

# STATE COUNCIL 1, 2020

## AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council

14-15 March, 2020

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### State Council Overview

Four times a year the elected members of the WACSSO State Council meet over a weekend to discuss a range of different issues, from supporting Parent and Citizens' Associations in their operations through to arising topics in Public Education. The first State Council of 2020 had a full agenda of guest speakers, priority issues and planning portfolios.

State Councillors considered the rapidly emerging concerns surrounding COVID-19 and the impact to P&Cs, school communities and changes to education in WA.

Since State Council, the situation surrounding COVID-19 has quickly progressed and social distancing measures and travel restrictions now affect us all. WACSSO remain committed to supporting affiliates through these challenging times.

### Education Issues

- Costs of Bring Your Device (BYOD) to families
- Road safety and parking around schools
- New schools opening
- Child safety and information available for students and parents in schools
- Student career development pathways
- Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results
- Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Declaration of Education
- Emerging impacts of COVID-19

### Director General Lisa Rodgers

We had the privilege of having the Department of Education Director General, Lisa Rodgers, address the WACSSO State Council on a range of public education issues in Western Australia.

Ms Rogers discussed the Western Australian strategic directions for 2020-2024 titled 'every student, every classroom, every day'. Focusing on students as individuals, the directions seek to provide every student access to pathways for successful futures. Ms Rogers discussed the six (6) improvement drivers of the directions:

1. Provide every student with a pathway to a successful future.
2. Strengthen support for teaching and learning excellence in every classroom.
3. Build the capability of principals, teachers, and allied professionals.
4. Increased school autonomy within a connected unified public-school system.
5. Partner with families, communities and agencies to support the educational engagement of every student.
6. Use evidence to drive decision-making at all levels of the system.



Director General Lisa Rodgers with the WACSSO State Council and staff

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### Welcoming Councillor for Peel North Dannielle Crawford

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2019, Dannielle Crawford was elected as the WACSSO State Councillor for the Peel North region. Dannielle was officially sworn in at this State Council by WACSSO President Pania Turner.

Dannielle formally introduced herself to State Council and spoke about the power P&Cs have to contribute to their school communities and make a difference.

### Guest Speakers: Career Development is Everybody's Business

Guest speakers Shirley Parer and Janet Connor presented a new initiative between the Department of Education and Department of Workforce and Training called 'Career Development is Everybody's Business'. The project recognises the importance of providing students with quality information to help inform their decisions about career pathways. Equipping parents and teachers with a good understanding of the future workforce environment also helps students as they select subjects and vocational education training pathways.

State Councillors gave feedback on how parents could be better resourced and educated to support their child's career development choices; and were pleased to see the strong emphasis on the important role parents play in their child's career development.

A vital part of the initiative are the information sessions for parents, carers, employers and community members. Due to COVID-19 restrictions these have been postponed; WACSSO will share further information when restrictions are lifted.

### Western Australian School Canteen Association (WASCA)

WACSSO have always enjoyed a good working relationship with the team from WASCA, which is why we were pleased to have Executive Officer Megan Sauzier and Project Officer Amanda Ferguson attend State Council to discuss a variety of topics relating to school canteens.

WASCA is a strong advocate for healthy nutritional food for children and works closely with the Department of Education to help school canteens work within the Healthy Food and Drinks Policy through programs such as the Traffic Light system.

During COVID-19 WASCA continues to provide information for canteens. A way for affiliates to keep up to date with WASCA's latest news is by following their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wascainc/>.



Pania Turner and Dannielle Crawford



Megan Sauzier and Amanda Ferguson from WASCA