

PENCILING IN SCHOOL VALUES

Coogee Primary School's Mission and Vision Project - two years in the making, this is one project that the Coogee Primary P&C can stand back and proudly look upon for years to come, a project that isn't packed away in the cupboard when finished being used, but instead on full display for all passing motorists and school community members to enjoy each and every day.

It is also a project that symbolises the true spirit of cooperation between our school administration and our very own parent body. During what was a tough Covid year for fundraising, former Principal Mr Greg Sullivan first approached me in September 2020 to ask if the P&C could fund a project that would see his plan to promote our school's newly formulated values in becoming a significant part of a wider whole-school approach to our emotional health and wellbeing program by having these virtues displayed on totem-pencils.

With the proposal postponed until our 2021 AGM, the committee embraced the concept from the onset, which would now become a whole-year project. While the school administration finalised the six values to be chosen through a consultative process with staff and representatives from the P&C and School Board in establishing our School Charter, the P&C did what they do best, to find out how we can fund the project to promote those values. Executive committee member Emma Hall attended a free Grant Info Session hosted by the City of Cockburn to determine what Grant opportunities could see the project funded. She later successfully submitted an application that would see half of the project funded by the City of Cockburn. Emma continued to work through the acquittal process with the Council, coordinating the

pencil design, production and final delivery for the commencement of Term 4. Her work also included liaising with Aboriginal Elder Patrick Egan to establish the correct Whadjuk Noongar People's interpretation for each of our six values and include those interpretations in the final artwork on all six pencils.

On November 26, our school's new Principal Mr Paul Burke hosted the official launch ceremony with the students, school community members and special guests all gathered in attendance in front of the school which saw the ceremony commence with a Welcome to Country conducted by Aboriginal Elder Patrick Egan.

Now as we near the end of Term 4, apart from offering a traffic-calming element as they tower at 3ft tall at the front of our school, the welcoming image our new six totem pencils publicly present for Coogee Primary School will always display our school's values as a daily reminder to all staff, students and parents of what is expected from our school community and what we strive to stand for in our daily struggles, and that we do so in standing together in support of each other.

**Michael Montgomery P&C President
Coogee Primary School**



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**P&C DAY
WA**

SAVE THE DATE!

20th MAY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

On behalf of WACSSO State Councillors and Staff welcome to the 2022 school year.

What a start it has been with school communities on the alert for heightened vaccination mandates, periods of full or partial isolation, P&C meetings and activities moved to outdoor, online, or off school grounds, and parents asked to play an important role in keeping WA schools safe.

Although it has been a challenging start, I want to acknowledge and celebrate the many wonderful firsts that happen in a new school year. Kindergarten children with their oversized school bags and eager faces (and maybe some nervous parents in tow) ready to begin their schooling experience. Year 7 students equally as nervous and excited heading off to high school. Year 12s looking forward to what will be their final year before their next great adventures. School assemblies, sports carnivals, graduations, that first school ball... They are all wonderful moments that create memories in a student's school life, they are milestones to be treasured and protected.

Some of these milestones will be celebrated differently due to the pandemic. We have already seen school camps, school balls and whole school assemblies impacted. The way parents, carers and families interact on school sites has also changed. While WACSSO acknowledges the mandates are put in place to keep schools open and safe,

we look forward to when such restrictions will ease, and be removed.

P&Cs, again you are being called on to demonstrate caring and compassionate community leadership. P&C Presidents, a good working relationship with your school Principal will be beneficial as you support the school in sharing their communications out to families. P&Cs running canteens, uniform shops, farmers markets and any events will need to prepare themselves to adapt quickly should additional requirements come into effect. The staff at WACSSO, and your State Councillor are ready to support you with the challenges you may face.

As part of my duties as President I have been in regular contact with the Minister for Education to raise the concerns of parents and P&Cs. I invite you to take the time to read the Minister's message, the Minister is a strong supporter of parent engagement, recognising the essential role parents and carers play in children's education. This is especially true during difficult times, our children and young people need us engaged, supportive and present.

I have also been meeting regularly with the Department of Education and other education stakeholders. The Director General leads these meetings to ensure the challenges of the pandemic are addressed in a collaborative, open and transparent manner.

