

The Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau Quarterly Newsletter

April 2014



Message from the Bureau team:

Welcome to our newsletter, we hope everyone is having a productive year. The Bureau has undergone some changes over the past few months and with those changes we welcome new team members, Margaret Hunter: project officer 2 Year Longitudinal Study, Donna Sirmais: project officer Framework refinement and Communications and Monique Brombal: Administration. Our enthusiastic staff look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Parent Engagement Definition:

After extensive consultation ACSSO (Australian Council of State Schools organisation) and Australian Parents Council (APC) through the Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau have agreed to the following National Parental Engagement definition.

In the schooling context:

Parental engagement is an intentional and collaborative strategy to support and leverage the knowledge, capacities and social capital of families to improve learning and well-being outcomes for all children and young people.

FAMILY-SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS BUREAU WEBSITE

You may have already noticed some of the changes that have been made to the Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau webpage.

The focus for the web page is to be user friendly regardless of experience and knowledge of family-school & community partnerships. We have also moved the webpage to a one stop shop. One of the major changes you will see is the new tab

These have now been labelled

Who we are

What we do

How to tools

Why we partner

The **Who we are** tab gives an overview of the Bureau and contact details, the **What we do** contains information about the Bureau's current Projects, Research and Events, the **How to tools** tab is the home for the current Family School Partnerships framework document and the Strengthening Family and Community Engagement in student learning resource. **Why we partner** discusses what family school and community partnerships are along with the 7 key dimensions, principles and supporting structure.

Use the QR code to access the website or go to

www.familyschool.org.au



TAKE A LOOK AT OUR NEW QR CODE FOR OUR WEBSITE

We have developed a QR code for faster and more convenient access to the Bureau's website. Just scan and go.



FREE scanner apps are available at
Android

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=appinventor.ai_progetto2003.SCAN&hl=en

iPhone/iPad

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/quick-scan-qr-code-reader/id483336864?mt=8>



Videos of the month

We have been busy adding a range of short videos to our website to our website. The most recent is Anne Henderson discussing the need to go beyond the bake sales to engage families.

<http://www.familyschool.org.au/index.php?cID=517>

FAMILY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS BUREAU 2014 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Rydges on Swanston

Melbourne

8th & 9th September

In 2012 the Family-School & Community Partnership Bureau hosted the **Engaging Parents and Families in Learning and School National Symposium** in Canberra. The Symposium brought together educators, parents and researchers from Australia and abroad to explore and progress parent/family engagement theory and practice.

The Symposium highlighted significant research findings and directions, together with evolving and innovative practice, and allowed centrally important and diverse stakeholders to interact with and learn from each other.

Again in 2014 we will be bringing together International and National presenters with Parents, Educators and Researchers to highlight innovative theory and practices aimed at progressing family- school and community partnerships over 2 massive days.

Take a look at our short video for more information @ [National Symposium Video](#)

To keep updated and register your interest in attending the Symposium go to [2014 National Symposium](#)



Coming soon!

The announcement of our Guest Speakers



Like us on Facebook



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Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau

Everyday our Facebook is uploaded with lots of great information and links. More and more people like our page every day, however we would like your assistance to spread the word even further. Please invite your friends to like our page also.

2 YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT ON IMPROVED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau is conducting a study to identify and validate indicators and measures for evaluating and monitoring the success of parental engagement activity within schools and across regions and jurisdictions.

The *2 year longitudinal study on the impact of parental engagement on improved student learning outcomes* will build on previous work commissioned through the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) that continues to demonstrate the relationship between parental engagement and improved student learning outcomes and has sourced the expertise of a selection of schools and community groups across the Nation to take part in the study as identified by the Bureau Research Advisory Group.

The intended purpose for the findings of such a study is to use the results to improve learning opportunities and outcomes for students by informing the development and refinement of parental engagement resources and the framework, to better serve the needs of teachers, students, parents, communities, and school leaders in the area of parental engagement. The schools and organisations participating include: Coodanup Community College, Western Australia, Glenroy College, Victoria, Killester College, Victoria, Sackville Street PS, New South Wales, Holy Cross College, New South Wales, Maningrida College, Northern Territory, 100 Story Building, Victoria

We look forward to working with these organisations

Margaret Hunter Project Officer

FRAMEWORK REFINEMENT PROJECT

The Family-School Partnerships Framework has been available for use in schools for 5 years and has never had a comprehensive evaluation or update. In light of Education reforms, it is timely that the Bureau ensures that the Framework maintains currency, relevance and is easily accessible and familiar to schools families and community organisations. The project consists of gathering the opinions of Educators, parents and community members on how we can better the framework; improve schools, families and communities knowledge of the existence of the framework; and make the framework more accessible to schools, families and communities. Consultations have commenced and are continuing into the near future with some great ideas being gathered.

