

STATE COUNCIL 4, 2020

AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council

19-20 September, 2020

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State Council Overview

WACSSO State Councillors and Staff were excited to be able to meet face-to-face for the first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, for the fourth State Council meeting of 2020. The meeting had a packed agenda with a focus on new initiatives, programs and strategies for public education students in Western Australia.

With the WA state election approaching, State Council discussed education issues highlighted by affiliates throughout the State to help inform the WACSSO 2021 State Election Position Paper. We strive to provide a strong voice for parents in public education and to communicate our their voice to political parties in the State.

Education Issues

- Wellbeing issues for school communities.
- Cultural competence of schools working with Aboriginal families.
- Digital literacy – basics and high level skills sets being requested by industry.
- School structure – Year K-10, 7-10, Year 11&12 colleges.
- Infrastructure planning – school upgrades, high rise developments near schools.
- Sustainability programs – Container Deposit Scheme and Solar Schools Campaign.
- Parent engagement and access to school sites.
- Provision of support for children with disability.
- ICT – Internet connectivity, hardware and software, staff skills and technician support.
- National Allergy Strategy.
- Ethics and critical thinking educational programs.

Guest Speaker: Sandra Vale – National Allergy Strategy

It was a pleasure to have Sandra Vale from the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) speak at State Council 4 (SC4) to discuss the progression and importance of the National Allergy Strategy. The strategy aims to implement a framework to inform practices surrounding anaphylaxis, including Standards of Care; Access to Care; Information, Education and Training; Research; and Prioritised Chronic Disease.

Anaphylaxis in schools continues to be a pressing education issue. WACSSO sees the importance of having a National Allergy Strategy and is committed to keeping parents in WA informed of any new resources available and when ASCIA is seeking parental consultation.

For more information about the National Allergy Strategy, visit: <https://www.nationalallergystrategy.org.au/>



WACSSO State Council and Staff with Sandra Vale

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WACSSO Executive Committee Elections

At SC4 the Executive Committee elections took place, it was exciting to welcome Leanne Ruston (North West) to the Executive Committee and Tanya Gibson (Wheatbelt North) to the Senior Executive Committee for the first time.

Full list of WACSSO Executive Committee:

Senior Executive Committee: Pania Turner - Jenny Blair - Anne Fairbanks - Tanya Gibson.

Executive Committee: Scott Mosey - Leanne Ruston - Esmond Delaney.



The WACSSO Executive Committee.

Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

Training and Development (T&D) Portfolio: State Councillors in the T&D Portfolio discussed developing the collective understanding of mental health and wellbeing for young people. To address this State Councillors are being supported to attend Generation Next educational seminars, which are presented by professionals in different areas relating to mental health and wellbeing of young people.

Planning Portfolio: It was decided that the Planning portfolio would undertake a review of the sections of WACSSO policy that relates to Students living with Disability. This is to ensure our policy provides strong representation for students with disability and their families.

The Planning portfolio discussed WACSSO's intention to host an education forum for the 2021 State Election where the four major WA political parties would each have a spokesperson. The date and format of this event is to be decided shortly.

2021 State Election WACSSO Position Paper

With the WA State Election set to happen in March next year, the WACSSO State Council engaged in discussion about a few key issues which we would focus on in our Position Paper. These issues are based on the collective feedback State Councillors had received from P&Cs, parents and carers in throughout Western Australia. It was decided that WACSSO would focus on five key areas, which are sustainability; information communication technology (ICT); school planning – infrastructure; students with disability; and student wellbeing.

WACSSO are always looking for feedback on the experiences of our affiliates and the issues within public education which they have dealt with, so we can do our best to provide a strong voice for parents. If you would like to highlight any issues in public education and share your experiences, please do so by emailing communications@wacssو.wa.edu.au.