WACSSO State Council 2 convened over the weekend of June 13-14 at the Mantra on Hay in East Perth.

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P&C Constitution/Associations Incorporation Act 1987
As many would know, changes to the P&C Constitution have been in the works for almost 8 years. WACSSO is eager to see these changes through to fruition - it has been a complex and lengthy process. Any changes to the Constitution must be passed by the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce and the Minister for Education. The Constitution is currently with the Department’s legal team. The Department has indicated they would prefer that finalisation of the P&C Constitution be put on hold until amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 are passed through Parliament, in case these amendments have any effect on the P&C Constitution. However, WACSSO will continue to work to have this expedited. Currently, the Bill to amend the Act is in the Legislative Council on its second reading. We will keep affiliates informed as matters progress.

P&C Facebook Pages
A number of queries have been raised with regard to P&C Facebook Pages. As autonomous independent bodies, P&Cs may resolve to use social media as part of their communication strategy. WACSSO supports the use of Facebook Pages by P&Cs and recommends the adoption of our ‘Facebook Use for P&Cs Guideline.’ Used responsibly, Facebook is an effective and positive way to communicate with your committee and school community and to reach out to potential donors and sponsors. Please contact Communications Officer Lyndsey Wetton (communications@wacsso.wa.edu.au) with any social media queries.

School Maintenance
Outstanding maintenance of school buildings and facilities is an ongoing issue that has been recognised by the State Government, however lack of funding for this area remains the critical factor. In the 2015-16 budget, the State Government committed an additional $15.6 million for outstanding maintenance. Whilst this goes some way to addressing the backlog, this is not enough to clear it. WACSSO will continue to lobby for maintenance issues to be given priority. In order to do this it is asked that P&Cs report details of significant maintenance issues to their WACSSO State Councillor.

81st WACSSO Annual Conference 2015
Conference Brochures should by now have arrived in P&C mailboxes. Annual Conference was high on the agenda on SC2 amongst all portfolios and there is a feeling that this year will be better than ever, with new activities and opportunities throughout the weekend. Registrations close on 24th July. Visit wacsso.wa.edu.au/conference for more information.

Applications for Rural and Remote Sponsorship have closed, with an unprecedented number of submissions received. We are grateful to Lotterywest for supplying a grant again this year, however due to the high numbers of applications, the grant cannot stretch to cover all applicants. All applicants will be notified this week. Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a wait-list in the case that any delegates cancel or that more funds become available. State Council resolved to request additional funds through Royalties for Regions. We will keep applicants posted on the outcome of this request.
P&Cs interested in supplying **student artwork to be displayed at conference** are asked to phone 9264 4000 or email communications@wacsso.wa.edu.au before Friday 7th August (or until spaces run out) Schools will be allocated one square metre of wall space to display your selected artworks. Your representative/delegate will be responsible for hanging and dismantling the art display. **Set-Up** is Fri, 21st Aug. 2pm-5pm, **Removal** is Sun, 23rd Aug. 11.30am-2pm.

**School Community Contributions and Funding Survey**

There’s still plenty of time to complete a WACSSO survey for your P&C and get in the running to win an iPad Air 2 16 GB WiFi. Thanks to those P&Cs that have already submitted their surveys! We are surveying affiliates so we can gain a better picture of how associations contribute to the school community and what the impact of funding changes on schools has been over recent years. The more survey submissions we receive the more accurate our picture will be. It will also be a great exercise in review for your P&C to see how you are tracking and also to give yourselves huge congratulations for your fantastic and enduring contribution to your school community. The survey and information is here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/wacss_survey_2015 A PDF version of the survey to assist with completion is here. To be in with a chance to win, please submit a survey before Friday July 3rd.

**State Councillors Past and Present**

Recently State Council has said goodbye to two long serving members, Ken Walker (Canning South) and Paul Owens (Warren-Blackwood East), who have both retired from their electorates. Ken joined State Council on Sunday to receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Ken will remain WACSSO’s representative on the Children’s Crossing and Road Safety Committee for the near future. We thank Ken and Paul for their tireless work in their electorates and for public education. On a happier note, we have welcomed two new councillors to the helm - Anne Fairbanks in Perth South and Jenny Blair in Perth North. P&Cs in these electorates, no doubt you will be hearing from your new Councillors very soon if you have not done so already. A warm welcome to both!

**Chaplaincy – Fremantle Central Chaplaincy Meeting**

On 11th June, about 30 P&C and school community members attended a successful meeting at Palmyra Primary School to discuss many aspects of the Schools Chaplaincy Program. Attendees heard from Department of Education Executive Director, Statewide Services, Lindsay Hale and Chaplain Provider YouthCARE CEO, Stanley Jeyaraj. We thank both of our guests for taking the time to attend. A summary of the meeting including questions and answers will be available on the WACSSO website shortly.

**Other issues in short:**

- **DGR Status** – State Council is investigating options for P&Cs to be able to attract tax deductibility for donations made to them. [More info...]
- **WACSSO**, with particular assistance from the Councillor for Joondalup North, has begun discussions with the Department of Education with regard to student over crowding and outstanding maintenance at a group of northern suburbs secondary schools. WACSSO is eager to assist with a solution to this important issue and will continue to work with the Department.
- It may seem like the 2016 Federal Election and 2017 State Election are a while away, however we know political parties will soon be deeply involved in the process of working on their education policies. WACSSO will be engaging with all sides of politics in order to influence policy for the benefit of students in public schools, and, as per previous years, the Planning Portfolio will be working on a suite of activities including position papers, report cards and an election forum.

**Contact WACSSO**

Please Like our Facebook page, [facebook.com/WACSSOinc](http://facebook.com/WACSSOinc) and follow us on Twitter, [@WACSSO](http://twitter.com/@WACSSO). Head to [wacsso.wa.edu.au](http://wacsso.wa.edu.au) for further information and sign up to our fortnightly eNewsletter here, [http://eepurl.com/wp5oz](http://eepurl.com/wp5oz). Feel free to contact your State Councillor with any queries or alternatively the WACSSO office on (08)9264 4000 or by email, [info@wacsso.wa.edu.au](mailto:info@wacsso.wa.edu.au).