



2022 WACSSO Conference Agenda Items



Agenda Item 1

Subject: President's Report

Proposer: WACSSO State Council

Motion:

That the President's Report to the 2022 WACSSO Conference (including the Annual Report and audited financial statements for 2021/2022) be accepted.

Agenda Item 2

Subject: Appointment of Auditor

Proposer: WACSSO State Council

Motion:

That Armada Audit and Assurance be appointed as the WACSSO Auditor for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Constitutional Item

Agenda Item 3

Subject: WACSSO Constitution Rule 13 Election and Term of Office of State Councillors

Proposer: WACSSO State Council

Preamble:

Two amendments to the WACSSO Constitution are proposed:

A Screening Unit clearance is constitutionally required to be completed by a State Council election nominee. Previously, the screening application was submitted to WACSSO as part of the application, with WACSSO staff submitting the screening application to the Department of Education on behalf of the nominee. The Department of Education has modified its screening process so that the screening application must be submitted to the Department by the individual seeking clearance. The proposed update to the WACSSO Constitution provides clarification for nominees to understand the requirements.

While COVID-19 vaccine mandates were in place, WACSSO was identified as a stakeholder by the Department of Education. This required all staff and Councillors to comply with COVID-19 vaccine mandates when attending school sites. This highlighted that WACSSO State Councillors may be required to comply with directions of the Department of Education from time to time, however, the current constitution does not provide for this in nomination requirements. The proposed amendment provides WACSSO and potential State Councillor nominees with clarity.

Motion:

That the Constitution Rule 13 Election and Term of Office of State Councillors be amended by rewriting point 13.8.6 to read:

13.8.6 a current Department of Education clearance no older than six (6) months, or evidence of submitting a clearance application; and documentation complying with any other Department of Education requirements.

Policy Items

Agenda Item 4

Subject: WACSSO Policy 2.5 Benchmarking (Literacy and Numeracy)

Proposer: WACSSO State Council

Preamble:

Current WACSSO Policy states that parents should have the option to withdraw their child from benchmarking programs. Feedback from affiliates indicates that parents are sometimes encouraged to keep their children out of testing. In some cases, parents want their children to participate, despite being encouraged to withdraw their child or keep them away from school during testing programs. WACSSO Policy should also expressly include a parent's right to require the inclusion of their child as well as the right to withdraw their child from benchmarking programs.

Motion:

That the WACSSO Policy 2.5 Benchmarking (Literacy and Numeracy) be amended at point b to read

2.5 b. All parents should be fully informed about benchmarking programs, including their purpose, and have the right to decide whether their child participates or withdraws.

Agenda Item 5

Subject: WACSSO Policy 3.3.3 Disability

Proposer: WACSSO State Council

Preamble:

At WACSSO we celebrate the role of parents as children's first educators. We also recognize that parental engagement is essential to the efficacy of any programs that aim to support children with disabilities. The proposed modification to the wording highlights the centrality of parents in the planning of learning programs for children with disabilities.

Motion:

That the WACSSO Policy 3.3.3 e) Disability be amended to read;

3.3.3 e) Early education programs should facilitate early recognition of all disabilities.

Appropriate learning programs should be developed in consultation with parents.

Action Items

Agenda Item 6

Subject: Rules of Debate and Standing Orders

Proposer: WACSSO State Council

Preamble:

There are currently two versions of the Rules of Debate and Standing Orders. One for use at WACSSO State Council, P&C Association, School Organisation and other meetings; and a second for use at WACSSO Annual Conference. WACSSO Constitution provides that WACSSO State Council is responsible for the review of the Rules of Debate and Standing Orders. Work has been carried out to develop a single version, and to simplify and clarify processes contained in the Rules of Debate and Standing Orders and to suit all users. The revised version was approved by State Council and is presented to WACSSO Conference for approval as required by Rule 26.3 of the P&C Constitution.

