

# STATE COUNCIL 2, 2023 AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council 2: 10 - 11 June 2023

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## State Council Overview

State Council 2, 2023, was an engaging, productive weekend of discussion, collaboration and reflection.

Councillors enjoyed two professional development opportunities, with guest speakers Paul Searle and Marilyn Bromberg covering vaping education and social media and the law, respectively.

Councillor reports demonstrated a number of consistent challenges being felt in P&Cs and schools across the State, including road safety (especially regarding availability of crosswalk attendants), concerns regarding access to vapes for young people and the school response to vaping, P&C governance issues and conflict management (between P&C members).

Councillors welcomed new State Councillor, Julia Foong who was officially sworn in and signed the WACSSO Code of Conduct. In her report, WACSSO President Pania Turner welcomed Julia and also acknowledged the work of both exiting State Councillor for Peel North, Danielle Crawford, and outgoing staff member, Richard Brand, who looked after WACSSO's Training and Development initiatives over the past decade. Pania acknowledged the resignation of Premier Mark McGowan who, during his time as Premier and together with former Minister for Education Sue Ellery MLA, demonstrated a strong commitment to public education, and leadership in through the pandemic. The President's Report referred to the significant number of submissions WACSSO has delivered, and media interviews provided. This activity contributes to our advocacy objectives, always responding to topics of current focus with the parent voice front of mind.

## Education Issues

- Safety and wellbeing of children: topics covered included vaping, school-related violence, crisis management and intervention, mental health issues in young people, getting to school safely, WWCC rules and regulations and swimming lessons
- Freedom of access to ChatGPT, coupled with the need to monitor for plagiarism
- Holding the media to account when publishing stories related to violence in schools
- Governance and the importance of training for successful P&C outcomes
- Cultural awareness: topics included access, the Voice referendum, celebration, inclusivity and Dad's groups. Development and planning: topics included impact of new schools, continuity of staff, teacher workload,
- how infrastructure and planning leads to families moving out of regional areas, and infrastructure.
- Social media and the law



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## Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

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

The T&D Portfolio discussed the delivery of interactive online (not webinar) training sessions on a trial basis, starting mid-June, in the lead-up to Conference. These sessions will be open to any affiliated P&C member, and we will focus on making the sessions accessible, with various weeknight options available to book. It is also intended that there be a trial of hybrid training sessions for regional electorates. These will be led remotely by the trainer, with the State Councillor for that electorate attending in person. Affiliates will be able to attend in person or online. The T&D Portfolio will also look into a possible partnership with the WA Community Resource Network and Linkwest to provide regional training services and infrastructure.

The provision of additional affiliate services (at an additional opt-in cost) was discussed. Additional services proposed include targeted additional insurance, employment services, mediation services, a buyers guide, and shared IT solutions. Also discussed was the possibility of providing fee-for-service training to individuals and organisations outside of the P&C context. The T&D Portfolio also recommends the development of an 'Effective Conflict Resolution Guide' for P&Cs to complement the existing suite of Guides.

### Public Relations (PR) Portfolio

PR and Planning combined for the first half of the session to discuss the important end-of-year contributions report. It was acknowledged that this data is essential as it demonstrates the considerable value P&Cs contribute (both in dollar figures and volunteer hours) to important stakeholders and the wider public. A method of delivering the survey in a way that generates more robust reporting and higher numbers of responses was discussed.

Following the joint session, PR then reviewed the engagement statistics, all of which show solid growth, and the proposed new design for P&C Voice. The customer service response times matrix was discussed, as well as communications priorities ahead of Conference 2023. The portfolio also reviewed the outcomes of the P&C Day WA event, making recommendations on improvements for the future.

### Planning Portfolio

The Planning Portfolio made three Agenda Item recommendations for Conference 2023, each with a focus on sustainability. These Items will be presented in the Agenda Session at Conference. The Planning Portfolio also made a recommendation to amend the WACSSO Bylaws to provide clarity on both intellectual property rights and taxi/ride share claim allowances.