

2022 FEDERAL ELECTION THE PASSIONATE VOICE OF PARENTS ON DISPLAY

On Saturday the 21st of May Australians will head to the polls to elect the 47th Parliament of Australia. Public education is a key issue in any election, and this election is no exception. Federal Government support is vital to addressing the issues that our students, school staff and school communities face; and only with strong commitments to public education can we ensure all young Australian's have access to the best possible education. In the lead up to the election, WACSSO has developed our 2022 Federal Position Paper, which highlights key education issues that our Organisation is calling for action on, these include:

Equitable Funding for Public Education

We are seeing significant inequity between government and private schools, with the 2022-23 Federal Budget cutting \$796.5 million in funding for government schools whilst increasing funding for private schools by \$834.9 million.

Addressing the Impacts of COVID-19

Schooling continues to be heavily disrupted by the pandemic, with some students lacking access to online learning, and schools being places of high transmissibility. The Federal Government must ensure schools are resourced to deliver online education to all students, and are supported to reduce the transmissibility of COVID-19.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Students

The mental health and wellbeing of young Western Australians has continued to decline over the last few years. This is exacerbated by the scarcity of school psychologists, and the long waitlists mental health

services are experiencing. These services need greater resourcing from the Federal Government for our students to have access to the support they need.

Students Living with Disability

Families who receive support from the NDIS face numerous barriers and are not adequately supported when integrating these services within government schools. The Federal Government must provide greater resourcing so families who rely on the NDIS receive the support they need.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Climate Change continues to be one of the primary concerns for young Australians, as they believe not enough is being done by governments and older generations to safeguard their future. We need to see stronger sustainability commitments from the Federal Government, to ensure students feel optimistic about their future.

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT is being increasingly integrated in our education system, and it is common that a student's access to education is determined by their access to high-quality internet. Students living in regional, rural and remote areas, and those with low socio-economic status are often burdened by inadequate access to internet. The Federal Government must ensure ICT infrastructure and resourcing reflects the needs of these students.

Thank you to all parents who's feedback has contributed to our position paper. We hope you find this resource useful as you consider the education related issues at play in the upcoming election.

WHAT'S INSIDE

[From the President's Pen](#)

[Message from the Director General](#)

[2022 P&C Day WA](#)

[Good News Stories – Focusing on Fundraising](#)

[2022 WACSSO Annual Conference](#)

[Noticeboard](#)

[WACSSO Advocacy](#)

[Premier's Reading Challenge: Where will reading take you?](#)



2022 FEDERAL ELECTION POSITION PAPER



**WACSSO
2022 Federal
Position Paper**

**Scan the QR
code to read!**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Hello to all P&C members, and welcome to Term 2.

I hope you face the new school term with a sense of excitement to see Western Australia return to the baseline settings of COVID restrictions. While we are pleased that parents are able to return to school sites and participate more fully in school life again, we acknowledge the rising infection numbers and the continuing impact on school communities.

WACSSO advocates for clear, consistent and timely communication to families. Equipping parents with valuable information helps them support schools, ensuring that every measure is taken to reduce the risk of infection and to help children and teachers feel cared for and safe at school.

I want to take a moment to thank all school staff and the Department of Education for their efforts to keep our children educated during a pandemic. I know P&Cs have voiced their gratitude and appreciation for the work they see principals, teachers and education assistants put into students over the last two years. However, I think the monumental effort that occurred (and still is occurring) behind the scenes from corporate services managers, cleaners and gardeners, SIDE, and Department staff is sometimes overlooked. People may not always get it right, but I believe every effort is genuine so that children and young people can continue going to school and face these challenges in caring and safe environments.

