

STATE COUNCIL 4, 2021

AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council

18-19 September, 2021

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State Council Overview

The fourth State Council Meeting for 2021 was a packed weekend, which featured training, Council elections, and plenty of planning and discussion. Being the first meeting since Conference, Councillors and staff had the opportunity to reflect on the event and plan for the future.

This State Council saw advocacy in the spotlight. Councillors discussed recent requests for WACSSO to make submissions to two government reviews, these include:

- Inquiry into the response of Western Australian schools to climate change; and
- Student Transport Assistance Policy (STAP) framework inquiry.

If you would like to contribute to the Inquiry into the response of WA schools to climate change, click the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KB5386P>

Justice Connect – Not-For-Profit Governance Training Session

The Council was excited to have Mae Tanner from Justice Connect run a (virtual) training session on non-for-profit (NFP) governance. The session focussed on the responsibilities and obligations of State Councillors to ensure WACSSO has both strong and appropriate governance.

State Council Meetings provide an excellent opportunity for professional development to bolster the skills and knowledge of Councillors, assisting them in fulfilling their roles and obligations.

Education Issues

- School transport services.
- LGBTQI – student identity/identification.
- Cost of student resources.
- Student wellbeing and welfare services.
- Public education staffing and skill shortages.
- Sustainability in schools.
- School infrastructure.
- The rollout of vaccinations in schools.
- Accessibility of BYOD services.

State Council Election Results

WACSSO President:

Pania Turner

Senior Executive:

Jenny Blair (Senior Vice-President)

Anne Fairbanks (Vice-President & Secretary)

Tanya Gibson (Vice-President)

Executive Committee:

Paula Steenson

Vivienne Cantem

Leanne Ruston



L-R: Vivienne Cantem, Jaxon Gazeley and Tony Osborne during the NFP Governance workshop.

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Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

Training and Development (T&D) Portfolio: The T&D portfolio has been developing an affiliate resource that provides guidance for P&Cs holding their Office Bearer elections. The resource is currently in its draft stage and is being reviewed by Councillors and staff. It is scheduled to be released in time for P&C elections in 2022.

T&D reviewed feedback and the effectiveness of the new WACSSO Conference app, which debuted at this year's Conference. Feedback was resoundingly positive, with the app providing a range of opportunities to feature more heavily at future conferences.

The increase in P&Cs holding online or mixed-mode meetings prompted the discussion about the need for a 'tips and tricks' resource for chairing one of these meetings. Visibility, accessibility, audio and meeting etiquette should be considered when running the meeting. T&D planned to develop a resource for P&Cs in the coming months.

Public Relations Portfolio (PR): The PR portfolio reviewed Conference feedback relating to the promotion of the event. The feedback was encouraging, however the potential for missing audiences was discussed, and a plan was made to extend promotional reach in the future. Conference Agenda Items were another topic of interest. The portfolio discussed how more robust messaging relating to Conference would create stronger engagement by affiliates.

The PR portfolio reviewed responses from the recent P&C Day WA survey to inform decisions made for the future celebration of the event. It was encouraging to see that our P&C Day resources were well received by school communities celebrating the event. The date for the 2022 P&C Day WA was set, being 20th of May, the Friday of National Volunteer Week.

Planning Portfolio: The Planning Portfolio is reviewing various WACSSO policies, including our disability policy and maximum school class room sizes policy. The portfolio is also currently working on the development of a sustainability policy. The Planning Portfolio continued working on a major revision of the WACSSO Councillor Handbook.



The T&D Portfolio during a brainstorming session.



Julie Brooks & Scott Mosey during the Governance workshop.

WACSSO Centenary Parliamentary Event

To celebrate WACSSO's centenary, Hon Sue Ellery, Minister for Education is hosting an event at Parliament house. At this State Council, the funding to allow Councillors to attend the event was voted on and approved. It was agreed that the event is an excellent opportunity for Councillors to interact with Members of Parliament and education stakeholders, advocating for the Organisation and WA P&Cs as a whole.