

BHC INCLUSION!



Inclusion Sub-Committee

Proposal for Bob Hawke College P&C – 2021

Background

- The Vision of Bob Hawke College (**BHC**), as stated in its Business Plan 2021-2023 is “[t]o be *‘Extraordinary Together’ through a commitment to be our best and to be courageous, innovative and inclusive*”.
- The BHC Business Plan 2021-2023 also recognises that: *“Our parents and community have diverse backgrounds. They value education, are invested in the College and have high expectations. They contribute and support students and staff to be their best by ensuring the College is well resourced, builds a positive culture and relationships and creates a sense of belonging, inclusion and recognition for all within the College community.”*
- Some parents of students at BHC who are committed to the values of diversity and inclusion at our school, including parents whose children may require more supports and are at greater risk of educational and social exclusion as a result of disability, learning difficulties, or other inherent attributes, connected with each other over 2021 and formed a support network called “BHC Parents Connecting for Inclusion”.

Role of P&C

- Some parents suggested that the P&C is well placed to reach out to and engage with families at the College, including families from diverse backgrounds or whose children are at greater risk of educational and social exclusion. Some of these families may themselves experience greater isolation and barriers in the College community.
- This led to this group thinking about how the P&C reflects and responds to:
 - Families of children with disability
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families
 - CALD families
 - LGBTIQ+ families
 - Sole parent families
 - Foster families
 - Families whose children are at greater risk of exclusion for other reasons

Proposal

- Establish a dedicated “Inclusion Sub-Committee” as part of the Bob Hawke College P&C.

Purpose of Inclusion Sub- Committee

- Raise awareness about the value of diversity and inclusion in our school community and the work that the College, the Board and the P&C are already doing to ensure we live BHC's Values and strive to achieve BHC's Vision.
- Demonstrate that the P&C and College community leaders embrace and value diversity, and model inclusion in their work (e.g. ensure access needs and inclusion are considered for P&C events, etc).
- Support the P&C to better engage with and include diverse families.
- Increase opportunities and remove barriers for families from diverse backgrounds to participate in the P&C and the College community, and ensure all families feel valued, connected and able to contribute.
- Facilitate a support network/s to parents/carers from diverse families (on an opt-in basis).
- Contribute to the development of inclusive policies, initiatives and resources by the P&C.

Project ideas

- Identify priorities for the Inclusion Sub-Committee, preferred mode/s of communication, and interest in involvement.
- Provide input into the P&C to enhance inclusion at existing P&C events and communications, in their themes and promotion.
- Assist P&C to communicate the value of inclusion to the College community by recognising and celebrating key inclusion and diversity dates in the community calendar.
- Develop ways to engage with families about their experiences of inclusion in the College community, including by identifying diversity and inclusion champions from different groups within the school community.
- Establish ways for families to connect and support each other through shared values of inclusion.
- Fundraise for and establish inclusive initiatives and events that complement College values, activities and events.

Next Steps

- Submit proposal to the P&C: Draft Terms of Reference, suggested founding Sub-Committee members and a Convenor(s).
- Select a spokesperson (ie. suggested Convenor(s)) to engage with P&C and present the Proposal at P&C meeting where voting will take place.
- Undertake Sub-Committee work.
- Convenor to report at P&C meetings.