



WACSSO

Supporting parents,
supporting public schools

Report to Affiliates

STATE COUNCIL 1, March 15-16, 2014

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WACSSO State Council 1 convened over the weekend of March 14-15 at the Mantra on Hay in East Perth. The first meeting of 2014, Councillors were keen to set the direction of the year's work and came along with enthusiasm, energy and great ideas.



Funding Cuts Story Books

State Council signed off on the distribution of the School Funding Cuts Story Books as shown in the photograph above. All P&Cs should by now have received their 'book' and letter in the mail. Please fill out your book, take some photos and even a 30 second video and share them on social media – the aim is to ensure everyone, including the minister for Education and the Premier is as aware as possible of the real-life impact of the cuts in your classrooms.

WACSSO welcomes new State Councillor for Bunbury

State Council welcomed the new State Councillor for Bunbury, Sharon Attree. A high school teacher and strong advocate for public education, WACSSO is delighted to have Sharon on Board. Check the WACSSO website soon for Sharon's biography. Bunbury electorate affiliates can email Sharon on bunbury@wacssso.wa.edu.au and if you're not sure whether your school falls into the Bunbury area, you can check online at wacssso.wa.edu.au/your-state-council.

Annual Conference going in great directions!

Annual Conference has a date and a theme! For its 80th rendering, Conference will take place over the 9th and 10th August at Crown Perth with the theme "Navigating the Changes in Public Education" in response to the many changes schools, students and families are about to embark on next year. We encourage every P&C to nominate at least one delegate to send to Conference weekend (First delegate is **free**, subsequent delegates \$125). It is a full and exciting weekend at a great venue where delegates will learn a lot, laugh a lot and network to their heart's content. Watch this space, as this year's exciting speakers will be announced soon!

Year 7s to High School

With only three terms to go until Year 7's take their place in the ranks of high school State Council is keen to ensure the school community has all the information it needs to help the current Year 6 cohort that first big transition in 2015. Your State Councillor will soon begin to send emails with tips, ideas and questions to ask your current and future school principal about the Year 7 transition.

Other issues in short

- Council resolved to accept a place on the new Nature Play WA member council.
- Council decided to lobby the Federal Government for continuation and expansion of the Trade Training Centres Program.
- Council will continue lobbying on the 457 Visa Issue. The State Government intends to charge 457 Visa Holder parents \$4000pa for the first child and \$2000pa for subsequent children in school fees. WACSSOs opposes any extra charges for 457 Visa Holders.

Sharyn O'Neill visit

The Director General attended State Council on Sunday morning, responding to Councillors questions on a range of issues. **IPS** - Ms O'Neill confirmed that all new schools were approached regarding gaining IPS status, but must demonstrate compliance with criteria like any other school. All schools so far have taken up the opportunity.

Attendance – The DG said that in cases of bad non-attendance, while parents were rarely prosecuted for breaches, the Department's attendance policy was law. The Dept. offers the support of an attendance panel to provide advice to parents, conducts interventions. Chronic non-attendance is used as a trigger for DCP involvement. The Police also help.

Healthy Food and Drink Policy - The DG took a question on notice about concerns that some schools may not be compliant with the Healthy Food and Drink (Traffic Light) policy.

Contact WACSSO

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