

# STATE COUNCIL 2, 2024 AFFILIATE REPORT



State Council 2: 4 - 5 May 2024

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## State Council Overview

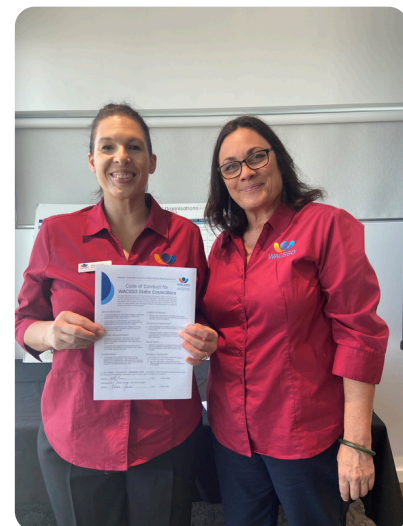
State Council 2 was held in early May, with Councillors gathering to discuss a packed agenda which included a guest presentation from members of the FreshSNAP team.

At this meeting, Councillors were pleased to welcome to the team our new Councillor for Wheatbelt North - Kim Allison. It was wonderful that Kim was able to join in person, and share her motivation for joining Council and enthusiasm for building community. We're looking forward to hearing more from her on initiatives in the Wheatbelt North electorate. Other Councillors voted back in to their roles included Scott Mosey, Chelsea Walker and Vivienne Cantem. We thank and acknowledge each of them for continuing to volunteer their valuable time, energy and wisdom to our organisation and its affiliates.

## Education Issues

Across the weekend, State Councillors discussed several recurrent contemporary issues in education. These included:

- Road safety - lack of crossing guards, development nearby schools
- School Infrastructure & planning issues – new school builds not reflective of population growth
- Demountable classrooms
- Contracted School Bus maintenance issues
- P&C volunteer retraction and retention
- Attracting teachers specifically in more regional and remote areas/inconsistency of teachers.
- Teachers' stop work action and support from parents
- Directives from WA Primary Principals Association
- Awareness of Cybercrime
- SIDE – equity and access
- School behaviour/discipline guidelines
- Financial management and governance of P&Cs
- Access to quality and quantity of Swimming Lessons
- AI in Education
- Parent's roles and responsibilities in children's learning
- Cost of living impacting school budgets
- Affordability of education for parents and school
- Nutrition in our schools
- Availability of School Psychologists



New State Councillor for Wheatbelt North, Kim Allison

WACSSO staff and State Councillors with guest speakers from the FreshSNAP team

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## Portfolio Sessions: Main Issues Discussed

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

The Training and Development Portfolio discussed a review of the current State Councillor Code of Conduct and the development of a P&C member Code of Conduct, the latter being an affiliate request. Further work will be completed on these two items ahead of the next State Council meeting at the end of the year.

Following the provision of an online IT help session for Councillors, the Portfolio discussed the idea of similar regular online sessions to support a community of practice for affiliates. This would be a complement to existing face-to-face training and would cover specific topics in more depth and/or address questions from attendees.

The Portfolio reviewed the wording of the Debit Card Guidelines, as requested by State Council. The suggested changes are required to ensure the guidelines provided to affiliates are pragmatic and reflect real world use of debit cards, while supporting good governance and safeguarding affiliate funds.

Other training topics discussed and to be considered for future development included fundraising and sponsorship and the development of a WACSSO podcast channel.

### Public Relations (PR) Portfolio

The Public Relations Portfolio discussed several initiatives, including the communications plan for P&C Day, promotion of the Agenda Session at Conference, with a focus on previous agenda items and an explanation of how the Agenda Session runs, and a brief discussion about WACSSO merchandise, which was tabled for a later time.

The focus for the Portfolio was on two items - the end of year affiliate survey and taking steps to reframe the public perception of P&Cs. The end of year affiliate survey has previously sought information on financial and volunteer hour contributions made by P&Cs, along with a series of other broader questions. With these items now collected as a part of the financial data update in Terms 1 and 2, Councillors are considering how to use this end of year survey to gather other data, such as the most valued services provided to affiliates and any perceived service gaps. The work on assessing and, potentially shifting, the public perceptions of P&Cs commenced with a brainstorm of all the logistical and reputational challenges facing P&Cs. From this list, it is anticipated that themes will emerge and future State Council meetings can consider strategies and actions to help P&Cs address these challenges, with the goal being a shift of negative and/or incorrect perceptions where they occur.

### Planning Portfolio

The Planning Portfolio is continuing its review of the following topics in relation to the WACSSO Policy:

- AI in schools
- Provision of on-site Out-of-school-hours care (OSHC)
- The pre-requisites for student success in learning and at school

In addition to the above, a review of the WACSSO Constitution and its Objects was undertaken, with no changes suggested at this time.

Regarding AI in Education, a draft new sub-section to be proposed at WACSSO Conference 2024 was tabled. This clause includes a section on cyber safety and AI.

A discussion regarding Standing Orders and Rules of Debate was also had, specifically focusing on including (or not) amendments to motions presented in the AGM session at Conference. Further investigation of this question is needed. The Portfolio have also recommended a change to WACSSO Policy on the section that addresses pre-requisites to success. This will be put as a motion during the AGM session of Conference.