

A brief history of Calls to reform the PMSA

In its 99 year history, the PMSA, which presides over Brisbane Boys' College, Somerville House, Clayfield College and Sunshine Coast Grammar has been repeatedly called to reform. Here's just the last few decades...

1970

- Reports on inability of PMSA to develop clear-cut policies despite 50 years of discussion (see p159 of Legacy of Honour book on 100 year history of Somerville House).
- Everalld Compton resigns from the PMSA recommending it disolves.

1977

Proposal abandoned by PMSA.

1978

Following Church union, PMSA Council approves renaming to Presbyterian and Uniting Church Schools Association — **still yet to be implemented.**

1976

- PMSA engages consulting firm Civil & Civic and proposes to totally centralise all schools into a monolithic multi-campus organisation including suggestion to centralise all schools' boarding to Moreton Bay College.
- BBC Principal, Mr Graham Thomson, **sacked by PMSA executive** for his opposition to the scheme.
- BBC parents and old collegians rally in support of Mr Thomson leading to his reinstatement.
- Somerville House P&F meet and express opposition to proposal.

1998/99

The Uniting Church forms a Schools Review Task Group who make the following recommendation to the Synod: *"That Synod affirms the principle of a single autonomous Council for each School and requests the Synod Schools Commission, in consultation with the Presbyterian Church and the PMSA, to work toward its implementation"*.

1999

Uniting Church Schools' Review Task Group recommended autonomous School Councils — **not implemented by PMSA.**

2006

Chair of the BBC Council delivers submission on improving PMSA **"Annual Reports & AGMs"**.

1987

Somerville House community protests proposed sale of school land and relocation.

2002

- Approx 200 BBC parents protest on a matter of governance.
- BBC P&F delivers submission to the PMSA Governance Review Committee — **"For the Good of Our Sons"** calling for PMSA reform.
- Members of the School Council at the time advise that the PMSA revises Constitution of P&Fs to be accountable to the PMSA rather than the parent body as a result of the action they'd taken.

2009

PMSA engages Effective Governance (consultancy) to review their approach. No action was observed by schools following the delivery of their report.

2010

Chair of the BBC Council delivers two further submissions in an effort to get movement: **"A response to the Green Paper on Corporate governance"** and **"Comments on Report on roles and structure of the PMSA"**.

2011

Chair of the **BBC Council** delivers submission to the PMSA Council **"The PMSA: Should it continue?"**

May 2015

PMSA commissions Deloitte report that recommends consolidation of functions across all four schools — with each being recognised as a campus of a single entity rather than separate schools.

Oct 2017

- Media reports data theft and professional misconduct at the PMSA.
- Parents at **Somerville House** protest the sudden and unexpected resignation of much loved Principal, announced in final term of the year.
- Parent advocacy group, **Beyond PMSA** formed in recognition of no other avenue for parent views to be heard (all within-school bodies are gagged by the Constitution of the PMSA, legal threats are issued to this effect).

Nov 2017

- More than 400 parents from **BBC, Clayfield College, Somerville House and Sunshine Coast Grammar** protest, attend rallies and town-hall style meetings.
- More than 2000 sign a petition voting no-confidence in the PMSA (petition still live at the time of publication).
- Calls for significant reform, including the possible disbanding of the PMSA.
- Appeals to Churches to intervene and work with parent communities to find a new solution to school governance.

Oct 2015

Sudden and unexpected resignation of **Clayfield College** Principal, announced in the final term of the year.

Coming up...

- PMSA has unilaterally appointed a Mediator to facilitate individual school discussions with the groups that fall within their Constitution (Councils, P&Fs, Foundations, Old Girls/Boys).
- We await the outcome of further discussion.

