

FACT SHEET 6: ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL WITHIN THE P&C ASSOCIATION

The Principal is an *ex officio* member of the P&C Association. That is, the Principal is automatically a member of the P&C Association because they are the school's Principal.

The Principal is not required to pay a membership fee to the P&C Association.

The rights of the Principal in the P&C Association are the same as for any other member. The Principal is entitled to vote and to move and second motions at a meeting and engage in debate. The exception to this is where the Principal is recognised as the Returning Officer at the P&C Association's Annual General Meeting.

As an *ex-officio* member the Principal cannot stand for election to an office bearer position. Consequently, this is why the Principal is often invited to act as an association's Returning Officer.

The Principal has no power of veto over a P&C Association, the Principal cannot allow or disallow any discussion or decision made by the association.

The Principal's role in a P&C meeting is to table a written report to each meeting, respond to questions arising and offer advice on the Department of Education & Communities guidelines. Where a Principal is not able to attend a meeting of the P&C Association it is suitable to have a Principal's representative from the Staff attend on their behalf.

The Principal cannot be a signatory to a P&C bank account.

The Principal is also an *ex officio* member of the P&C Executive and **all** P&C sub-committees.

The role of the Principal is addressed in the Department of Education and Communities February 1998 Memorandum to Principals, *Partnership Between Schools and Established Parent Bodies*.