Papers Relating Agenda Item 6 attached

Motion:

That the Rules of Debate and Standing Orders amended by WACSSO be adopted, replacing all previous versions.

Agenda Item 7

Subject: Student Support Providers

Proposer: Maylands Peninsula Primary School P&C Association

Preamble:

Earlier this year, Maylands Peninsula Primary School P&C (MPPS P&C) ran an anonymous survey, of which 71 parents of 80 respondents supported “funding for equal opportunity employment in public schools for every position, regardless of a person’s faith”, and supported WACSSO advocating for “all pastoral careⁱ positions to be open to all applicants regardless of their faith”.

Federal Education Minister Jason Clare has recently indicated support to remove the compulsory religious element of the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP)ⁱⁱ, to give schools nationally greater choice around pastoral care, and the ability to choose a secular welfare worker instead of a religious chaplainⁱⁱⁱ, though no details have been released to date^{iv}.

At present, two of the three chaplaincy service providers endorsed by the Department of Education in WA are not equal opportunity employers and discriminate based on an applicant's faith^v. OnPsych, the sole service provider who does not discriminate, places very few pastoral care workers into WA public schools^{vi}. There are multiple factors influencing this outcome, including a lack of awareness amongst school communities that secular pastoral care services are available, and in at least the case of Maylands Peninsula Primary School, that significant local government top-up funding is exclusively tied to a faith-based chaplaincy provider^{vii}.

In the 2022 Federal Election Position Paper, WACSSO wrote:

“WACSSO requests that the NSCP be reviewed to consider whether [students facing difficulties] can also be supported by non-faith-based workers. The comparison is not to replace faith-based chaplains, but to allow for consideration that the NSCP show no bias and accept that both faith-based and secular support workers can provide essential wellbeing support in schools. Public schools are wonderfully diverse and must be inclusive communities where cultural identity, diversity, gender identity, spirituality, and ethical decision-making are embraced.”^{viii}

That Maylands Peninsula Primary School P&C asks WACSSO affiliates to formally support the following motions:

Motions:

1. That the WACSSO President write to the Hon Jason Clare MP, Federal Minister for Education, to congratulate the Labor Government on their move to open the National Chaplaincy Program to give schools a choice to employ a chaplain or professionally

qualified student welfare officers, and request the Minister provide further details of the change to be implemented in Australian schools.

2. That the WACSSO President write to the Hon Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Education and Director General of the Department of Education and request details of how the federal announcements regarding the change to the National Chaplaincy Program will be implemented by current service providers, and when will the changes be implemented and advertised in Western Australian schools.
3. That WACSSO continues to advocate on behalf of their affiliates that non-clinical student social and emotional wellbeing programs, including service providers, support, resources, and funding in public schools:
 - are evidence-based;
 - meet best practices; and
 - employ, without bias or discrimination, qualified people with the expertise.
4. That WACSSO inform all affiliate P&Cs of the Chaplaincy program funding for public schools, as per the information provided by the Federal, and State Minister for Education; and that WACSSO highlights that a qualified person of any faith or no faith can be appointed using the funding.
5. That WACSSO request the Minister for Education to investigate a funding model that would allow public schools to directly employ a professional non-clinical student welfare officer on site, as an alternative to being required to contract out this essential position to a chaplaincy contractor.

ⁱ Pastoral care in a school setting is "guidance and support which focuses on the learner's welfare and their social and emotional needs, rather than their purely educational ones" (Wallace, S (2009). *A dictionary of education*. Oxford University Press.), and this care can be provided by student welfare offices such as social workers, youth

workers, guidance counsellors and chaplains, amongst others.

