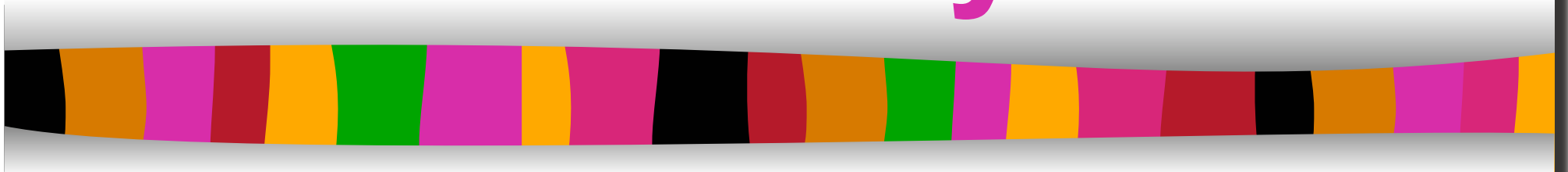


Canberra Preschool Society



**Orientation 2010 –
All About Your CPS**



What is the CPS?

The **Canberra Preschool Society** is

- the peak body of **Preschool Parents Associations** *and*
- an organisation which promotes knowledge of, and interest in, preschool education,
through the volunteer efforts of its members and delegates, and the Council elected from them.



Peak body for PPAs

- There are over 75 preschool units in ACT Government schools, which offer *free* part-time play-based education for children in the year before they start school.
- Most of these preschool units are supported by a **Preschool Parents Association**, an independent incorporated body of the parents of this year's enrolled children.

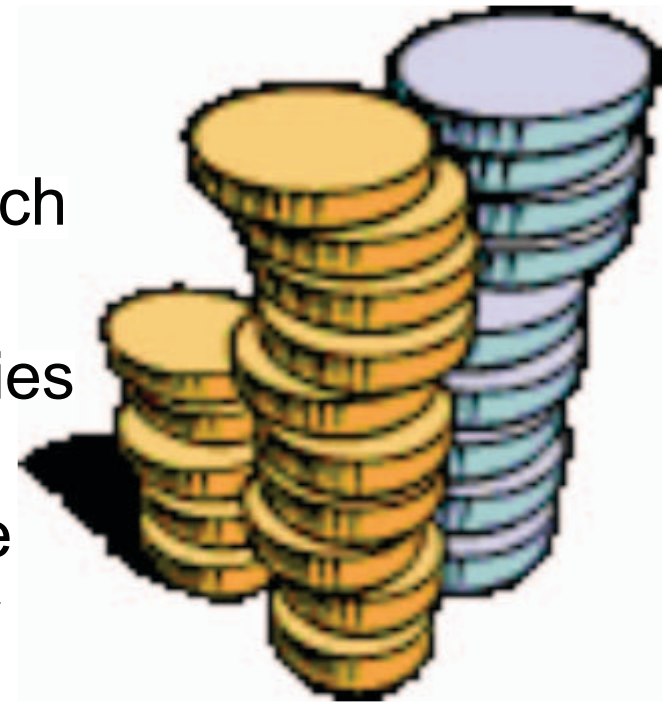


Peak body for PPAs

- A PPA is controlled only by its members, has ownership of assets and money acquired through years of fundraising efforts, and has an ongoing partnership with the school to support the preschool program
- (In schools where there is no PPA, any fundraising for the preschool will be done by the P&C as part of its role across the whole school)

Preschools need funding

- State governments provide infrastructure
- NSW, VIC - parents pay as much as \$44 per *session*.
- ACT & other states and territories – parents' voluntary donations and fundraising drives raise the extra money needed for quality resources.
- In the ACT – PPAs own the resources purchased from fundraising. (P&Cs gift everything to the school).



Sourced from:

nswpreschools.org &
Canberra Preschool Society



A Partnership

- The Canberra Nursery Kindergarten Society was formed in 1943. A contract with the government was agreed under which a local community group could raise the start-up funding needed and then apply for a preschool in their suburb – **no preschool without a Preschool Parents Association.**
- (This procedure held until Harrison was opened in 2008 as a new P-6 school without a PPA)



A Partnership

- In 2006, as part of the Towards 2020 education reforms, 22 preschools were slated for closure. The Canberra Preschool Society successfully fought for, and saved, most of these preschools as the original contractual agreement (from 1943) was still in effect.
- The CPS also scored for its affiliated PPAs a win on the costs of cleaning and consumables in preschools – these costs are now carried by the schools.



