

Transition Workshop

Whilst the group Kerry Parker facilitated at the Parent Forum was intended to discuss transition the group spent little time on this topic, however the following is a summary of what the group discussed.

1. Service providers in schools – the parents were keen for service providers to be able to provide a service in schools as it is efficient for families and the service providers. I provided a brief explanation of the considerations a principal needs to deliberate when determining whether a service provider can provide a service in their school. I also explained that the current policy was under review.
2. Exemptions/home education – 2 of the parents had home educated their children as the education system did not meet their child's needs. Both students have now returned to school. The parents wanted to have greater flexibility in their child's education; wanting their children to be able to attend school at agreed times and home educated for the remaining time. I explained that it is always the goal for all children to be attending full-time school every day; however the exemption process is available when this is in the best interest of the child.
3. Teacher and SSO knowledge and skills related to children with disability and learning difficulties – there was agreement that the quality of staff is the most important aspect to education. If the teacher requires support, there needs to be personnel readily available who are able to assist.
4. Parent voice is respected – parents felt there were times when their views were not listened to or respected.
5. Process for parent enquiries/support – the need for a process or a person that parents can seek advice and support.
6. Inclusive schools identified and become resources for other schools to model their practices.
7. Transition from year 7 to 8 and school to post school is a worrying time for students and their families – discussed some strategies to assist this process.