



The Tieri State School P & C Association is Proud to support your children, & you as parents.

We would like to extend an invitation to all Parents- New & old to attend a meeting & or become a member.

The issues & decisions made are always in the best interests of our children's education – whether by financial, volunteer or emotional contributions & support.

If you would like any further information, have need of any assistance; please do not hesitate to contact a Member or Officer of the Executive.

Thank you.

What is a P & C?

The Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) is a group of community minded people, parents and citizens, who take on a more formal role to assist the school by providing:

- Feedback on school policies and activities
- Additional resources to be used to enhance student learning
- Parents with opportunities to be involved in their child's education.

Research has shown that parent involvement in a child's education makes a significant contribution to the child's success at school.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Association are to promote the interests, and facilitate the development and further improvement of the school.

Functions:

- (a) To foster general community interest in educational matters;
- (b) Encourage closer cooperation between the parents of students attending the school, other members of the community, staff and students of the school/centre;
- (c) To provide advice and recommendations to the Principal of the School on issues and concerns in respect of students and the general operation and management of the School;
- (d) To provide or assist in the provision of financial or other resources or services for the benefit of students of the School;
- (e) To perform any other functions as the Minister may determine, not inconsistent with the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

The Rules:

The Rules governing the P&C Association are set out in the Model Constitution, which the Association adopts and the Director General for Education approves. The provisions of the Constitution of a P&C Association are laid down in law in the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* and the *Education (General Provisions) Regulations 2006* and MUST be followed.

The Constitution details:

- The objectives and functions of the Association
- The general and financial powers and authority of the Association
- Proceedings and building funds
- Membership, eligibility, application, refusal, register, fees, resignation, removal of a member and honorary life membership

P&C Associations are sometimes confronted with a situation where a parent/caregiver has a concern about the treatment of their student in a school situation. Whether it be a simple case of personality clash, bullying in the school yard or even things as serious as assault by a teacher, if it is an individual (one on one) situation, the P&C should not become involved. It is most important that the reasoning for this is clearly explained to the person concerned, as it will

Overcome any misconceptions of a lack of support for their issue.

Knowing when the P&C should get involved is a difficult question to answer generically. A rule of thumb may be - where a significant number of students (whole school) or a specific section of the school community are involved – the P&C can decide by consensus to involve themselves in the resolution of the concern. An example of this may be, where a significant number of the disabled students are being disadvantaged due to a change in funding, for a particular project or program. This would be cause enough for the P&C to actively pursue a

Solution to the funding issue on behalf the students affected.

In individual cases the P&C can, in the best interests of the school community in General, offer advice on the process and procedure available to the parent concerned.

The following 5-step procedure may assist parents/carers, and school staff to reach an outcome that is in the best interests of the student.

1. Discuss your complaint with the class teacher.

2. Discuss your complaint with the principal or ask the principal to assist by participating in informal conflict resolution.

3. Contact District office.

Addresses and telephone numbers of district offices are listed under the heading Education Queensland in the White Pages of your local telephone directory and are also available through the "Schools directory" at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/directory

4. Complaint still not resolved.

Deputy Director-General Education Queensland. The Office of Education Queensland will seek to assist with the resolution of your complaint through referral

5. Independent review.

The Queensland Ombudsman provides an avenue for an independent review of the Department's decision.

A Role for Parents and Citizens' Associations (P&Cs)

It is understandable that parents/carers may sometimes feel overwhelmed when approaching a school or the department with a complaint. While the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizens' Associations Inc (QCPCA) does not advocate on behalf of individual parents or carers, individuals can request their own P&C to provide support in these circumstances. The P&C can in turn seek assistance from QCPCA to provide guidance in resolving the complaint.

Complaints about services that are run or managed by the P&C at your school, for example, after school care or the canteen, should be directed to the P&C in the first instance.

- *Excerpts from QCPCA website dated 20.11.2009, for complete document, see P & C Secretary.*

Thank you, Carmen Beames.