

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS (ACSSO)

The national voice of parents of children in Australia's public schools and their school communities

Parents applaud Minister's Working Party to advise on My School Website

ACSSO's national President, Peter Garrigan, congratulated Education Minister Gillard on the establishment of a Working Party to advise on how the My School website can be developed further to promote school improvement and enhance the educational performance of every student.

"The Working Party – which held its inaugural meeting in Sydney today – demonstrates the productive ways in which the expertise of representatives from all sectors of education can combine to assist in the achievement of Julia Gillard's commitment to Australia's families:

- *'To make sure that every student – in every community – can achieve their potential'*

"This is a resolve that every parent across the country will warmly endorse and support"

"Representation on the Working Party from the two national parents' organizations – ACSSO and the Australian Parents Council – demonstrates our Minister's understanding of the vitally important role of parents as the first and continuing educators of their children, from the very earliest years onward," Peter Garrigan said.

"Research shows that young people's personal development, learning potential and achievement are enhanced when parents and teachers establish productive partnerships based on shared understanding and commitment."

The Working Group (*) will ensure the website achieves its potential to fulfill the information needs of parents in important aspects of their children's progress – and will also provide information to principals and teachers to help shape the learning processes to the needs and capacities of every child.

"Through the collective wisdom and advice of the Working Group we can move the national debate forward," Peter Garrigan observed. "The aim is a depth, richness and detail about the education process that has never previously been assembled."

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(*) Working Party Membership:

- Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) – Chair
- Australian Education Union (AEU)
- Independent Education Union (IEU)
- Australian Primary Principals' Association (APPA)
- Australian Secondary Principals' Association (ASPA)
- Catholic Secondary Principals Australia (CaSPA)
- Australian Special Education Principals' Association (ASEPA)
- Australian Parents Council (APC)
- Australian Council of State School Associations (ACSSO)
- Selected specialists in fields of literacy & numeracy