

STATE COUNCIL 5, 2021

AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council

13 - 14 November, 2021

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State Council Overview

The fifth and final State Council Meeting for 2021 had a substantially different look, with Councillors and Staff engaging in a productive strategic planning session over the course of the weekend. During this session, the WACSSO team worked to develop some of the Organisation's key focus areas over the next few years. We are all incredibly excited about the things to come!

This State Council, we also heard from guest speakers Lisa Rodgers, Director General of the Department of Education, and Professor Raymond da Silva Rosa, UWA Professor of Finance. Both guest speakers brought valuable knowledge and discussion to the meeting.

Education Issues

- School transport services.
- School crossings and road safety.
- Cost of student resources.
- Student wellbeing and mental health.
- Public education staffing and skill shortages.
- Violence in schools and student safety.
- Swimming instructors in public schools.
- Career education.
- COVID-19 impacts for schools.
- The rollout of vaccinations in schools.
- Accessibility of BYOD services.
- Professional standards for Auslan interpreters in classrooms.

Guest Speaker: Lisa Rodgers, Director General Department of Education

WACSSO relished the opportunity to have the Director General address State Council, discuss educational issues and give a recap of the Department's 2021. A few of the key areas that Lisa highlighted include:

- Western Australian NAPLAN results for 2021 were very promising, with students showing consistent improvement in writing ability.
- The Department of Education is seeing the increased engagement of students in school – indicated by more students finishing year 12.
- Student mental health and wellbeing continues to be an area of concern for the Department – this will be a strong focus area in the coming year.
- The Department has implemented a range of strategies to address potential school staff shortages in the coming years.
- The Department of Education has been working with the Western Australian Government to clarify information about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination on school sites. Information relevant to P&Cs will be made available in the coming weeks.

As the focus of this meeting was strategic planning, State Councillors asked the Director General for her thoughts on the main areas WACSSO should focus on:

1. Enable schools to support educational connections with school communities and families, and encourage honest conversation between families, teachers and schools.
2. Support learning and encourage students to have a sense of purpose, mastery, and belonging in their school community.



Lisa Rodgers with WACSSO State Councillors and Staff

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Strategic Planning Session

The WACSSO State Council engaged in a highly productive strategic planning session with the goal of outlining the strategic focus of the Organisation for the coming years. The session ran over the State Council weekend and was facilitated by Shirley Anne Fortina (SAF) from POD Consultancy.

State Councillors and Staff discussed the many components that define WACSSO's identity and operations. We saw excellent collaboration, lots of ideas and enthusiasm from the team. There was a strong emphasis on the importance of WACSSO to provide a powerful voice for parents and represent our affiliates (P&Cs).

The strategic planning session was an excellent opportunity for WACSSO to identify and reaffirm our vision and purpose.

Our Vision: Every student in Western Australia has access to the best education possible.

Our Purpose: Be the voice of parents and citizens to positively influence the direction of education so that every student has the best opportunity to realise their potential.

Welcoming New State Councillors

This State Council we were excited to welcome three new State Councillors to the team, all in previously vacant electorates. We are also delighted to see the return of former Councillor Esso as he moves into a new electorate.

- Sherry Fletcher – Fremantle.
- Katherine Loader – Goldfields-Esperance.
- Kate Hayes-Thompson – Wheatbelt South.
- Esmond Delaney – South West (previously the Councillor for Goldfields-Esperance).

We encourage affiliates of these electorates to get in contact with your State Councillor to introduce yourself and your P&C. Councillor contact details can be found at: <https://www.wacssowesternaustralia.edu.au/about/our-state-council/>.



The WACSSO team with Shirley Anne Fortina



L-R: Katherine Loader - Pania Turner - Kate Hayes-Thompson - Sherry Fletcher