



**WACSSO**

Supporting parents,  
supporting public schools

# Report to Affiliates

**STATE COUNCIL 6, Nov 16-17, 2013**

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WACSSO State Council 6 convened over the weekend of November 16-17 at the Mantra on Hay in East Perth. The final meeting of 2013, there was robust discussion surrounding the changes to education funding for 2014 by the WA State Government. WA Education Director General Sharyn O'Neill was gratefully received as guest speaker on the Sunday and Councillors welcomed a new Portfolio to the mix!



### WA School Funding Changes

The State Government's changes to education funding for 2014, including job cuts and budget reductions was again on top of the list for discussion. Council resolved to continue to lobby against all changes in 2014. Watch this space. WACSSO will also submit a pre-budget submission to WA State Treasury, with recommendation for Education funding in 2014-15.

### 457 Visa school fee issue

Council resolved to immediately lobby the State Government to reverse its decision to charge \$4000/year for the first student and \$2000/year per additional sibling to attend public school, starting in 2015. The rationale behind this decision was that these students' primary residence is in Australia and the parents pay taxes like every other permanent Australian resident, thus already covering the cost of their schooling.

### Sharyn O'Neill visit

The DG spoke candidly on Sunday morning, covering a range of issues including funding cuts, 457 Visa school fees, IPS, changes to the WACE, potential school amalgamations, ICT, the National Curriculum, Year 7s to High School, the 18 year-old half cohort and the implications of alcohol and adolescent mental health. The DG lamented on the simultaneous announcement of the cuts beginning 2014 and reform of the funding model to the Student Centred Model in 2015, which she said would bring positive long term outcomes for education in WA. She also remarked that schools were on track for the Year 7 transition in 2015, but that the predicted shortage of high school teachers remained a concern.

### New! Training and Development Portfolio

Due to the election of new office bearers at SC5, new conveners and members were allocated to each of State Council's three portfolio's - but the biggest change was the replacement of the Policy Portfolio with a brand new Training and Development Portfolio! The Planning and PR Portfolios remain, with VP's Vicki Duncan and Pania Turner respectively taking over as conveners. Senior VP Janet Pettigrew took on the new Portfolio, which is dedicated to the support, growth and development of Affiliates and Councillors, by facilitating training, communication and engagement opportunities.

### Contact WACSSO

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**From all Councillors and staff we wish you a joyful, safe and relaxing festive season and summer holiday period!!**