Focus group participants include the Public and Independent Sector affiliates and networks, Partnership Brokers and Individual unaffiliated schools and families, consultations are also in the initial stages with affiliates of the Catholic Education sector. The States represented are Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. The Bureau would like to acknowledge the dedicated work that participating organisations have conducted in preparation for these groups; your support has been invaluable. If you would like to know how you can become involved in the Framework refinement project please email the Framework refinement project officer Donna Sirmais framework@familyschool.org.au

Reflections from the focus groups

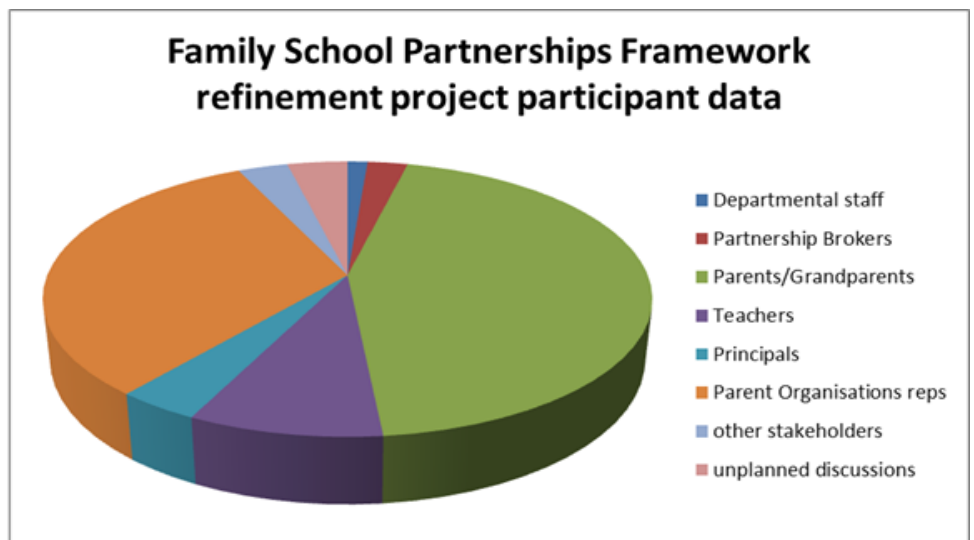
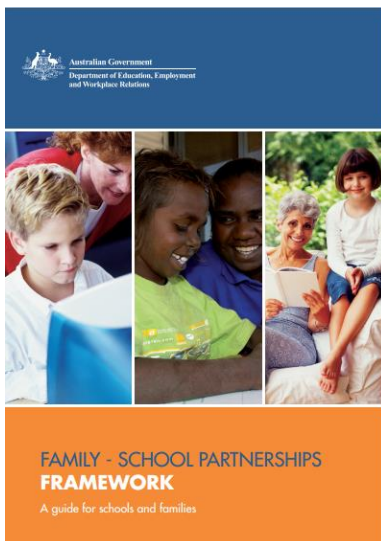
“We loved that we were able to have the opportunity to contribute to such a worthwhile project”.

“It would be great to see a living document that is reflective of Family, schools’ and community needs”.

“We would love to see short videos of what other schools and communities have done that were successful”.

“We would like the framework to be more visual”.

Donna Sirmais Project Officer



ROUNDTABLE

The Two Day National Parental Engagement Roundtable was held on 16-17 September 2013 in, Canberra.

The Project brought together 40 participants with representatives from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) representatives from jurisdictions including seven school teams throughout Australia which included the Principal or nominated representative, teacher and parent representative nominated by the Bureau Research Advisory Group.

The primary goal of the roundtable was to provide a national perspective to inform and support the direction of the development of parental engagement resources, refinement of the framework, including the identification of existing resources for parental engagement which will be added to the existing list of resources on the Bureau website. Read the full report @ [Roundtable report](#)

Margaret Hunter Project Officer