The 21st of May will see the Australians vote in the federal election. I am proud to present our Federal Position Paper on

behalf of State Council. This paper outlines the position of WACSSO on six key national issues pertinent to education in Western Australia. WACSSO calls for the Australian Government to acknowledge the critical role of parents in education and ensure that the aspirations of Australian parents, in all their diversity, are considered in the resourcing and development of national education policies, frameworks and systems. I encourage you to read the WACSSO Position Paper and consider the issues that you make a difference to your and your children's public education experience. WACSSO calls for:

- Equitable Funding for Public Education
- Addressing the Impacts of COVID-19
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Students
- Students living with Disability
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Information Communication Technology

The WACSSO State Council are as diverse as the P&Cs and electorates they represent. State Council meetings are held five times a year, with one of those meetings dedicated to pre-conference preparation. In addition, councillors often come together outside of the formal meetings to focus on emerging issues and provide on the ground support for P&Cs in their electorates. They are hardworking people with a commitment to contribute to public education for the benefit of all children.

With pleasure, I welcome our new and returning councillors to WACSSO. Congratulations to Indah



Pania Turner

Yildiz, Councillor for Swan West and Chelsea Walker, Councillor for Canning West, Esmond Delaney, Councillor for South West, Katherine Loader, Councillor for Goldfields-Esperance, Dannielle Crawford, Councillor for Peel North, Anne Fairbanks Councillor for Perth South.

As part of my duties as President, I have met with the other state bodies, who, similar to WACSSO, have been busy raising the education issues vital to parents in States and Territories across Australia. The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people are of great concern to parents. School communities have a vital role to play in a child's experience of feeling important, cared for and safe at school. Many factors contribute to a child's wellbeing; however, schools filled with community builders, and champions of positive influence will nurture schools as places where every member is valued.

P&C Day is just around the corner! P&Cs, this day is about you and all that you contribute to our wonderful schools and public education across WA. I encourage all school community members when you spot a P&C member, say thanks! School dances and fetes, canteens and uniform shop, shade sails and playgrounds, camps and excursions, library resources and book fairs, cleanups and containers for change, advocacy and student services – our P&Cs do it all with passion and care.

Pania Turner
President

A big thank you to parents, P&Cs and members of the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) for the work they do to help keep our schools operating so students can continue with their education. It's a true team effort and I have no doubt we will continue to stand together.

As the State starts to return to life as normal and public health and safety measures continue to ease, it is fantastic that schools start this term welcoming parents back in to the classroom and at assemblies, as well as the recommencement of activities such as camps. The leadership demonstrated throughout our school communities in the management of this year's challenges of the pandemic continues to amaze me. I am so proud of our staff and students and grateful for all of your support.

We've got an exciting few months coming up and there is a real buzz in our schools. P&C Day WA is held this month. It is a day where we celebrate and thank you all for everything you do to keep our school communities thriving. Without your contributions, our schools would not be the same. I hope you enjoy your special day.

The Premier's Reading Challenge was recently launched and I hope you can all get behind this fantastic initiative and encourage your children to read as many books as they can. Reading is not only a great way to fuel students' imaginations, but it is also crucial to expanding their literacy skills. There are also some wonderful prizes on offer for participating students and their families.

The State Government has also announced a \$2.5 million phonics initiative to assess and support the

development of students' phonics skills from an early age.

We have also recently announced the return of Country Week, which will be held in Term 3 this year. I know our regional students and staff will be especially looking forward to its return. It is the biggest and most unique student sporting event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and is a rite of passage for students. Country Week was last held in its traditional format in 2019, so I know everyone is thrilled for it to return this year.

This year, Voices Against Violence – the third stage of the No Voice to Violence campaign – was also launched as part of an action plan against violence in schools. The six-week campaign raises awareness of school violence being socially unacceptable. It drives conversations and aims to unite students, staff, parents and community members to speak out against violence in schools.

National Reconciliation Week is coming up in late May and this year's theme, Be Brave. Make Change, is a time to reflect on the continual work we are doing, not just during this one week, but throughout the school year as we work to established culturally responsive classrooms. It is so important for our schools to be places where students and staff learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements.

As we approach the midway point of the year, I would like to again thank everyone in our school communities for continuing to help students thrive with their education. I wish you all well for the rest of 2022.

Lisa Rodgers
Director General



Lisa Rodgers

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Thank You Cards



Social Media Tiles and Cover Images



Do you have an hour a week to make a massive difference in a child's life?