ⁱⁱ Commonwealth of Australia. (n.d.). *Project agreement for the National School Chaplaincy Program, section 32. (a) (ii)*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from https://federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/sites/federalfinancialrelations.gov.au/files/2020-04/nat_school_chaplaincy_prog-19-22.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ news.com.au. Gould, C. (June 17, 2022) *Education Minister Jason Clare to overhaul school chaplaincy program*. Retrieved July 21, 2022 from <https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/parenting/school-life/education-minister-jason-clare-to-overhaul-school-chaplaincy-program/news-story/5963d440b28d37f353c624f8ecee0db5>

^{iv} The West Australian. Hiatt, B. (July 18, 2022) *Maylands Peninsula Primary P&C wants religion left out of hiring process for school chaplains* Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://thewest.com.au/news/education/maylands-peninsula-primary-pc-wants-religion-left-out-of-hiring-process-for-school-chaplains-c-7531004>

^v The three chaplaincy service providers in Western Australia are onPsych Chaplaincy, Scripture Union WA (SU WA), and YouthCARE.

Reference 1: Department of Education. (n.d.) *School Chaplaincy Program*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/our-organisation/school-chaplaincy-program>.

Scripture Union WA has a requirement that their chaplains are Christian and “demonstrate a living and personal relationship with Jesus Christ” and “be a respected member of a local Christian church that we recognize”.

Reference 2: Scripture Union WA. (n.d.). *Chaplaincy Role Statement, page 5*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.suwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Chaplaincy-Role-Statement.pdf>

YouthCARE require their school chaplains to “regularly attend a recognised Christian Church community and actively engage in their Christian spiritual development.”

Reference 3: YouthCARE. (n.d.). *School Chaplain Job Description, page 2*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from https://www.youthcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/JD_School-Chaplain-Oct-2021.pdf

onPsych is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate on the basis of religion.

Reference 4: onPsych. (n.d.). *Become a chaplain*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from https://onpsychchaplaincy.com.au/apply-to-become-a-chaplain/#_becomeachaplain

^{vi} WAtoday. Young, E. (July 25, 2022) *How your taxes ended up funding religious jobs in WA’s public schools*. Retrieved July 28, 2022, from <https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/how-your-taxes-ended-up-funding-religious-jobs-in-wa-s-public-schools-20220722-p5b3uh.html>

^{vii} The City of Bayswater (where MPPS is located) has an exclusive Partnership with YouthCARE to deliver a Chaplaincy Program in its local schools.

Reference 1: City of Bayswater (n.d.) *Community Development in the City of Bayswater, page 13*. Retrieved July 21, 2022 from <https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/CityOfBayswater/media/Documents/Community/Community-Development-in-the-City-of-Bayswater.pdf>

The City of Bayswater (where MPPS is located) paid YouthCARE \$40,000 in January 2022 and has allocated a further \$40,000 to YouthCARE in its most recent budget passed in July 2022.

Reference 2: City of Bayswater (February 22, 2022) *Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting, section ‘List of Payment for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 January 2022’, page 70*. Retrieved July 21, 2022 from <https://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/CityOfBayswater/media/Documents/Community/Community-Development-in-the-City-of-Bayswater.pdf>

Many other shires have partnerships with YouthCARE. It is unclear if these are exclusive.

Reference 3: YouthCARE. (n.d.). *Our Partners*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.youthcare.org.au/our-partners/> lists the following local governments as partners:

- City of Bayswater
- City of Bunbury
- City of Busselton

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- Town of Cambridge
 - Shire of Capel
 - City of Cockburn
 - Shire of Collie
 - Shire of Dardanup
 - City of Gosnells
 - City of Kalamunda
 - Shire of Manjimup
 - City of Rockingham
 - Shire of Toodyay
 - Town of Cottesloe
 - Town of Claremont
 - Town of Mosman Park
 - Shire of Peppermint Grove
 - City of Nedlands
 - Shire of Brookton
 - Shire of Merredin
 - City of Wanneroo
 - Shire of Chittering
 - Shire of Moora
 - Shire of Irwin
 - City of Kwinana
 - Shire of Gingin

^{viii} WA Council of State School Organisations. (2022). *Federal Election Position Paper, section 3.2*. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.wacso.wa.edu.au/media/2126/2022-federal-election-position-paper.pdf>