The 2022 P&C Handbook should be with your committee now. This important tool in your P&C toolbox



Pania Turner

is packed with useful information and will help your P&C understand and meet its obligations. Secretaries, if you have not yet received the handbook, please check with the school's front office to ensure it has not been inadvertently redirected and, if not, contact the WACSSO office so we can issue another copy. The handbook is also available for all our affiliates online in the website's P&C Resources section.

Parents whose children are starting to think about their career pathways, be sure to check out when the Department of Education's Career Conversation events will be at a venue near you.

This edition of the P&C Voice is full of information to kickstart the P&C year. Congratulations to Coogee Primary School for achieving their Mission and Vision Project, what an inspiring Good News Story, I know there are many more out there!

Once again, a warm WACSSO welcome to the 2022 school year. Our team of State Councillors and Staff look forward to supporting P&Cs and the excellent work you do in your school communities.

Pania Turner
President

This year will be challenging as we have already experienced this term.

To ensure the safety of students and staff, as well as continuity of learning, schools will operate in line with WA's Safe Return to School Plan, which includes a ventilation strategy, enhanced cleaning services, workforce and remote learning contingency plans in public schools, masks for secondary students and school staff, and mandatory vaccinations for school employees and regular visitors.

The State Government has also put in place new high caseload measures, effective 8 February, to address close contact definitions and new testing and isolation protocols. These revised definitions are specific to school and childcare settings to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission, while also minimising the impact on student learning. Further close contact definitions and testing protocols will also come into effect at the point of very high caseloads in the community.

The role of our parents in maintaining successful schools has never been more important. I appreciate disrupting parent engagement in schools is frustrating but it is part of the balance of managing risk in the presence of a very fast spreading variant of COVID-19, while ensuring a positive face-to-face learning environment for students.

The McGowan Government places a high priority on education and training. We are committed to ensuring every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We want parents to feel safe and supported in sending their children to school and we also want to assure you, as the parent representatives in our school communities, that students can continue with their education and learn, grow and thrive.

Our schools are well prepared and equipped to provide the highest quality education for WA students, in the safest possible way.

Despite the pandemic, our year has started with our State's 1,139 schools welcoming almost 477,000 students to public and non-government schools - about 3,000 more students compared to the same time last year. This includes 33,600 kindergarten students

who headed off to school for the first time.

We celebrate the opening of four new public primary schools: Shorehaven, Burns Beach, Riva and Treeby primary schools, bringing the total number of public schools in WA to 826. With new schools of course, we will also see the establishment of new P&C committees, which I know will provide great support to the parents and students at these schools.

The year will also see more than 700 graduates take up their first teaching jobs in public schools, 70 new career practitioners begin their new roles in our secondary schools, the first tranche of our school psychologists employed to support student and teacher wellbeing and 107 extra schools employing chaplains.

I am also delighted that 2022 will see the rollout of our Career Taster Program in secondary schools. Around half of Year 9 students around the State will get a taste of the world of work and post-school opportunities through the \$19.2 million Year 9 Career Taster Program. The program will support these students to become 'career curious' and extend their thinking through practical activities and meaningful experiences with the world of work. It has been co-designed through an extensive consultation process with industry, education experts, TAFEs, school sectors and community stakeholders and, once fully rolled out, the program will be delivered to around 17,000 Year 9 students annually.

And finally, we have launched the first round of funding from the School Clean Energy Technology Fund. Schools across the state that currently do not have solar panels, will now have the opportunity to have them installed. I look forward to continuing to roll out future rounds of this important program.

I wish you well for what will be a difficult first term of our school year for many and I thank you for your ongoing commitment to your local schools.

Sue Ellery
Minister for Education

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Hon Sue Ellery

HOW DO THE NEW COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL SITES AFFECT YOUR P&C?

High Caseload Measures for School Sites

The Western Australian State Government has recently announced a shift to High Caseload Measures for Covid-19, which affects parents and P&Cs in various ways. One of the most significant implications of these measures is parents no longer being allowed indoors on school sites, or able to hold events on school sites.

With AGM season in full swing, this announcement has come at a particularly busy time for P&Cs. It has impacted their ability to hold their AGM, as they can no longer do so on school sites. Some of the questions we have been receiving from P&Cs regarding this issue include:

- Can my P&C run our AGM online using Zoom, MTeams or Webex?
- What are my options for running a face-to-face AGM that is not on school sites?
- How do we follow the correct Membership Form procedure at an online meeting?
- How do we run voting at an online meeting?