Volunteers needed for our Ethics & Critical Thinking program for Year 5 students.

You could be part of a ground-breaking program, empowering children to develop skills to make better decisions based on evidence and reasoning, rather than habit or peer pressure.

We are recruiting volunteers to oversee the discussion groups - with no teaching experience required!

Your role will be to encourage the groups and assist the the students with their development, both individually and as a group.

Do you have an hour a week to make a difference?

For more information, or to register, please visit
www.constablecare.com.au
 or call (08) 9272 0000



P&C GOOD NEWS STORY – GWYNNE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL P&C PUTTING THE ‘FUN’ IN FUNDRAISING

Gwynne Park Primary School held their first ever Colour Explosion Fun Run on November 12th 2021. The event, hosted by the P&C was many months in the making.

The P&C has spent all year raising funds for a new playground for the school's early childhood area, and reached over \$16,000 in donations from students and families. Our passionate team of P&C members spent their time creating personalised shirts to raise extra funds from the event, which were loved by all who ordered them.

Our education support school joined us, and over 500 students enjoyed the fun and excitement of what turned out to be a fantastic day. Our amazing Principal, two deputies, and the Principal and deputy of our Education Support School all raised their hands to be slimed by students afterwards, which was the highlight of all the kids' day.

The Colour Explosion Fun Run was a huge success, and we are thrilled to say the event enabled the P&C to reach our fundraising goal of over \$30,000 in 2021, which

has gone towards the installation of the new playground at the start of 2022.

Thank you to all the amazing community at Gwynne Park, the incredible P&C team and Australian Fundraising for making it all possible.

Stephanie Liddiard
President Gwynne Park Primary School P&C



P&C GOOD NEWS STORY – P&CS MAKING THE MOST COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Caversham Valley Primary School floor mural project first came about after an early morning discussion with one of the deputy principals' regarding a recent artwork structure at the school. They mentioned how they had more space for further artwork and would love to do something about it.

After researching options, I came across the Creative Communities Grant – a grant providing support to local artists during the COVID-19 pandemic as they worked with the local community, provided by the Department of Local Government Sports and Cultural Industries, and in conjunction with Lotterywest. The idea was approved by the P&C, so after creating a project scope with the Principal, I went underway in search of a local artist. As we interviewed more artists, the idea of what artwork we wanted evolved, and eventually we settled on a collaboration with The Artists Nook to create a floor mural at the school. The application process was very detailed, requiring artist quotes and project scope, samples of previous work, as well as detailed explanations as to what this project would involve, and how it benefits the local community and brings people together after the impacts of COVID-19.

Around a month after we submitted our application we were notified of our successful outcome, and obtained a grant amount of just over \$24,000. The project was recently completed and our P&C is proud to have helped provide the school with this iconic artwork.



Grace Watson
Caversham Valley PS P&C Grants Coordinator

2022 WACSSO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

'STRENGTHENING THE ROAD TO RESILIENCE'

WACSSO is excited to announce that the theme for our 2022 Conference is 'Strengthening the Road to Resilience'. This theme is about acknowledging the difficulties school communities have faced over the last few years and reinforcing P&Cs as a supporting pillar vital to keeping our schools strong. We know that having a strong school community is highly beneficial to the wellbeing of students, parents, teachers and all community members, which is why we want to help P&Cs pave the way as community leaders.

