

2009 WACSSO Annual Conference Resolutions

Constitution Items

AC1/2009

Section 14.0 will now read:

14.0 COUNCILLORS' RESPONSIBILITIES:

14.1 Councillors shall:

- 14.1.1 retain membership of an affiliated School Organisation in the electorate represented during their term of office;
- 14.1.2 represent the interests and views of affiliates in their electorate
- 14.1.3 attend Conference and meetings of State Council
- 14.1.4 provide leadership, support and guidance to affiliates in the electorate
- 14.1.5 facilitate effective communication between affiliates and State Council
- 14.1.6 be familiar with WACSSO Policy and ensure this is promoted at every opportunity
- 14.1.7 ensure at all times that their activities are in the best interests of children attending government schools.

AC2/2009

Section 14.1.9 to be deleted and Section 15.5 will now read:

15.5 Where the electorate is of the opinion that their elected State Councillor

(i) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this Constitution; or

(ii) has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interest of WACSSO;

this may be considered as grounds for terminating the appointment of the Councillor under the rules of this Constitution.

AC3/2009

That the WACSSO Constitution section 15 be amended to add the following:

Where State Council is of the opinion that a Life Member –

- (i) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of these rules; or
 - (ii) has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of WACSSO;
- or
- (iii) has been charged with or convicted of any offence deemed prejudicial to the interests of WACSSO:

the State Council may, by resolution of an absolute majority of its Councillors of not less than three quarters (calculated in votes) –

- (a) move a motion of censure against the Life Member; or
- (b) suspend the Life Member from such rights and privileges of their position in WACSSO for a specified period as determined by the State Council not to exceed the time frame encompassed by two meetings of State Council; or
- (c) expel the Life Member from their position.

Policy Items

AC4/2009

That the word 'voluntary' be removed from Policy point E.3.1(b) so that it reads 'encouraging the wearing of that uniform or dress code'.

Policy:

3.1 The School Council in consultation with parents, students and staff is responsible for:

- (a) the compositions of a uniform or code of dress;
- (b) encouraging the wearing of that uniform or dress code;
- (c) the grounds for exemptions or modifications, which are matters relating to student health, ethnic considerations, religion or any other matter sufficient to exempt a student from the dress code requirements.

AC5/2009

That a new section 1.10 be added under policy D.1 'Parents and Carers Rights and Responsibilities' to the statement beginning 'Parents and Carers are responsible for (a) ensuring that their children are provided with education as prescribed by legislation'.

Parents and Carers are responsible for:

- (a) ensuring that their children are provided with education as prescribed by legislation;
- (b) recognising, striving for, and protecting the rights of children;
- (c) becoming informed about the development levels of children;
- (d) talking with children, teachers and other members of the community to facilitate their child's learning;
- (e) listening, knowing how to listen and when to listen;
- (f) participating with children in play, recreation, sport and learning;
- (g) teaching basic morality, behaviour and manners to their children by example and active assistance;
- (h) learning how to be the child's advocate and when;
- (i) providing the kind of home life and support which will be conducive to good education;
- (j) helping their children develop their responsibility for their own learning;
- (k) informing governments about their expectations concerning their children's education; and
- (l) undertaking to resolve any conflict relating to their child's education using a line management structure of local school, district office, central office and when all else fails, the Minister's office.

AC6/2009

That Policy items C.5 and C.6 be removed and replaced with the following:

C.5 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES**Premise**

1. The history of Australia began before European settlement, and that history is part of our cultural heritage.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do not share a single culture but exist within a diversity of economic, social and geographical circumstances.
3. The development of accurate and consistent curricula should be in conjunction with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities allowing for diversity of economic, social, and geographical circumstances.
4. All parents have the right to participate in educational decision-making, both as individuals and through representatives.
5. Successful learning outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are directly related to the participation of their communities in their learning.
6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities exert positive influences to the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through effective participation and the provision of leadership in the development and implementation of education programs.

