

26 October 2012

Our Ref: 11-1410

Tim Watling
Committee Secretary
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Tim,

FEEDBACK: INQUIRY INTO TEACHING AND LEARNING - MAXIMISING AUSTRALIA'S INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS

P&Cs Qld welcome the opportunity to provide feedback to the inquiry into teaching and learning - maximising Australia's investment in schools and would like to provide the following submissions.

We wish to direct out submissions specifically on the influence of family members in supporting the rights of children to receive a quality education. P&Cs Qld is of the view that parents and families have essential resources they can contribute towards their children receiving quality education. Constant interaction and exchange of ideas and knowledge will lead to consultations, creating an atmosphere for development and improvement of education delivered in classrooms. The important difference between parent involvement and parent engagement is identified by research. Weiss, Lopez and Rosenberg (2010) assert that family engagement must be a **systemic, integrated** and **sustained** approach, not an add-on or a random act.

We wish to emphasise that family members can create an environment at home that reinforces and complements classroom experiences. This type of activity will lead to inquisitorial discussions at school highlighting the need for improvement in current programs. Parents can also be encouraged to participate in P&Cs to enhance and effectively contribute to develop the quality of education in their children's schools. "When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better" - Henderson & Berla, 1994.

As the peak parent body representing State School P&C Associations we wish to stress the importance of parent's engagement in children's education. Research confirms family engagement as essential for enhancing children's learning and family wellbeing. By equipping our schools, principals, teachers and parents in this best practice we can improve the educational landscape. This should include pre-service training in parent engagement for all teachers.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide feedback. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you
Yours faithfully,

Peter Levett
CEO
P&Cs Qld