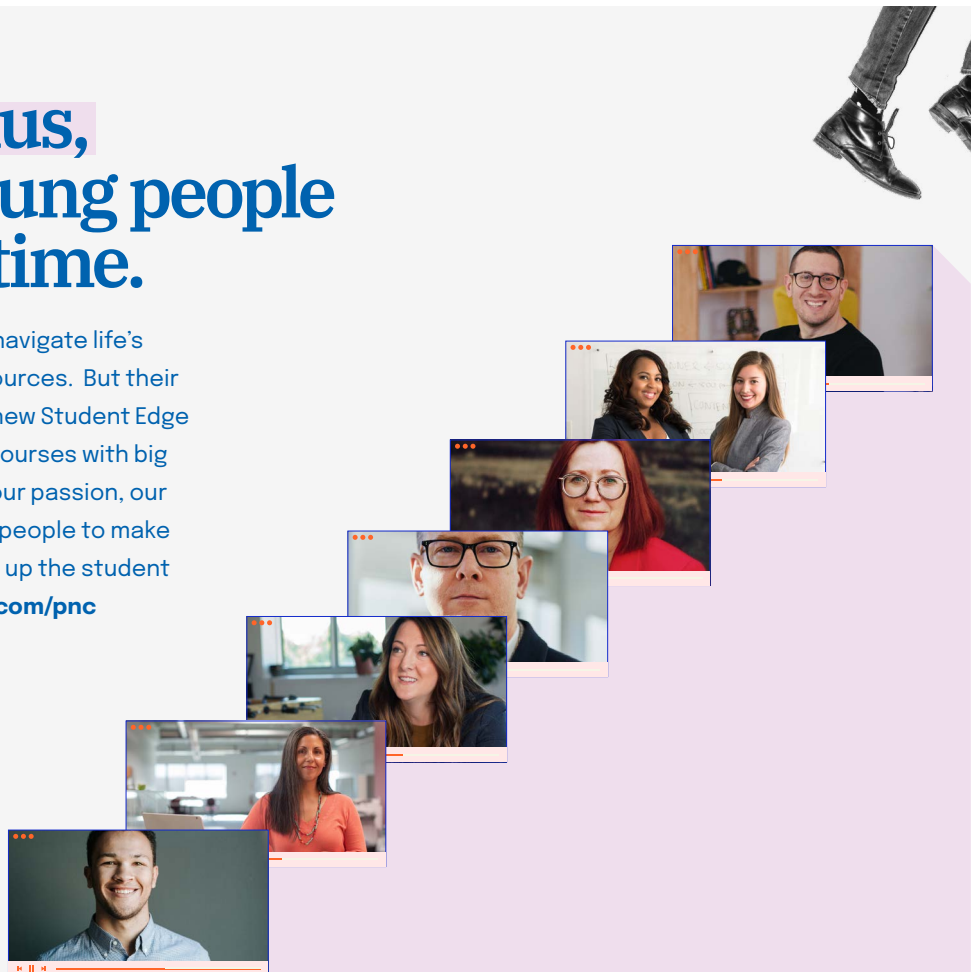
This year's Conference will focus on equipping delegates with the knowledge and skills to build strong and resilient P&Cs, whether that's through fundraising, governance, advocacy or community leadership. This will be reflected through Conference keynote speakers, workshops, the agenda item session and sponsors.

The road leading up to Conference is a busy and exciting one for WACSSO, as we prepare our biggest event of the year. In the coming months we will be in contact with all P&Cs regarding registration, agenda item submissions, regional, rural and remote sponsorship, and all things Conference. For general information about Conference, including student panel expression of interest and organising student artwork submissions, visit: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/events/wacssso-conference/>.



Student Edge Plus, empowering young people one course at a time.

Student Edge has always helped students navigate life's challenges with deals, news and study resources. But their needs have changed, and so have we. Our new Student Edge Plus membership offers interactive short courses with big impact. From financial literacy, to finding your passion, our pathways are designed to empower young people to make informed decisions about their future. Sign up the student in your life for just \$99 per year. Visit s-edg.com/pnc



NOTICEBOARD

WACSSO State Councillor Elections

WACSSO is delighted to welcome two new State Councillors to our team:

- Indah Yildiz Councillor for Swan West
- Chelsea Walker Councillor for Canning West

We look forward to working with both Indah and Chelsea as they begin their WACSSO journey.

WACSSO also congratulates our returning State Councillors following the recent election, Katheryn Loader Councillor for Goldfields-Esperance; Dannielle Crawford Councillor for Peel North; Anne Fairbanks Councillor for Perth South; and Esmond Delaney Councillor for South West.

For more information about our WACSSO State Councillors, including how to become a Councillor, visit: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/about/our-state-council/>.

