

STATE COUNCIL 4, 2022 AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council 4: 15 - 16 October 2022

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State Council Overview

The fourth State Council Meeting for 2022 was a packed weekend, which featured training, Council elections, and plenty of planning and discussion. The President acknowledged out-going Vice President Anne Fairbanks, Councillor for Perth South for her work as the Training and Development Portfolio Convenor, and her dedication to improving councillors' skills in corporate governance. As the first meeting since Conference, Councillors and staff had the opportunity to reflect on the event and plan for the future.

State Council considered future partnership opportunities to ensure that WACSSO continues to lead advocacy for the education issues that are important to WA parents and P&Cs. Building positive P&C cultures and addressing the interpersonal relationship challenges faced in committees is another area of focus for State Council as they look to improve membership attraction and retention.

State Council has committed to improving the resources and training for P&Cs to confidently bring agenda items to Conference. This action comes directly from the feedback from conference delegates and Councillors agree better supporting affiliates to navigate the advocacy space will benefit all families and the WA public education sector more broadly.

State Council Professional Development

Councillors benefitted from a session with Vice President and Perth South Councillor, Anne Fairbanks, on 'Understanding WACSSO Finances.' This session provided all attendees with a clear understanding of how to interpret and scrutinise the financial reports prepared for Council meetings. It was decided that a working group will be developed to determine what the financial report to State Council will include.

Education Issues

- School crossings and road safety
- "Core business" – narrowing role of education
- Extra-curricular activities eg. camps
- Regional/rural access to swimming lessons
- Resourcing – constraints on resources generating tensions, costs to families
- Election commitments to schools- what are the criteria for the selection of these projects?
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Consent and first aid curriculum
- Teacher and Education Assistant shortages, out of field teaching/lack of specialist EAs
- Vaping
- Quality education for students with disabilities – differing models, family choice

State Council Executive

WACSSO President:

Pania Turner

Senior Executive:

Jenny Blair (Senior Vice-President)

Julie Brooks (Vice-President)

Rob Fairholme (Vice-President)

Executive Committee:

Paula Steenson (Secretary)

Tony Osborne

Esmond Delaney



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Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

Training and Development (T&D) Portfolio

The T&D Officer has created Acknowledgment of Country and Welcome to Country resources for use by P&Cs. This has been included in the President and Vice-President Guides. Significant work has also been undertaken on the Councillor Handbook and it will be ready for review in November. There was a discussion on the topic of risk management and the Portfolio will review a scoping document that looks at how WACSSO can support affiliates to understand risks and adopt good practices for privacy and data security. T&D also considered how to support Councillors to host electorate or combined electorate networking sessions, encouraging regional P&C connections and capacity building. Other topics discussed included developing an affiliate resource for 'wish list' discussions, providing training and support to affiliates who wish to bring an item to the Agenda Session at Conference and reviewing the Principal's training resources and how they are used.

Public Relations (PR) Portfolio

The PR portfolio is continuing its investigation of the viability of Facebook groups for electorates to encourage engagement, connection and development. The Portfolio also committed to working on a more strategic approach to the use of WACSSO communications channels, starting with a review of all channels with regard to the purpose and reach. Portfolio members also discussed communications around the recent Conference and agreed that a considered plan needs to be drafted and implemented to ensure timely, appropriate communications with all Conference stakeholder groups. The discussion also covered the topic of sustained, annualised partnerships with Conference sponsors, to the benefit of affiliates. A rubric for deciding on appropriate and mutually-beneficial partnerships will be developed.

Planning Portfolio

The Planning Portfolio considered changes to electorate boundaries, taking into consideration affiliate numbers, new schools opening in various suburbs and staff perspectives on boundary changes. It was determined that a shift in boundaries is not necessary at this time. Planning also reviewed the draft version of the new consent curriculum for Western Australian schools. The information available at this stage is high-level and nothing appears of concern. Members of the Portfolio raised the question of what (if any) content would be shared with parents and WACSSO has completed the request for feedback from SCASA.

