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EDUCATION CAPITAL: Progressing Parental Engagement – APFACTS response

APFACTS believes a strong case for furthering Parent engagement as a key education initiative exists as evidenced by our ongoing work in this area and budget submission in 2013 for an ACT pilot project into Parent engagement.

“APFACTS had been advocating for some time that it is parent engagement that has the greatest impact on student achievement. We are pleased to see the publications launched by Education Minister Joy Burch today endorse our long held belief” said Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President.

“Parent engagement is a key driver of student success as it helps to develop pro-learning aspirations and behavior as well as increasing the achievement and wellbeing of children. APFACTS is excited the research further directs our focus to the factors and conditions required for parent engagement in student learning – an expansion on the long held views of parent involvement (on school grounds).

The greater value placed on partnership thinking between schools and parents towards student learning, the more these partnerships build connected communities that support our young people.” said Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President.

According to John Hattie, Board Chair of AITSL, “*parent engagement over a student’s school career is equivalent to adding an extra two or three years to that student’s education*” (Source: Hattie, **First Steps: A new approach for our schools, CBI, 2012**).

“APFACTS believes that with the right focus and a sound evidence base that the investment in this pilot project will see returns in education achievement, wellbeing and increased social capital.

The key challenge ahead (after the next phase of the project) will be for parents and schools to review current practices, roles and beliefs about learning to re-align with the evidence whilst taking into account that time pressures and technology play a bigger role in our lives. This enables learning environments that benefit students and also build parents capacity and efficacy to connect to their children’s learning and encourages work in partnership with schools to do it,” said Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President.

Interviews: Charuni Weerasooriya, APFACTS President on 0416094172