Luckily, these questions and many more are all answered in WACSSO's new infosheet 'Running a P&C AGM under the Current Covid-19 Restrictions for School Sites'. This resource can be found on the WACSSO website under 'P&C Guides'.

Mandatory Vaccinations for Employees and Volunteers on School Sites

Specific mandatory Covid-19 vaccination requirements came into effect in Term 1. Many of these requirements have implications for P&C employees and volunteers.

P&C employees who work on school sites (for example, canteen staff) must provide proof of full vaccination status or show proof of their exemption.

Some P&C members/volunteers are still permitted to engage in volunteer roles outside of a school classroom, such as the canteen and uniform shop. Volunteers operating in this capacity more than once a week are required to provide proof of full vaccination status, or show proof of their exemption.

For more information, visit:

WACSSO

P&C Covid-19 Mandatory Vaccination Q&A: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/resources/covid-19-mandatory-vaccination-qa/>

Department of Education

Vaccination information: <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/vaccination>

High Caseload Measures for School Sites: <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/covid-19-safe-schools>

WHO GIVES A RAT? — WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS BEING USED IN SCHOOLS

The use of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to detect Covid-19 infection is becoming more common in various workplaces and sectors. With the increasing spread of the Omicron variant, RATs will likely extend to public schools in Western Australia (WA). **Please note the information in this article is based on information that is subject to change.**

What might testing look like?

Testing plans in Victoria and NSW currently rely on the regular use of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for teachers and students, which the government provides to schools and parents. Testing in these States is voluntary for students, with guidelines suggesting they should be taken twice weekly.

How might tests be administered?

In Victoria and NSW free RATs are made available to students (in limited quantities). These tests are used at home, with a reporting process in place for tests that return positive.

When administering the test, the current WA Department of Health advice is "children aged 12 to 17 years can perform the test with parent or guardian supervision" and "parents or guardians should perform tests on children under 12 years".

Information on how to use a RAT can be found at <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/ratregister>.

Should my P&C supply RATs for employees and volunteers?

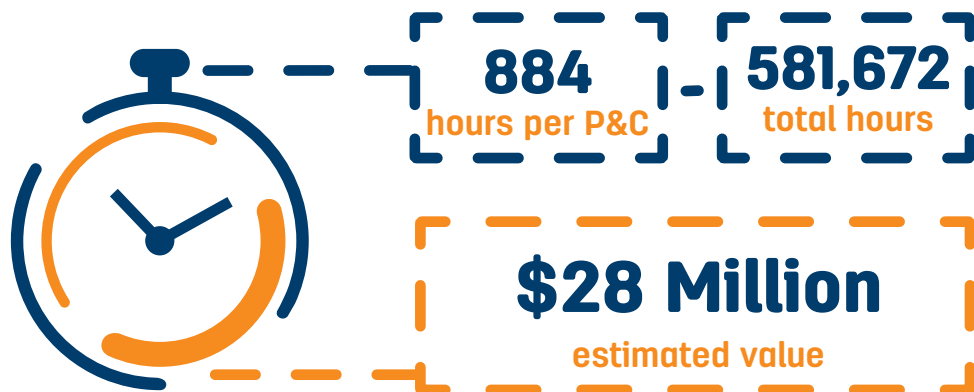
P&Cs have no obligation to provide RATs to employees or volunteers, unless they are requesting them to provide a negative RAT test prior to working/volunteering. Although providing RATs may seem like a simple solution now, as the use of RATs become more frequent there is a significant cost to incur.

WACSSO recommends that P&Cs direct people to where free RATs are available.



