



Parents want action on teaching quality as top priority in federal election

Media Statement Embargoed 12.01am Thursday 21 March 2019

The biggest education issue facing Australia is support for quality teachers and quality teaching and parents are urging the next federal government to make it their priority.

Teaching tops the Australian Parents Council five-point federal election statement sent to Coalition and Labor politicians, calling on them to take action to improve training, support and recognition for teachers and ensure teaching methods, materials and resources deliver the best outcomes for all Australian children.

“APC has developed a number of recommended priority issues we believe the next government needs to take action on. I have written to the Education Minister and Shadow Education Spokesperson asking them to commit to tackling them.” APC President Shelley Hill said.

APC believes that significant improvements can be made if action is taken on the following key issues:

1. Quality teaching and raising the status of the teaching profession
2. Fair and equitable funding based on need for every child, wherever parents choose to send children to school.
3. Resourcing and commensurate funding of initiatives and programs to improve the mental well-being of students.
4. Digital literacy, digital citizenship and equity of access to technology in schools
5. Positive measures to build strong partnerships between teachers, schools, parents, carers and community.

The full 2019 Federal Election Statement is on the [APC website](#).

“Our election priorities were heavily influenced by parents’ views and comments in our 2017 national survey. The number one issue was teacher quality, so this is the number one priority in our election statement. Parents value teachers and many called for more support and better recognition for the important work they do.

“We know that teachers are the biggest in school influence on children’s learning, and we really need to build their professional capacity, support and reward them better. We need to recruit and train the very best and we need to ensure that teachers are able and motivated to stay in the profession and develop their expertise throughout their careers.

“This is an investment in their future and the future of students. An investment in Australia’s future.

“This was a message we also made loud and clear in our Submission to the House of Representatives inquiry into the Status of the Teaching Profession in December,” added Shelley Hill.

The statement covers key areas of concern for parents.



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“Funding needs to be fair, transparent, but it is now time it was settled. The focus should move on to what is going on in schools and the education of children.

“Parents desperately want comprehensive and accessible help to address mental health issues. It is frightening to see how many young people are suffering and APC would like to see a national strategy introduced with the Federal, state and territory governments working together to address wellness in the curriculum, pastoral care of students, as well as better access to support services in school and the community. Many children are simply not going to be able to thrive at school otherwise,” said Shelley Hill.

“Teaching digital literacy and citizenship and equity of access to technology in schools is also hugely important to parents. The world is changing fast and parents struggle to keep up and afford to equip students with appropriate devices, software and online access. It’s a big extra financial burden that should attract tax concessions for families.”

APC also wants a focus on building stronger partnerships between teachers, schools, parents, carers and community.

“We’d like to see the role of parents properly recognised, including national guidelines for parent teacher communication and reporting, so that both sides know what is expected. Some teachers are reluctant to speak parents, and some parents don’t behave appropriately, but if we work together constructively and respectfully there are real benefits for everyone, most of all the students, and they are the point.”

“We’d rather see some positive measures to help build strong partnerships introduced rather than sit around listening to terrible stories about when things go badly wrong. We need to ask ‘what can we do to make the situation better?’” explained Shelley Hill.

APC is also developing a number of resources to help parents keep up to date with the 2019 federal election, including our new [Federal Electorate Mapping Tool](#), that allows you to search statistics and school details in each area.

Ends

Contact media@austparents.edu.au or 0410 149853 for more information or interviews

Read our full 2019 Federal Election Statement austparents.edu.au/news/2019-federal-election-statement/

Read our [media statement about the findings of our 2018 Parent Survey on Education](#)

Read our [Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training inquiry into the Status of the Teaching Profession December 2018](#)

See our [Federal Electorate Mapping Tool](#)

To find out more about APC please visit austparents.edu.au.