

## **Delegate report – October 2014**

### **School Traffic survey**

I will provide a verbal update on the results of the ACT Council's school traffic survey as this is only available on limited distribution and not for media release.

Council will recommend ETD establish a Ministerial taskforce.

Council will include in its ACT Budget submission a proposal for \$500,000 be allocated for detailed research into school traffic issues and will seek funding for the renewal of the Walking Bus program.

### **Possible reduction in preschool hours if there is an end to the federal funding.**

Council is seeking more information on this issue. At this stage, funding will continue until end of 2015.

### **Teacher librarians in ACT schools**

Council will encourage the ETD and the Minister to adopt a policy that all ACT schools must have a qualified (or under training) teacher librarian. Additional funding will be in their Budget submission.

### **Benefits of Homework for Primary students**

The recent Victorian report on homework in schools has sparked this debate again. Council will get an ETD speaker to attend the AGM on 25 November to speak on ETC homework policy.

The Victorian report includes 12 key findings, including:

- the positive benefits of homework in developing both academic and life skills, but also the potential for homework to reduce the amount of time available to pursue other important activities and interests.
- the importance of age and stage in the effectiveness of homework, with evidence suggesting homework has some academic benefits for high school students but almost none in primary school.

More information at <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc/article/2186>

### **Impact of VET training following increases to university fees**

There is general concern about this issue in the community and by Council members.

### **Council Budget submission**

If anyone has ideas for Council budget submission, please let me know asap.

Current ideas include: \$2million for converting college and high school canteens to cafe standard facilities and \$250,000 for a high profile education campaign in colleges and high schools to convince students of the benefits of non-sugary drinks.