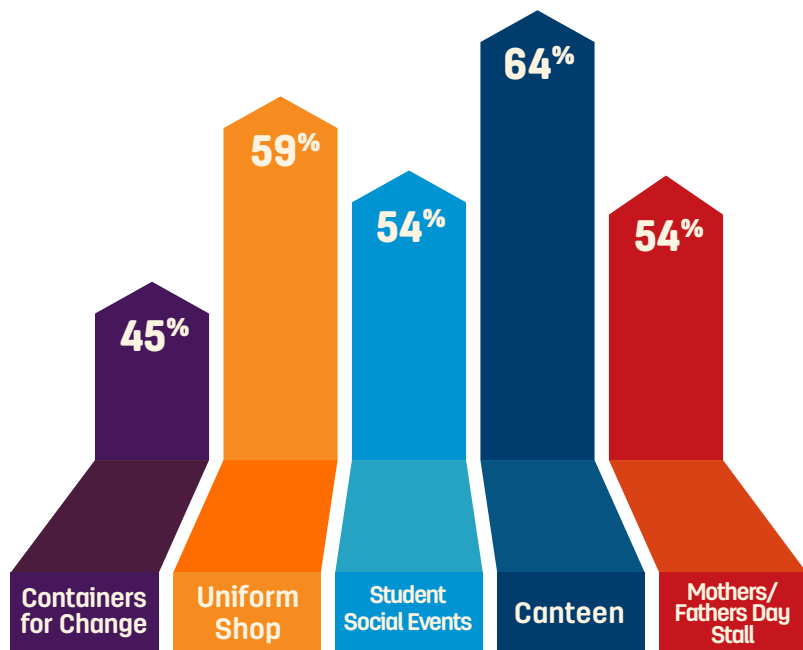
LOOKING BACK AT 2021: A YEAR OF P&C LEADERSHIP, EFFORT AND RESILIENCE

In 2021 we saw countless P&C members roll up their sleeves to achieve amazing things for their school community and public education in Western Australia. These figures from the 2021 P&C Contributions Survey give some insight into the significant contributions of WA P&Cs. Looking at these figures, it's essential to recognise that each hour volunteered and dollar donated has brought benefits to students across WA.



\$17.2 Million

Spent on WA Public Schools



Top 5 P&C Services

2021 P&C Contributions Survey Full Report



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: When do we have to hold our AGM?

A: The Annual General Meeting of the Association must be held within four months of the end of the financial year within which the Association reports (Rule 23.1.1).

Minutes will be taken at the AGM and need to be ratified at the next scheduled General Meeting (Rule 23.1.3).

Q: The Executive Committee is required to make a Solvency Statement to be presented at every AGM. What is this?

A: At the AGM, the Executive Committee will be required to present a solvency statement, in respect of the Association and endorsed by the Executive Committee stating that the financial statement has been examined and whether or not in their opinion the P&C will be able to meet the Association's debts and liabilities as and when they become due and payable (Rule 17.10.3).

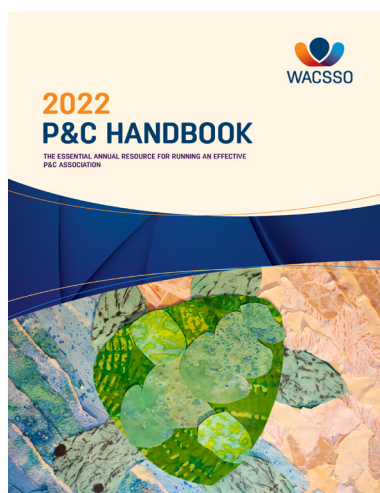
A template for this statement can be found in the resources section of the WACSSO website.

NOTICEBOARD

The 2022 P&C Handbook is OUT NOW!

The 2022 P&C Handbook is now available on the WACSSO Website. This is the go-to guide for P&C Associations. It's full of helpful information which will help guide your P&C through a successful 2022

The Handbook can be found on the P&C Resources page under the heading 'P&C Guides'. A physical copy of the publication has also been sent to all P&Cs. If you have not yet received the publication please check with your school administration.



Temporary Changes to WACSSO P&C Training

Due to the recent Covid-19 regulations for school sites, our P&C Training will look a bit different this term. There are three options for you to choose from:

- Face-to-face session to run at a non-school venue.
- Face-to-face session converted to an online session but reserved for your P&C only (you choose the date).
- Face-to-face session converted to an open online session and available for anyone across WA to join (we choose the date).

For more information about available time slots, technology and venue requirements, visit: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/pc-training/pc-training/book-training/>.

WACSSO State Councillor Elections

WACSSO is calling for nominations to fill the position of State Councillor for the following Electorates;

Term Elections – Canning North, Goldfields-Esperance, Peel North, Perth South, South West, Swan West

By-Elections – Canning West, Swan East, Warren-Blackwood

The role of the volunteer State Councillor is to assist P&Cs in resolving issues at a local level and canvas local P&C opinion on educational issues, ensuring WACSSO accurately represents our affiliates at a state and national level.

Candidates must complete and return their nomination to the WACSSO office by noon, Friday 1 April 2022.

For more information about becoming a State Councillor and to access the Election Pack, visit: <https://www.wacssso.wa.edu.au/about/our-state-council/becoming-a-state-councillor/>.

