

**Parents & Schools Working Together 2019-2020** is a teacher professional development program designed to develop teachers' knowledge and skills in working effectively with parents of the children that they teach. The program was developed in a collaboration between the NSW Parents' Council, the Council of Catholic Schools Parents, the NSW Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations, and researchers from the Australian Catholic University. The program content:

- Introduces teachers to the concept of parent engagement in policy and practice
- Reviews key issues and themes from the research evidence and discusses their relevance to teachers
- Analyses case study examples from recent research and invites teachers to reflect on their own experiences
- Provides practical strategies that teachers can use to improve their success in working with parents
- Contributes to better understandings of issues faced by parents
- Builds communication and conflict resolution skills

Program materials are based on a broad evidence base from Australian and international research, and are designed for new and experienced educators who are interested in working collaboratively with parents in order to improve the learning outcomes and school experiences of Australian school children. The program presents the perspectives of parents, and invites educators to consider these perspectives in relation to their own experiences, professional relationships with parents, and school environments.

The program is designed around 5 modules that can be delivered in different combinations depending on client requirements. Each module provides a summary of themes and findings from recent, relevant research, pre-reading, activities, aids and resources.

## Parents and Schools Working Together - the modules

The **professional development modules are accredited for 5 hours each** and are delivered online with interactive discussions, a live web conference for each module, (which is recorded so participants can access it again if required), downloadable resources and a reflective journal.

The modules, each **100\$ excl gst or 450\$ excl gst for 5 modules**, are:

1. Understanding Parent Engagement
2. Communication
3. Home-School Conflict
4. Transitions
5. Creating a Welcoming School

At the end of Module 1: Understanding Parent Engagement, participants will:

- Understand the meaning and importance of parent engagement
- Be familiar with the place of parent engagement in the Australian policy context
- Understand the work of parent organisations
- Be familiar with key themes from the research literature
- Recognise and appreciate the importance of parent perspectives to the work of educators

At the end of Module 2: Communication, participants will:

- Understand the importance of home-school communication to fostering parent engagement
- Be familiar with a range of approaches to home-school communication
- Be familiar with key themes from the research literature
- Identify key elements of effective communication policy and practice
- Develop effective home-school communication strategies that they can implement.

At the end of Module 3: Home-School Conflict, participants will:

- Understand the importance of fostering parent engagement by preventing, minimising and managing conflict
- Be familiar with key themes from the research literature
- Recognise factors that may contribute to conflict between home and school
- Describe useful strategies for preventing, minimising, managing and resolving conflict with parents.
- Develop skills designed to build informative, congenial and mutually respectful communication with parents.

Parents & Schools Working Together - 2020 VPC Training Opportunity

Contact [VPC](#) for discount codes

**individual membership/ educators: 10% discount per module, 20% discount for all 5 modules**

**School partners, 5 teachers from 1 school sign up, a 6th teacher can join free of charge**