

# STATE COUNCIL 5, 2022 AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council 5: 26 - 27 November 2022

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## State Council Overview

The fifth and final State Council Meeting for 2022 was a busy weekend, which featured Councillor training, a presentation from Director General of Education, Lisa Rodgers, a review of the WACSSO vision, and plenty of planning and discussion.

The President acknowledged the retiring WACSSO State Councillor for North West, Leanne Ruston. The President formally acknowledged Leanne's passion and dedication to neurodiverse children, children with disabilities, Aboriginal people and parents. WACSSO State Council and staff wish Leanne all the best in her future endeavours.

The discussion on the WACSSO vision was fruitful and animated, leading Councillors to deeply interrogate the WACSSO purpose. The final decision was for the WACSSO vision to be updated to 'Every student in Western Australia has access to the best education possible.' This vision will guide our advocacy actions and operational priorities.

## State Council Professional Development

Councillors benefitted from a session with Evolve Training Program, Trainer Chris Bedding, on 'Conflict Resolution & Healthy Communication.' This session was enjoyed by all Councillors and staff and we thank Chris for sharing his knowledge with the WACSSO team.

## Education Issues

- WA Public School Success Measures
- Play-based learning in the early years
- Student attendance, in particular students who have not returned to schooling post-Covid
- NAPLAN measures/data Teacher attraction and retention
- Planning – school infrastructure
- Education Conversations consultation
- Teachers Impact Statement
- Expectations for different stages of schooling
- Online learning – excellence and factors for success

## Guest Speaker: Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Education

Director General of Education, Lisa Rodgers, provided an overview of the 'Education Conversations' that she has been delivering throughout the State. She praised and thanked P&Cs for all the support they give to our schools. In her presentation, WACSSO Councillors and staff heard about the key priorities for the Department of Education in 2023:

- Teaching outcomes
- Health and wellbeing (of children)
- Aboriginal families

The Director General also spoke on teacher shortages, explaining that the main issue is secondary teachers in regional and remote locations. She also reinforced the recent announcement that median ATAR results for schools will no longer be published.



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## Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

### Training and Development (T&D) Portfolio

The T&D Portfolio discussed investigating ways to increase engagement with affiliate training resources. Also discussed was the possibility of a partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau, which provides mediation services, to better support affiliates with conflict resolution; the number of calls for support with such scenarios has been increasing. Portfolio members also discussed ways to encourage more interest in nominating for State Council.

### Public Relations (PR) Portfolio

The PR portfolio is continuing its investigation of a suitable platform that will allow State Councillors to engage meaningfully and easily with their affiliates. The Portfolio also committed to reviewing the email communications process used by State Councillors, completing the commercial relationship rubric for presentation to the Executive Committee and extending the deadline of the Contributions Survey to December 31. It was also decided that the PR focus for the next 12 months will be:

- The development of a communications plan
- Demonstrating the value of WACSSO
- Promoting WACSSO

### Planning Portfolio

The Planning Portfolio considered the effective provision of online and/or hybrid State Council meetings. While the Constitution allows for online attendance, guidelines (or bylaws) are lacking and need to be developed to define the conditions for online attendance at a meeting that is primarily a face-to-face meeting. The annual Contributions Survey was discussed and it was suggested that consideration be given to modifying the questions for 2023, as well as utilising professional researchers to assist with framing survey questions. Several policy items were reviewed: data, sustainability, stages of schooling, online learning and health and safety.

