



ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

The parent voice on public education

Early Learning Parent Representative

Preschool and Kindy parents bring essential perspectives to the school parent association.

Early years parents are an important part of the school community and will often welcome opportunities to participate. They have unique needs to other parent cohorts and bring new perspectives and suggestions.

We've included tips and recommendations to help P&Cs to consider and promote early years parent engagement.

1.

Welcome & invite parents and carers

Consider the existing opportunities to invite new school parents and carers to participate. Where are the existing connection points with new parents and carers? Is it the uniform shop, orientation, or the canteen? Could this be a place for distributing a welcome message and invitation?

When families feel seen, valued, and connected in the early years of school, they are more likely to participate in the school community.

Research shows, when parents are engaged at school, there are benefits for young learners including wellbeing and learning outcomes. From making friends, to talking with the teacher, parents with an opportunity to interact at school can have a valuable impact for children:

Decades of research has shown that when parents engage in their child's learning, both at home and at school, student achievement and wellbeing are increased. (Hattie, 2023; Kim, 2022; Sengonul, 2022; T. E. Smith et al., 2020)

Primary P&Cs are encouraged to allocate a position specifically for preschool and early years parents. Many P&C associations have an 'early learning parent representative' role (ELPR) or 'class cohort carer' included on their committees.

Recruiting an ELPR to your P&C

Here's a simplified process to get started with your ELPR. Council will send further resources when the ELPR is elected and registered with Council's [office bearer form](#).

1. You've already downloaded the ELPR Guide – now **define** your P&Cs ELPR role (use this doc as a template) – ask the P&C committee to include the role in their bylaws, don't worry if role is vacant initially, it still sends a message to parents
2. **Promote** the role (see our [Facebook tile](#)) in the school newsletter and other channels, and seek nominations at P&C committee meetings prior to the AGM,
3. **Elect** an ELPR at the next P&C AGM

What ELPRs do

Early learning parent representatives

ELPRs facilitate the early learning parent voice and perspective and report to P&C committee meetings in order to (add one or more of your constitutions objects here).

The EL parent representative might do some of the following:

- Share information, key dates or calendars with EL parents and the P&C,
- Attend and report to school P&C meetings,
- Consider how the EL parent perspective might impact P&C event organisation,
- Conduct polls and invite participation,
- Apply for EL grant funding,
- Organise specific P&C events ie EL playdates.

RESOURCES for your P&Cs EL role

[EL Resources & Content Planner](#)

Facebook [Leaders Group](#) – this group is for sharing and seeking expertise across all ACT parent associations. Join up and give it a try - search by topic or ask the group directly.

Opportunities for grants and suggestions/support for applying are also available ie Children's Week