

STATE COUNCIL 5, 2018

AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council 5 | 17-18 November, 2018

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BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Apologies for this report being a little later than usual. Your new Communications Officer, Ray Chan, and the one who puts these updates together, has been tardy while he gets accustomed to the role. It was my first State Council, held in my first week at WACSSO, and proved to be an enlightening experience as I watched so many committed and dedicated councillors work together for the betterment of public education in the state.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training and Development Officer Richard Brand took councillors through a vigorous rundown of the new P&C Constitution, which has been the result of several months of research and refinement on Richard's part. The workshop-style presentation involved interactive sessions where councillors and staff were split up into smaller groups to brainstorm and offer feedback on the document.

A draft copy of the Constitution is now before the Department of Education and will be rolled out to all Councillors once it is ratified, so that they can assist their constituents once it is officially launched.

WACSSO POLICY 2019

State Council carried several small amendments to the organisation's policy, for which several other changes were also made at State Conference earlier this year. A new updated version of the Policy document has been sent to the printers, and will be available in time for the State Executive Planning weekend in January. Of course it will also be available to all Councillors.

BUSINESS ARISING

Business matters brought up at SC 5 included:

- Ways of improving electorate catch-ups and engaging with the electorate. They included minimum numbers to invite, venues, times, catering, the use of guest speakers, and the need to have them properly moderated to enable control and allow everyone a chance to speak.
- The impending introduction of Single Touch Payroll for all employers, including P&Cs.
- Investigating WACSSO benefits from working with local government. Among the potential gains were better collaboration with community groups, training for volunteers in conflict resolution, and opportunities to spread the word about the role of P&Cs.
- An opportunity to invite representatives of education bodies and related industry stakeholders to write guest columns for P&C Voice.
- The establishment of an annual P&C Day, starting in 2019, to celebrate all that is great about P&Cs, their members and the school community. The principle was endorsed and an action item carried to determine the best time to hold it during the year.
- Making parent engagement an important priority, calling on the Minister for Education to create policy, strategy and actions to support it in WA schools.
- The delivery of dispute resolution workshops to help affiliates manage conflict.

PRIORITY ISSUES

At each State Council meeting, Councillors highlight issues facing school communities across their electorates. Among issues brought up at SC 5 were:

- A regional P&C considering funding additional staff to support teachers and students
- The use of science labs in primary schools
- Concerns with NAPLAN

CONTENT

- [P&C constitution training](#)
- [2019 WACSSO Policy](#)
- [Business arising](#)
- [Priority issues](#)
- [Risky Business](#)
- [Single Touch Payroll](#)
- [Parental engagement](#)
- [Next State Council](#)

- \$4 million funding for national screening program to test school children for hearing loss
- Using Natureplay technology to encourage families to spend more time outdoors
- Holding outdoor classroom days

RISKY BUSINESS

There was much discussion about managing risks at organised events, and damage, theft, injury, liability and litigation issues that could arise. The portfolio discussed the need for a resource to guide P&Cs in risk management and mitigation, and to ensure they meet the needs of their public liability insurance. The training and development convenor and officer were asked to look at producing a general information document that deals with risk management for events.

FOR THE DIARY

The next meeting of State Council will be held on March 16 and 17, 2019, at the Mercure Hotel Perth, 10 Irwin Street, Perth, at the Georgiana Room, Level 1 West Foyer.

Training and Development Officer Richard Brand outlined the new P&C Constitution to councillors