Sign up to receive the Digital P&C Voice magazine

The P&C Voice is now available online as a digital magazine. You can now access the publication on your any device and enjoy the interactive features of the publication, for example the embedded links. Subscribing to the digital P&C Voice is the best way to ensure the latest edition of publication lands in your inbox as it is published and receive the most up-to-date information.



WACSSO State Councillors

PRESIDENT:	Pania Turner 0477 644 000
ELECTORATE:	COUNCILLOR:
CANNING - East	Scott Mosey 0401 637 716
CANNING - North	Jaxson Gazeley 0487 701 822
Canning - West	Nominations Required
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	Nominations Required
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.

2022 P&C DAY WA – SAVE THE DATE

This year's P&C Day WA will be celebrated on Friday the 20th of May. This date falls within National Volunteers Week. This gives schools and education stakeholders all the more reason to celebrate P&C members and volunteers. We hope that by using the momentum of National Volunteers Week we will see participation in P&C Day continue to grow.

The theme for National Volunteers Week is "Better Together". It is exciting to see

a theme that resonates so strongly with P&Cs, as they are so often the instigator that brings school communities together.

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions for school sites, P&C Day will most likely look a bit different this year. WACSSO will be working to support school communities adapt to these settings so we can all give WA P&Cs the celebration they deserve. Keep an eye on our socials and website for more information and P&C Day resources.



A BIG STEP FORWARD – CONSENT-BASED EDUCATION TO BE INCLUDED IN 2023 AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

On Thursday 17th of February, the Australian Senate announced that education on consent would be made mandatory in all Australian schools, after state and federal ministers unanimously agreed to enshrine it in the curriculum.

WACSSO welcomes this addition to the curriculum, as it strongly aligns with our policy around the importance of providing comprehensive health education in schools. The inclusion of consent-based education is an important step in promoting healthy and safe spaces for students and ensuring they are well educated on these issues.

In the lead up to this announcement, we saw a strong

and inspiring campaign from former New South Wales student Chanel Contos over the last year. Ms Contos, after hearing various reports from her peers relating to sexual assault, started the Teach Us Consent petition and campaign. The petition was presented to MPs around the country to advocate for holistic and age-appropriate consent education to be taught in all Australian schools. It is empowering to see a student campaign make such a significant difference on a Federal level.

State and federal education ministers will be finalising the curriculum in the coming months, which will come into effect at the start of the 2023 school year.

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Career Conversations 2022

Talking to young people about pathways and opportunities

This is an exciting time for young people to make their mark on the world; the world-of-work is changing and there are many opportunities to explore.

Parents are the greatest influence on the career decisions of their children.

Join the conversation about post school options at our free parent events in your local area. Come along to and hear:

- what industry want from young people
- the opportunities on offer
- young people sharing their experiences
- where to find up-to-date career information.

Together, with schools we can prepare young people for the many opportunities and challenges ahead.

Register for an event



Region	Location	Date
Breakfast events (7:30 am to 8:15 am)		
Central Perth	Perth CBD	Wednesday, 16 March
		Thursday, 28 April
Metropolitan events (7:00 pm to 8:30 pm)		
East Metropolitan	Caversham	Thursday, 9 June
North Metropolitan	Joondalup	Monday, 14 March
	Scarborough	Wednesday, 18 May
South Metropolitan	Lathlain	Tuesday, 17 May
	Henderson	Tuesday, 5 April
	Mandurah	Wednesday, 9 March
Regional events (7:00 pm to 8:30 pm)		
Goldfields	Esperance	Wednesday, 15 June
	Kalgoorlie	Wednesday, 3 August
Kimberley	Broome	Monday, 25 July
	Kununurra	Tuesday, 21 June
Mid-West	Carnarvon	Monday, 2 May
	Geraldton	Thursday, 5 May
Pilbara	Hedland	Monday, 30 May
	Karratha	Tuesday, 24 May
	Newman	Wednesday, 11 May
	Tom Price	Monday, 9 May
Southwest	Albany	Thursday, 24 March
	Bunbury	Wednesday, 30 March
	Busselton	Monday, 28 March
Wheatbelt	Narrogin	Thursday, 17 March
	Northam	Monday, 21 March
Online events (6:00 pm to 7:00 pm)		
All	Online	Wednesday, 6 April
All	Online	Thursday, 26 May