



Grievance, Complaints & Disputes Procedures

The Connells Point Public School P&C Association is committed to providing an environment where all P&C Association members, volunteers to the P&C Association, employees of the P&C Association, staff of Department of Education and students enrolled at Connells Point Public School concerns are dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

A grievance or complaint may be received by the P&C Association in relation to a fellow member, volunteer or P&C Association employee. Where a complaint relates to a Department of Education employee or student the complaint should be lodged directly to the Principal in accordance with the policies of the Department of Education.

A grievance is a complaint about any situation, which is considered by the complainant to be wrong, mistaken, unjust or discriminatory.

Principles:

- Complainants should not instigate grievances that are frivolous, vexatious or malicious.
- Grievances and information arising from the handling of the grievance must be treated confidentially.
- Concerns should be raised as early as possible after the incident relating to the complaint has occurred.
- The principles of natural justice will be observed throughout. This means before a decision is made the person who has been implicated has the right to be informed about the nature of the grievance, have the right to be heard by an unbiased decision maker and have the right to have a witness present.

Procedures:

- Complainants should endeavour to resolve the issue themselves with the relevant parties' face to face.
- If the grievance cannot be resolved informally, the complainant should provide written details of their concerns and the grounds for the grievance.
- The *President* is responsible for forming a *grievance panel* in relation to any grievances received and this panel should consist of people with the skills to make

an unbiased conclusion and recommendation as required to the President. The panel should be a minimum of three people.

- Where the complaint is about the P&C Association President it may be raised in writing with the NSW P&C Federation along with a copy of these procedures and all relevant policies or with any relevant government agency or may seek legal advice at their own cost.

The panel handling the complaint as described in these procedures will initiate an informal meeting with the complainant to discuss the grievance and may request further information which the complainant must provide.

The complainant may have an independent witness attend any meetings.

The panel handling the complaint as described in these procedures will provide written acknowledgement of the grievance being lodged within 7 days of receiving the grievance. If the matter pertains to another P&C Association employee, member or volunteer that person will also be informed, in writing, within 7 days of the grievance being lodged. The person against whom the complaint is made will be notified in writing of the accusations against them.

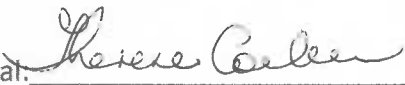
Grievances are to be resolved no later than six weeks after the complaint is lodged.

The outcomes of a formal grievance process may include (but not limited to): recommendation to amend policies, recommendation to alter practices, agreement by parties regarding interactions, access to training and development or disciplinary action including a restriction of membership as per the Code of Conduct or formal employment review as allowed in employment agreements and as permitted by the relevant Employment Award.

Where a person disagrees with an outcome of a complaint they may lodge an appeal or further grievance with any relevant government agency or to P&C Federation where the matters involve volunteers.

This grievance, complaints and disputes procedures policy is as adopted by the Connells Point Public School P&C Association general meeting on 20 June 2017.

Signed President:  Name: Albert Pastura

Witnessed Principal:  Name: Therese Corben