



## Parent Forum 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Summary Report

Cheryl Bauer, The Chief of Staff of the Office of the Minister for Education opened the July forum and reiterated the Minister's vision for our education system to be the best in the country. Cheryl highlighted some key directions including parent engagement, initiatives for supporting literacy, numeracy and dyslexia. Questions were taken from the floor with a commitment to follow them up. As one parent wrote *"Enjoyed the succinct, current clear presentation by Cheryl Bauer and her promise to take a complaint to the Minister"*

A snapshot on The Team Around the Child was presented by David Fourmy providing parents with a perspective to support their communication and interaction with personnel when planning their child's education and coping with the complexity of lives and services at home, at school and in the community.

Parents had requested information and clarification about The National Insurance Scheme and the inter-connect with education. A thought-provoking topic, as parents want to gain a greater understanding of their entitlements and expectations. Presenters from Department of Human Services Child Youth Service and Provider Engagement of NDIA delivered an overview and listened to questions.

The workshops for the day gave parents the opportunity to attend two of a series of eight options. The topics were selected from requests received through earlier feedback and suggestions made on participants registration forms.

As the forum was held again at the Special Education Resource Centre parents were able to visit the resource centre and find out more about resources, borrowing facilities and to

meet with SERU staff. The other 30 minute workshops gave a snapshot of a range of subjects including:

- One Child One Plan update by Jill Denys, Program Manager (One Plan)
- Health Support Planning, information provided by Deb Heays, Senior Project Officer , Health
- Dyslexia with Libby Brown, Manager, Special Education Resource Unit
- Autism with Dr Emma Goodall, Manager, Disability and Complex Needs
- The Behaviour Policy introduced by Trinh Mai, Senior Advisor, Behaviour
- An update of the Funding process led by Lynley Page, Assistant Director, Disability State 7 National Reform
- Impact of NDIS on education programs from the Manager of National Projects Penny Buddle

Parents were left wanting more and consideration of presenting these again at future forums but allowing more time and availability of the session are key points for the reference group to consider for 2019.

The following quote from one of our parents involved in the forums really encapsulates the purpose and need for the forums:

“The forums allow an open platform to provide feedback and be heard regarding issues or concerns, and highlight student experiences with disabilities or additional learning needs. But it’s not all about what’s wrong with the system, the Forums are a place to highlight what is working really well in some schools and share ideas. It is a place to hear updates on programs and policy and have a say about these in practice. They are a way to collaborate to build a better system for all students. Information is provided, ideas discussed, stories are shared, tears are shed.

Personally we have had a long DECD journey and involvement in the forum has made me feel like promising steps are being taken towards a brighter future for students with disabilities and additional learning needs and parents and carers are helping this happen by being involved.”

These thoughts and similar ones from other participants were the impetus for the planning of the conference for Term 3 2018.