreters. The number of parents interacting with the app usually exceeds 80% for each class. The school also held a range of parent learning opportunities (open classrooms, communications via online platforms, and some workshops) and provided them with resources to continue the conversations about learning at home.

"It has given us a successful and multi-faceted approach to connecting with our community," Granville East Public School Relieving Principal Amanda Delvecchio explained. "Having the opportunity to use online tools such as the app, Class Dojo, has enabled us to have real-time discussions, collaboratively reflect and celebrate the success of our students with all parents."

Learn more about Schools Plus on its website: www.schoolsplus.org.au. To register your interest in the support that Schools Plus can offer, and for grant round open dates and other news, subscribe to the Schools Plus newsletter via the website.



Smithfield Public School completed its three-year Fair Education project in 2019. Nick Fairfax, Schools Plus Pioneer, and Jodi Harris, Smithfield PS Principal are pictured with students

SCHOOLS PLUS GRANTS

Over 4000 schools across Australia are eligible for support through one of the Schools Plus grant programs – **Fair Education** (see main article) and **Smart Giving**. To be eligible for support through Schools Plus, schools must have a value below 1000 on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) or be a special school, as defined by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Applications for the **Smart Giving Program** are open from 12 July – 20 August 2021. This program supports strategic school projects that aim to improve student outcomes. Projects run for 12-18 months. The grant provides schools with funding up to \$30,000 for individual schools or \$60,000 for clusters of four-10 schools and strategic support to help with project design, implementation and evaluation. Details: www.schoolsplus.org.au/what-we-do/smart-giving/

Schools can also register projects on the **Schools Plus Fundraise Yourself** platform at any time (access via www.schoolsplus.org.au).

Reference: Lamb S, Jackson J, Walstab A, Huo S (2015) *Educational Opportunity in Australia 2015: Who Succeeds and Who Misses Out*. Centre for International Research on Education Systems, Victoria University, for the Mitchell Institute, Melbourne. Available at: <https://www.vu.edu.au/mitchell-institute/educational-opportunity/educational-opportunity-in-australia-2015-who-succeeds-who-misses-out>

THE HSC AND BEYOND: PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT



By Careers Advisers Association of NSW & ACT Inc

Post-school options should focus on connecting with learning that best suits individual students.

Fifteen years ago, post-school destinations were broadly: 30% university, 40% TAFE and 30% work. There are now far more choices available. University and TAFE offer degree courses (www.tafensw.edu.au/degrees), while TAFEs still offer certificate and diploma courses (www.tafensw.edu.au/degrees). Group Training Organisations (www.training.nsw.gov.au/gto/index.html) arrange apprenticeships and traineeships, find employers, and (some) provide the off-site training (eg, Master Builders and Master Plumbers).

Students should always have backup plans to their first post-school option, ensuring they are able to undertake learning relevant to their interests and skills. School careers advisers help facilitate the best possible post-school opportunities for students by discussing industry-appropriate options such as university, TAFE, or specialist training colleges.

Pathways to employment

Pathways to employment can be as straightforward as getting an ATAR that is sufficient and entering university, or taking alternate routes through alternative degrees, TAFE and university colleges. For example, Registered Nurses must study at university. However, a student might complete a TVET course (Health Services Assistant) in their HSC, then complete the TAFE Diploma of Nursing (Enrolled Nurse). This is a recognised pathway to a Bachelor of Nursing – the final step to becoming a Registered Nurse.

Carpenters need to complete an apprenticeship. During their career they might also complete a Bachelor of Construction at university and go on to become a construction company's project manager. For this position, employers often give priority to someone who has already 'worked on the tools'. Similarly,



Apprenticeships, including carpentry, involve learning over four years. Apprentices usually work four days and attend TAFE one day a week. Photo: gpointstudio/www.freepik.com

TAFE courses can be studied to gain practical skills to enhance the knowledge gained in a university degree. University bespoke courses are another way for people to upskill at different points in their career.