Policy

- 5.1 All Australian school students should be led towards an understanding and appreciation of the history, cultural traditions and experience of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders as an integral part of curricula from the first year of school.
- 5.2 Aboriginal Study courses should be available at all teacher education institutions, both as pre-service and as in-service courses, and be an obligatory part of teacher education for all teachers.
- 5.3 Curriculum development in all subjects must aim to foster respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.
- 5.4 Participation in the school community by parents and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students belong should be encouraged.
- 5.5 Positive steps to assist non – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and students to understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values, cultures and decision-making processes should be undertaken.
- 5.6 Appropriate resources to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students which will empower students to fully participate in the educational environment.

AC7/2009

That Policy item M. TAFE COLLEGES be removed and replaced with the following:

M. TAFEWA**Premise**

1. Technical And Further Education Western Australia (TAFEWA) colleges are training institutions that are funded by the State Government of Western Australia.
2. TAFEWA provides training opportunities for students to enable practical skills to be learnt for use in the workplace.

Policy

1. Training opportunities for students should be of the highest possible standard.
2. Training opportunities should provide students with practical skills that are transferable to the workplace.
3. Partnerships between education, business and industry must exist to allow for strong and best practice training focuses.
4. So that students receive the best possible education TAFEWA courses need to provide:
 - national competency standards;
 - consistent curriculums and levels of training;
 - support for workplace training;
 - opportunities for recognition of current competencies;
 - commercial courses for business and industry.
5. Local governance and advisory bodies at TAFEWA colleges must contain representatives of the student, parent and staff population, as well as industry and professional representation.
6. TAFEWA courses need to be responsive to the training needs of the local industry environment.

AC8/2009

That Policy item B.2 Income Tax be removed from WACSSO Policy.

AC9/2009

That Policy item G.2 Class Sizes be amended at 2.1 to include kindergarten with a class size of 18.

Action Items

AC10/2009

That WACSSO request the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to introduce a school bus by-law stipulating student passengers must wear seatbelts where provided.

AC11/2009

That WACSSO writes to the Director General of the Department of Education and Training requesting that the Department honour their previous undertakings that staffing levels will remain the same as the pre half cohort.

AC12/2009

That WACSSO writes to the Premier, Treasurer and the Minister of Education requesting that the \$100 Secondary Subsidy is reinstated.

AC13/2009

That WACSSO lobbies the Department for Education and Training to ensure that where a Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) program is operational in a District, there is facility for formal parent/community representation and involvement on PEAC committees.

AC14/2009

That WACSSO take steps to amend the constitution at clause 17.1 to read:

“For the purpose of this clause a small school is one with an average daily attendance of 200 or less students at the start of the school year.”

AC15/2009

That WACSSO call upon the Minister for Education to change the policy on air-cooling so that all schools receive government funded air-cooling.

AC16/2009

That WACSSO recommends to the Curriculum Council to bring forward the dates accepting applications from students with special needs for accommodation (including extra time) at TEE examinations from late June to the beginning of the year and decisions from the Curriculum Council be received by the end of the first term of the TEE year (currently end July).

This will eliminate the extra anxiety on the students who currently have to wait until almost the beginning of term 3 to know if their applications to the Curriculum Council are successful.

And for those applicants who are unsuccessful, if a decision is given at the beginning of the year, they have a better chance and more time to make the necessary adjustments prior to their first exam of the year and put into practice the necessary strategies identified and recommended to assist these students towards their TEE exams.

AC17/2009

That WACSSO write a letter to the Premier and Director General about our concerns that the government hasn't fully considered what is the best education value of sending Year 7 students to secondary school.

AC18/2009

That the WACSSO President expresses the concern of parents in regard to Independent Public Schools to the Minister and Director General of Education, in particular that; Some School Councils lack the necessary skills to adequately fulfil their expectations, the timeline has not allowed for adequate dissemination of information and consultation, the unprecedented power given to Principals.