

STATE COUNCIL 1, 2023 AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council 1: 11 - 12 March 2023

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State Council Overview

The first State Council for 2023 provided an opportunity for reconnection after the summer break, elections for positions on Executive, and a heartfelt farewell to Jenny Blair, who has stepped down as Senior Vice President and will be retiring from State Council at the end of her term this May.

In her acknowledgment of Jenny, WACSSO President Pania Turner said "The essential leadership role of Senior Vice President requires strength of character, mentoring skills, and a high level of professionalism. As an expert guiding hand behind the scenes, Jenny's education and training background has been invaluable in the shaping and delivery of WACSSO policy and advocacy submissions.

"Jenny has been a champion of WACSSO's environmental actions ensuring that as an organisation we seek opportunities to make sustainability changes and connect with stakeholders who help amplify the climate action vision of affiliates and students.

"Jenny, we thank you for your commitment to public education, always reinforcing to us that education has the power to change lives."

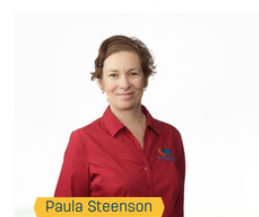
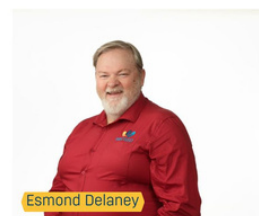
The WACSSO Executive for 2023 is captured below. We acknowledge and thank these Councillors for volunteering their time and expertise to these leadership roles.

State Council 1 also provided the opportunity for Councillors to review strategic documents, including the Business Plan, that will shape operational activity in 2023. The suggestion that Council has a Finance Sub-Committee was ratified, as were the Terms of Reference and membership.

The President reported on the Executive Planning Weekend, at which the Executive Team prioritised the strategic direction for 2023. The focus areas were: Affiliate Support Services- building the capacity and membership base of P&Cs; Stakeholder engagement - Building the WACSSO's stakeholder network and partnership opportunities to improve outcomes for P&Cs, and family engagement with schools; and, Sustainability- WACSSO business operations and governance priorities.

Education Issues

- Student health and wellbeing - Vaping
- School "Core business" – Impact on swimming lessons, school camps, and excursions
- Student personal health - Affiliate reports of schools closing toilets to combat vaping.
- Allied health professional services on school sites – Support for allied health provision on sites
- Student engagement mechanisms – Holistic programs eg. Breakfast programs
- Planning for school population growth- Affiliate concerns about inadequate infrastructure and services to meet demand
- Teacher workforce numbers - Temporary measures ongoing, impact to students with high changeovers



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Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

Training and Development (T&D) Portfolio

Training sessions for future State Council meetings were discussed and topics such as fundraising/sponsorship obligations, social media and the law, and cultural awareness were suggested. There was also discussion on researching of mediation services, with a view to recommending appropriate providers to P&Cs who may be in need of this type of assistance. Conference workshop suggestions were discussed targeting P&C Office Bearers' development.

Public Relations (PR) Portfolio

The PR portfolio took a detailed look at the draft Communications and Marketing Plan, which outlined activity and messaging priorities for 2023, while also providing a map of WACSSO stakeholders and the relevant engagement channels. Also discussed was P&C Day WA, and the importance of this being a celebration of P&Cs led by schools, rather than an event P&Cs have to organise for themselves. The portfolio also looked at ways of strengthening relationships between State Councillors and new Office Bearers and discussed proactive ways of gaining more good news stories from P&Cs for publication on WACSSO platforms.

Planning Portfolio

The Planning Portfolio continued to deliberate on the value and opportunity of hybrid State Council meetings, as well as the risks associated with this mode of delivery. Also discussed were historical documents, with the task of compiling a list of Standing Resolutions from 1990 to present complete. The process of reviewing policies was also considered with several recommendations made to Council including the review cycle and implementation processes.

Vaping: Affiliate Concerns Continue to Increase

WACSSO continues to receive concerns from parents and P&Cs about the issue of vaping.

President Pania Turner met with the Simon Millman MLA following a request to the Health Minister to discuss parents' and P&Cs' concerns. Although the discussion was informative we are seeking stronger action.

WACSSO will now join with the Australian Council of Smoking and Health and the Cancer Council and meet with the Minister of Education Dr Tony Buti MLA and Member for Mount Lawley, Mr Simon Millman MLA to again raise the concerns of parents regarding vaping.

