



Backgrounder on APFACTS

The Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools Inc (APFACTS) established in 1982 is a peak body representing parents and carers of students attending ACT non-government schools.

APFACTS is a non-denominational and a-political organisation which advances the interests of its members through engagement with parents, government and key stakeholder groups. It represents and provides a collective voice on education issues locally and nationally to nearly 40% of parents of school aged children in the ACT.

APFACTS provides a voice for parents and carers with children in non-government schools by:

- contributing to shaping educational policy and practice through strong representation on a wide range of boards, education forums and committees
- identifying and acting on emerging issues on behalf of its members
- being a strong conduit by informing parents of issues in the sector and informing decision-makers of parents views
- lobbying and raising the profile of issues with stakeholders, political and government representatives
- conducting media campaigns and information seminars for parents
- promoting and supporting parental involvement and engagement in education

APFACTS Youth Transitions Workshops

APFACTS is proud to present a series of workshops featuring education specialist Angie Wilcock in November. The workshops targeted at ALL parents of children in years 9-12 provide an opportunity for parents to learn some hand-on tips and techniques to assist their children through high school and beyond.

The assistance for young people with transitions is becoming a recognised need for students, parents and governments alike. The successful passage and transition of students through school enables them to be successful through high school and into the workforce or higher education. Higher awareness by parents and greater parental involvement with children through this phase enables better schooling outcomes for students.

The APFACTS Youth Transitions workshops are provided with assistance from the Australian and ACT Governments under the ACT Youth Attainment and Transitions Strategic Funding Pool.

For more information on APFACTS and the APFACTS Youth Transition workshops, please visit www.apfacts.org.au



APFACTS Youth Transitions Workshops – Parents making a real difference

As a parent of a teen it can be a challenging time. Traditionally a stage filled with a number of physical, cognitive, social and emotional changes, this is a time when teen brain development is massive and swings in behavior and moods can be confusing for both parents and adolescents.

So, what can parents DO?

According to Education expert Angie Wilcock *“We need to be ‘clever’; we need to be intuitive; we need to be innovative; we need to be PARENTS! Don’t give your adolescent the chance to shut you out – ask the right question, in the right way, at the right time, you may be pleasantly surprised how much information will spill out of your teenager if you are prepared to ‘share’. Teamwork is vital to effective communication with adolescents, particularly as they experience the uncertainties of transition. “*

Alongside these changes our young people are thrust into arguably the most important part of their education where results count and future directions are mapped. These same young people are struggling to balance their school work with all of life’s ‘other’ demands such as friends, part-time jobs, social networking, computer games, extra-curricular activities and the list goes on.

Angie explains *“One of the secrets to surviving stress and coping with the increasing demands of school is to understand the importance of balance. Striking that balance between work and play is a life skill – not just a skill for school. “*

During this time, many parents suddenly find themselves feeling more like ‘onlookers’ rather than ‘participants’ in their child’s education.

“Today’s kids experience new social networks, new educational expectations, different teachers and teaching methods, increased responsibilities - these are not necessarily negatives, but they are changes, and adjustments need to be made. We can make a powerful and positive impact on our kids coping skills by offering support rather than frustration!” says Angie Wilcock.

Angie often asks large groups of parents, through her workshops “Why is it that once our kids reach secondary school, we lose our confidence and much of our involvement?” The responses are nearly always the same: “Because our kids tell us they don’t want us around”; “Because we want our kids to grow up and think for themselves” and “Because we feel comfortable in primary, but secondary school is SO different now!”

Research demonstrates that as children progress through school parent engagement declines dramatically (Rowe 1991 and Zill & Lord, 1994). Parent involvement in children’s education in general and in the home, may be sustained throughout all levels of education (Henderson and Mapp 2002). In fact, it is agreed that increased parental engagement through these years can lead to successful outcomes in high school and beyond (Jeynes, 2005).

