Parents Victoria Online Conference 2014-2015 (Part 2)
Monday 18 May to Thursday 21 May 2015

Register for this event, at no cost, at: http://www.straighttothepoint.co/pv/register/.

PARENTS from all Australian states and territories, and from countries beyond Australia, are warmly invited to participate in the second half of the Parents Victoria Online Conference 2014-2015. The conference will be held entirely on the internet and there is no cost for participation.

Conference program

Six topics, with associated message boards, will run for four days:

ACCESS TO EDUCATION. What has been the greatest impact on your family getting your children back to school this year? Possible examples: cost of uniforms, BYOD, no EMA, location of school, moving schools.

PARENT CLUBS. Is there still a role for parent clubs/associations in schools? Does your school have a club? If not how is the parent voice heard? How can schools encourage parents to get involved? How can we ensure that parent groups are representative of the school community?

SOCIAL MEDIA. We often hear only the negative side of social media use, what are the positives? How is social media being used in your school? Do the students use it? Does your parent group have a Facebook page? Jump on board and leave your thoughts about the use of social media in the school environment.

ONLINE REPORTING. Many schools are moving to online reporting. What do you think about this change? How do you receive your child’s report? Do school reports provide you with the information you want and need to monitor your child’s progress at school? What could be improved?
FUNDING EDUCATION. What should the Government pay for? What, when and how should assistance be provided for disadvantaged students?

ADDITIONAL OPEN FORUM & CAREER & PATHWAYS GUIDANCE. An extra discussion message board has been provided to give you an opportunity to raise other education issues you believe are also important. If you choose to start a new thread, please add an appropriate subject heading so other participants can follow the discussion. For those of you who wish to express an opinion on Careers & Pathways Guidance, which has emerged as an area of concern, the following questions might be considered: Are our children being given enough advice and guidance about their possible careers and the pathways that lead to these careers? What more could schools do to assist students eventually realise their full potential in the employment market?

Note: There is no need to re-register if you already registered to take part in the October 2014 section of the online conference.

To view the first half of the online conference (from October 2014), please log on to:
http://www.straighttothepoint.co/pv/conf14-15/program/
* You may need to ‘cut and paste’ this website address into a browser.

The conference will run continuously, with message boards open from 6am to 11pm, for four days, until 11pm on Thursday 21 May. The online conference will feature six moderated online discussions, each of them hosted, at different times, by a member of Parents Victoria and/or special guests from the Department of Education and Training (DET) and different associations. Messages posted between 11pm and 6am may not appear until the following day.

I look forward to meeting all of you online soon, to discuss these important issues. The more of you join in and make a comment, the more successful this event will be.

Best wishes,
Debra J. Crouch
Online Conference Manager
E: debrajocrouch@gmail.com

Conference protocol

* Please note: In the interests of courtesy and privacy, the name of your child, your child’s school, and names of school staff (or identifying details) should not be entered on to the message boards. Please refer to your own context as ‘My child’s school’, ‘My local area’, ‘My child’s teacher’, and so on. Please email Parents Victoria at: office@parentsvictoria.asn.au should you wish to discuss private, parent-related issues in more detail.

* Debra J. Crouch, from VIVID Word and Image Design provides overall project management, design and creative management, and editorial management for annual online conferences held by Parents Victoria.

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