WACSSO Training is back on School Sites

We are glad to announce the return of face-to-face training on school sites. Our face-to-face P&C training offers a unique opportunity to get members in a room to boost your collective knowledge and strengthen the P&C. Whether you're a P&C with lots of new members or one with seasoned veterans, WACSSO training will leave you feeling refreshed, informed and ready to help your P&C succeed.

P&Cs also have the option to host an online training session or at a non-school site location if this is preferred. For more information about WACSSO training, visit: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/pc-training/pc-training/book-training/>.

2022 WACSSO Annual Conference Registration

Get excited, registrations for the 2022 WACSSO Conference are now open!

By registering to be a delegate at this year's Conference, you'll be a part of the WA P&C event of the year. This Conference will be a highly rewarding, informative and fun weekend, with lots in store to help strengthen your P&C.

Remember, the cost for the first delegate to attend is included in the P&C's affiliation fees. To register, visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/b3hkeazefd>.

2022 WACSSO Annual Conference Agenda Items

Does your P&C have an education issue that you would like WACSSO to take action on? If so, we recommend that your P&C consider submitting an Agenda Item for our 2022 Conference agenda session.

Annual Conference is your P&C's opportunity to raise education issues that you believe State Council should be taking action on or propose changes to the WACSSO Constitution and Policy. Agenda Item submissions are now open. To make a submission, visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/haAfmTkBLM>.

For more information about Agenda Items and the Conference Agenda Session, visit: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/events/wacssso-conference/have-your-voice-heard/>.

Agenda Item submissions close 8 July 2022.

Affiliation Fee Invoices have been sent

Affiliation fees were sent to P&C Treasurers and Secretaries this week via e-mail. Great news! In recognition of the difficult couple of years P&Cs have faced WACSSO has not raised the affiliation fees this year.

Please note, P&Cs that pay affiliation fees by the 30th June will receive a 5% discount.

Some P&Cs may have not updated their 2022 contact details, so if you have not received your P&C's invoice, please contact finance@wacssso.wa.edu.au.

WACSSO State Councillors

PRESIDENT:	Pania Turner 0477 644 000
ELECTORATE:	COUNCILLOR:
CANNING - EAST	Scott Mosey 0401 637 716
CANNING - NORTH	Nominations Required
CANNING - WEST	Chelsea Walker 9264 4000
FREMANTLE	Sherry Fletcher 0424 843 839
GOLDFIELDS- ESPERANCE	Katherine Loader 0408 949 839
GREAT SOUTHERN	Julie Brooks 0429 016 253
JOONDALUP - EAST	Rob Fairholme 0435 779 801
JOONDALUP - WEST	Tony Osborne 0419 925 701
MIDWEST	Paula Steenson 0409 076 476
NORTH WEST	Leanne Ruston 0407 477 283
PEEL - NORTH	Dannielle Crawford 0407 717 555
PEEL - SOUTH	Vivienne Cantem 0447 297 156
PERTH - NORTH	Jenny Blair 0488 990 729
PERTH - SOUTH	Anne Fairbanks 0411 256 079
SOUTH WEST	Esmond Delaney 0409 370 016
SWAN - EAST	Nominations Required
SWAN - WEST	Indah Yildiz 0412 595 576
WARREN - BLACKWOOD	Nominations Required
WHEATBELT NORTH	Tanya Gibson 0427 976 880
WHEATBELT SOUTH	Kate Hayes-Thompson 0458 830 000

Contact the WACSSO office on (08) 9264 4000 if your P&C would like to nominate someone to represent a vacant electorate or if you would like further information on the roles and responsibilities of a State Councillor.

EXPANSION OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S GREEN ENERGY FOR SCHOOLS FUNDING

WACSSO welcomes the recent State Government announcement to expand the Schools Clean Energy Technology Fund, which will offer more school funding to address power costs whilst taking action on climate change. This aligns with our position on Sustainability in schools, highlighted in both our federal and state position papers.

