

Fact Sheet 1: What is a P&C Association?

A P&C Association is a school based organisation consisting of parents, teachers and citizens residing within the school drawing enrolment area.

The Education Act 1990 states that P&C Associations are established to:

- Promote the interest of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation;
- Assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school;
- Encourage parent and community participation in curriculum and other education issues in schools;
- Report, when requested by the Minister, on the material requirements of the school and advise on the subject of maintenance of the school, alterations and additions to school facilities and the selection of new sites;
- Assist and co-operate with teaching staff at public functions associated with the school
- Be responsible for the election of parent representatives to any school council constituted at the school in consultation with the principal of the school; and
- Assist in any other matters in which the Minister may seek the co-operation of the association.
- These objects and functions are included in the prescribed and standard constitutions for both incorporated and unincorporated associations.
- P&C Associations may adopt a set of by-laws which could include the following objectives:
 - To participate as much as possible in the activities of the school and communicate with all members of the school community;
 - To co-operate with the activities of the Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations of New South Wales and its district and regional councils, and
 - To do other things that may promote the interests of public education.

The Department of Education and Communities issued a statement 'The Partnership Between School and Established Parent Bodies' which outlines the proper place of parent organisations in school and places special emphasis on the P&C Association's role in providing "a forum in which parents can develop their partnership with the school and articulate their aspirations for their children's education."