

## STATE COUNCIL REPORT SC3/2013

*Supporting parents, supporting public schools*

**WACSSO State Council** convened for its third meeting of 2013 over the weekend of June 29-30, with a full house. Just-retired Pilbara State Councillor Catherine Connell was recognised in her absence for the valued contribution she made to the organization over a number of years. This brings the number of electorates seeking a Councillor to 18. If you're interested in representing the interests of schools in your area and making a real difference to public education in Western Australia, perhaps you could consider nominating to become part of this lovely looking team? To find out how to nominate to become a Councillor, please contact Training Officer Winnie Dyson on 9264 4000 or by emailing [training@wacssso.wa.edu.au](mailto:training@wacssso.wa.edu.au).



**WACSSO State Council & staff with Shadow Education Spokesperson Sue Ellery**

Councillors were fortunate to receive information from two guest speakers during the weekend. State Opposition Spokesperson for Education Sue Ellery updated Council on current education issues including the **Year 7 transition**, Federal Education Reform, changes to the WACE and IPS. State School Teachers Union WA President Anne Gisborne talked Councillors through the findings from the Union's School Leaders Inquiry, which found Principals and school leaders need more support and resources, and recommended that the Education Department initiate a review into pay, working hours, roles, responsibilities and lack of support for principals.

It was a busy weekend for WACSSO, with the finishing touches put to our **Federal Election Position Paper**, with issues including funding, technology and welfare, to be launched at WACSSO Annual Conference and distributed to P&Cs to be used as a lobbying tool in the lead-up to the election. The recently released report from the Independent Public Schools Review was discussed in detail. As always the issue of **ICT** was at the forefront of consideration, as the implementation of the technology-intensive

National Curriculum draws closer. Remote and regional areas look to be the most heavily impacted, with WACSSO seeking to ensure sufficient equipment and networks are in place to allow fast and **reliable internet at all State Schools**.

The State Government's proposal to build two **Disability Justice Centres** in proximity to Lockridge Senior High School was discussed in relation to student safety and wellbeing and the potential loss of land for the school's farming program. It was resolved for WACSSO to write to a number of Government stakeholders explaining WACSSO's concerns and objections to the plan.



**SSTUWA President Anne Gisborne addresses State Council**

Councillors were updated on preparations for **Annual Conference** on August 3-4. Due to high demand, the registration period has been extended to July 26. Get in quick to avoid disappointment! Register online at [wacssso.wa.edu.au](http://wacssso.wa.edu.au). You must sign in to access the registration form.

We are still accepting **photo submissions** from conference delegates for the Conference slide show. One P&C-related photo per school can be emailed to [communications@wacssso.wa.edu.au](mailto:communications@wacssso.wa.edu.au). Submissions will go in the draw for a **spot prize** on Conference weekend.

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**From all Councillors and staff we wish you the very best as you enter Term 3!**