The second round of Western Australia's clean energy funding program is now open for schools to apply for solar panel installations. This program is part of the Western Australian Government's Schools Clean Energy Technology Fund, which aims to fund solar panels and virtual power plants being installed at public schools across the state over four years. The initiative is currently helping 91 schools to become energy efficient through renewable electricity that reduces their costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Applications close on Monday the 23rd of May, with successful schools being announced in the last week of Term Two. Please note, submissions are to come through the school, however P&Cs are free to show their support for the initiative where appropriate.

The Schools Clean Energy Technology Fund aligns with the Western Australian Climate Change Policy, available at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environment-information-services/western-australian-climate-change-policy>.

TOURISM COUNCIL OF WA – SCHOOLS OUT DISCUSSION PAPER

A recent discussion paper by the Tourism Council of WA titled *School's Out* proposes implementing staggered school holidays in Western Australia. WACSSO were disappointed to see the discussion paper focus on benefits to various sectors and industries, without genuinely acknowledging the impact on families and education.

The paper suggests staggering school holidays so schools north and south of the river would commence a week apart. This would disrupt many families for various reasons, for example, if students from the same family attended schools on different sides of the river. In addition, the feedback we have received from parents on the issue highlighted that many parents were concerned with how potential changes would affect families.

WACSSO firmly believes that any plans to change education in Western Australia that affects families and students must always comprehensively seek feedback from parents and their peak representative bodies.

The WACSSO President Pania Turner has made the following statements to media:

"It is disappointing that a discussion paper containing a proposal directly impacting families of school children and school staff does not refer to any consultation with parents, schools, or other education stakeholders."

"The paper refers to visitor, economic, tourism staffing, workplace & work-life, transportation, business, and destination benefits; however, lacking is any reference to student educational outcomes benefits or student mental health and wellbeing benefits. Parents see these areas as critical when discussing significant changes in children's and young people's education."

Q&A

Every day the WACSSO office receives enquiries from P&C members about the running of their P&C Association. The following are just some of the questions asked with answers that may be helpful to your Association.

If there is a question you would like answered that does not appear here, please contact the WACSSO office or your WACSSO State Councillor.

Q: Who can be on a Sub-committee

A: Sub-committee members must nominate or be elected on to the Sub-committee. This can be done at any General Meeting. It is crucial that members of that Sub-committee are financial members of the P&C.

There must be at least one Executive Committee member on every Sub-committee, in addition the P&C President who is an automatic member (ex officio) of every Sub-committee. The Principal has the right to be a member of Sub-committees.

Q: Should the P&C be holding large amounts of money in the bank account

A: Parents have every right to expect that the money they help raise during the school year will be spent to benefit their children during the time they are at school, so the P&C should be doing its best to spend its funds as they are raised.

The P&C should always be leaving contingency funds in the bank account for possible unforeseen future expenses as well as reserve funds for employee entitlements.

A P&C may have substantial funds saved if they are saving for a 'big ticket' item that was approved at a meeting.

Where will reading take you?



Send children on an adventure by helping them join the Premier's Reading Challenge. Will they fly above the clouds, dive into the ocean or blast off in a rocket ship? We challenge all students from Kindergarten to Year 10 to read 12 books by 9 September 2022.



By encouraging families to be involved, students can participate in the challenge and discover magical new worlds.

Students can register on the website, choose their own avatar and log all the books they read over the course of the challenge. Weekly prizes will be awarded to students who log a book that week, with major prizes drawn when the challenge ends.

Promotional materials are available on the challenge website, and these can be used to share the challenge with your school community.

We want all students to embrace books across all genres and formats. The challenge website has an online booklist of more than 7,000 titles for students to browse and log, or they can log their own book titles. Books don't have to be in English - families are encouraged to read books in their first language.



Register your students on the website to begin their magical journey.
premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au

Tips for encouraging reading at home:

- Encourage your child to choose what they would like to read - be curious about their choice.
- Let your child see you reading for pleasure or to learn - talk about what you have read.
- If your child is young, spend time each day sharing a story with them. If they're older, ask them some questions about what they are reading or ask them for a book recommendation.
- Access books through school and community libraries or even create an informal book swap with family and friends.
- Reading isn't just books - explore song lyrics, read a graphic novel together or escape into the world of poetry.