A Partnership

- Preschool Parents Associations – whose members are *all the parents* of the preschoolers – have a unique insight and focus on the needs of the preschool, and the issues faced by the children and teachers.
- An open dialogue with the Principal and with the P&C of the school is vital to a successful partnership.
- The CPS is the link between the local PPAs and other stakeholders outside the school – the Department, the ACT P&C, teachers' groups, Early Childhood Australia, and so on.



PPAs, the P&C and the school

- If your child is in preschool, then you are a member of both the PPA and the P&C, and you may stand for the School Board.
- The school each year asks for Voluntary Contributions from the parents – note that term **voluntary**.
- The PPA is separately constituted. It has complete power over its own finances and can raise its own money without asking permission of the school.
- The PPA is controlled only by its members, not by the teachers or Principal. Be certain that you have all your documents, records and assets.



PPAs, the P&C and the school

- Each year more and more school Principals are agitating for closure of PPAs. Whether or not a PPA does close down is the decision of its members only, and must be done according to its own Constitution and the requirements of the law.
- In particular, the assets of a PPA which closes must be vested in an similar organisation – not gifted to the school directly and not gifted to any commercial operation (such as a day care).



So what is the CPS again?

- The CPS is the peak body of Preschool Parents Associations, and an organisation which advances knowledge and interest in preschool education across the Territory.
- This is achieved by combining the local knowledge, experience and concerns of our members, and taking this upwards to the “powers that be”.



The CPS members are -

- Group Members, being all of the Preschool Parents Associations, each of whom may send a delegate to CPS meetings
- Associate Members, which are other types of organisations who share an interest in the CPS and its objectives
- Individual Members, who have a personal interest in assisting the CPS
- Life Members, who have rendered long and valuable service to the CPS



The CPS operates by -

- General Meetings of all the members, to discuss current issues and bring forward ideas and concerns (held monthly during school terms)
- Policy and program management by an elected Council (the “committee” of the CPS)
- Leadership and action by the Executive – headed by the President
- Community and members’ support through the CPS Office



CPS Executive and Council

- **President** of the Society, to be the spokesperson and representative of the Society, and to preside over meetings of the Executive and the Council and the General Meetings of the Society.
- **Vice-President**, to assist and to deputise at need for the President and to assist and advise on the conduct and procedure of the Executive and Council.
- **Secretary**, to maintain the records of the Society including the minutes of meetings of the Executive and the Council and the General Meetings of the Society.
- **Treasurer**, to manage, maintain the records of, and prepare reports on, the financial affairs of the Society



CPS Executive and Council

- The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, along with the Immediate Past President (if they choose)
- Eight (8) other Councillors (“General Councillors”) to assist the Executive in the management and decision-making
- Council meets monthly, and deals with some business through email
- Council decisions are reported back to the members at General Meetings



2010 CPS Strategic Directions

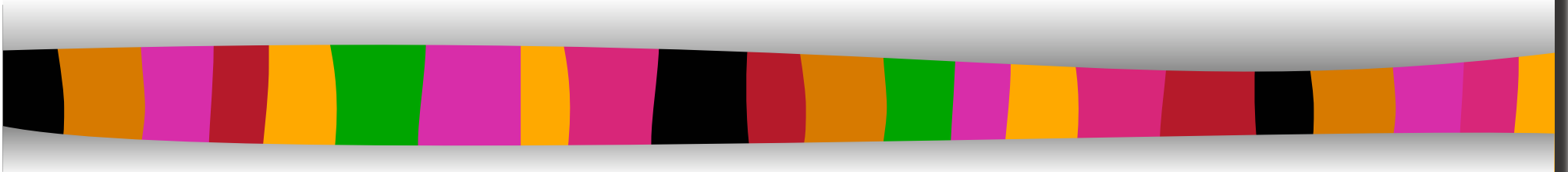
- The Council, with the input and support of its members, aims to -
 - Raise the CPS profile
 - Assist its affiliated PPAs to preserve and enhance their roles in their schools
 - Improve communication with community and government stakeholders
 - Promote a positive presence within the primary school community
 - Broaden and empower the membership



More Information?

- Our website – canberrapreschools.org – is rich with current and historic information, archived documents, and resources for PPAs and members.
- The calendar of meetings is on the website
- Become involved! Stand for election at the AGM, and help move the CPS forward as a member of the Council or as an executive office-holder.

Thank you!



*Let's have a great year
together!*