Students should always have backup plans to their first post-school option, ensuring they are able to undertake learning relevant to their interests and skills.

Other pathway examples are: a student who completes a TAFE electrical apprenticeship before enrolling in an engineering degree at university; someone who completes a business administration traineeship before a business degree; or a carpenter who gains a secondary teaching qualification. Check out the section on university and university pathways on the TAFE website for more information (www.tafensw.edu.au/study/pathways).

Anyone may apply to university, at any time,

based on their area of work and previous studies. They may receive credits for Recognised Prior Learning and work-based skills. Application is as a non-recent school leaver. Inquiries should be made with a university's Prospective Student Adviser.

Vocational courses

Vocational courses can be started while still at school. Some are school-based, while others are TAFE- or private college-based. Consider these options:

- TAFE 'YES' Program: for school students (aged 15-17) who are at risk of disengaging from school. Information is available from your school careers adviser.
- EVET courses: students can study Certificate I, II or III courses via TAFE or private provider colleges as part of their HSC. Some EVET courses can count towards an ATAR (www.tafensw.edu.au/study/types-courses/tvet). Students attend the external provider one afternoon a week, with school periods allocated for catching-up on any schoolwork missed and/or study. All VET courses include a compulsory work placement. Consult with your school's careers adviser during the Year 10



After leaving school, anyone may apply to university, at any time, based on their area of work and previous studies. Photo: lookstudio/www.freepik.com

- subject selection process.
- School-based (Category B) Vocational Courses: these can be offered as part of the HSC. Assessment is competency-based and courses offer an optional HSC exam (<https://bit.ly/3vazSF5>). Compulsory work placements occur in Years 11 and 12. Classes are timetabled at school. Consult with your careers adviser during the Year 10 subject selection process.
- School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (<https://bit.ly/3cRcWET>): these can be started while still at school. Students attend work one day a week and TAFE one day a week, and must catch up on any schoolwork missed. Consult with your careers adviser during the Year 10 subject selection process.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

Here is a brief outline of what full-time apprenticeships and traineeships involve:

- Apprenticeships: these are usually trade-based (eg, mechanic, chef, hairdresser) and involve learning over four years. Apprentices usually work four days and attend TAFE one day a week, although some attend TAFE for a block period.
- Traineeships: these are usually for a period of 12-18 months, with the trainee attending TAFE one day each week. Business and childcare are examples of traineeships.

It's important to note that apprenticeships

and traineeships have legally binding contracts, and that the school leaving age is officially 17, unless the student attends a formal training institution as part of their employment. These requirements should be discussed with your careers adviser.

Taking a gap year

A gap year is where students take time off from formal study before starting university. Universities allow students to accept an offer to study and then defer for one year. If considering a gap year in 2022, students must still apply this year through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC). If they receive a university offer and accept, they should then apply directly to the university to defer, and begin studying in 2023. Deferment is only for the course they accepted.

Students wanting to enrol in TAFE or private college courses should do so in the year they wish to undertake study.

A student wanting to take a gap year needs to ask: 'Will I be prepared to return to study after this year?' Here are some gap year options:

- TAFE Short Courses: these are a great way to gain a variety of skills and knowledge that may help broaden an individual's expertise.
- Undertaking personal travel or as part of a volunteering organisation.
- Working: this builds financial resources, and is a chance to broaden life experience and build a resume.

- Australian Defence Force: an opportunity to learn a trade, gain a qualification and earn a salary.
- Voluntary work: there are many opportunities to offer skills and knowledge to assist others.

A student wanting to take a gap year needs to ask: 'Will I be prepared to return to study after this year?'

Talk to your school's careers adviser about gap year opportunities and their costs.

Tailored advice

Students and parents/carers should have discussions with their school's careers adviser about post-HSC study options and pathways. Each student has different learning styles and circumstances that can impact their HSC outcomes. Your school's careers adviser can offer in-depth and specific advice for your child or ward.

The Resource section of the myskills website also has excellent resources for students, parents and carers (www.myskills.gov.au/more/resources/).

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