

ACSSO: FROM THE FRONT

ACSSO President Jenny Branch

THREE LOVE

All the executive representatives of the two national parent organisations were there in the House of Representatives wing as Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard went to the microphone.

For many, this was the first time they would meet the Minister. Julia Gillard was going to bring us news about a particular decision. Whether or not the Government would fulfil its election promise to fund ACSSO and APC's proposal to establish and run a Family School and Community Partnership Bureau.

The Bureau would have one major role. To bring parents, schools and communities together so that education was a matter for both the suppliers and the consumers. The Bureau was our baby born out of three years of pilots, research and persuasion.

Even though the new Government had promised to sign the Kyoto environment treaty and it did, even though they had promised to say sorry to the stolen generation and they did, there was still the Bureau to go. Two down, now one more.

Would Julia Gillard "get it"? Would she understand that parents must be brought into the education of their children, that parent school partnerships are a cultural change that need to be assisted by research, promotion and training?

She "got it". \$800,000 over 4 years to run the Bureau. We described it as a momentous decision, APC President Caz Bosch said it had the potential to be the most significant cultural change in Australian schooling this century.

Kyoto, saying sorry, the Family Bureau....three love.