Director of the Australian Parents Council, Ian Dalton stresses the importance of parental engagement in children’s lives *“We are all living extraordinarily busy lives; our children are facing ever-growing challenges. This is a time that parents need to be involved with their children and as a society we need to support parents’ capacity to positively influence students’ progress through their school years. We know from decades of research that when families are engaged in their children’s education, children have a greater chance of success. “*

To arrange media interviews, please call Charuni Weerasooriya on 0416 094 172

President of APFACTS, George Gamrelidze is enthusiastic about the APFACTS Youth Transition Workshops as an avenue for parents to get actively engaged with their children’s schooling “One of the aims of APFACTS is to help support parents. We know that academic learning and social development improves when schools, families and community work together – these workshops help to do just that. The APFACTS Youth Transition workshops are targeted at all parents in the ACT with children in years 9-12. It provides an opportunity for parents to learn practical tips and techniques to help their children at this critical time – through high school and beyond.”

More information on the APFACTS Youth Transitions Workshops:

Angie Wilcock, respected education advisor and published author on Youth Transitions will equip parents with the practical skills that their children need for success in high school and beyond. Parents will experience hands-on activities in time management, organisation, goal setting, learning styles, life balance and getting a job.

Six workshops across Canberra will commence November 7, places are limited, parents are encouraged to book online early to avoid disappointment.

The APFACTS Youth Transitions workshops are provided with assistance from the Australian and ACT Governments under the ACT Youth Attainment and Transitions Strategic Funding Pool.

For more information on APFACTS Youth Transitions workshops and bookings, visit www.apfacts.org.au/site/events or contact 02 6287 3538.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS – PARENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Incorporates life balance, organisation skills, time management, goal setting & learning styles

Monday 7 November at 6-8pm - Conference Room One, Gungahlin Library, Gungahlin

Tuesday 8 November at 6-8pm - McCowage Hall, Daramalan College, Dickson

Wednesday 9 November 6-8pm - The Hall, Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching & Learning, Stirling

THE T.O.P.S. PROGRAM – SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND

Incorporates organisation skills, time management, prioritisation, cvs, cover letters & interview.

Monday 14 November at 6-8pm - TB Millar Hall, Radford College, Bruce

Tuesday 15 November at 6-8pm - The Chapel, Burgmann Anglican School, Gungahlin

Wednesday 16 November 6-8pm - The Hall, Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching & Learning, Stirling

For more information on APFACTS, and the APFACTS Youth Transitions workshops, visit www.apfacts.org.au or contact 02 6287 3538.

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES - APFACTS Youth Transition Workshops, Nov 2011.

Angie Wilcock – High Hopes Education Services



Angie Wilcock is a highly regarded Australian expert and speaker on transitions in education. She has appeared on 'Mornings with Kerrie-Anne', and worked with experts such as Dr Michael Carr-Gregg and Dr Andrew Fuller on the 'Generation Next' team. She is a published author with a strong background in teaching. Angie is an online advisor on parenting issues in education on the U.S website All Experts.com, as well as being a mum of two sons.

Angie works with teachers, parents and students across Australia. Her sessions are a mix of humour, anecdotes, information and real-life parenting...but above all, strategies to support families during critical phases of education and personal development.

Ian Dalton – Australian Parents Council



Ian Dalton has been Executive Director of the Australian Parents Council (APC) since 2005. Ian is also the director of the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau, a member of the Tasmanian Schools Registration Board, a member of the Advisory Board of the Asia Education Foundation and Patron of the National Independent Special Schools Association. Through his role with APC he serves on a number of national schooling advisory groups and working parties.

Ian's background and clinical experience in the field of social work has led to a rich understanding of student and parent issues, this brings great depth to his work with the APC.

Ian and his wife Glynis have five children and eight grandchildren.

George Gamkrelidze – APFACTS



George Gamkrelidze is the President of the Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools (APFACTS) and is also a member of the National Executive of the Australian Parents Council.

George has been an active member of APFACTS for nearly a decade; he maintains a strong interest in education issues and has played an active role in parent and school representative bodies.

George is the Principal of a management consultancy company located in Canberra and was recently appointed to the Faculty Advisory Council for the Education Faculty of the University of Canberra.