THE **WACSSO** MISSION

Partnering with P&Cs to Advance Public Education

We believe every student in Western Australia should have access to the best education possible.

And for almost 100 years, we have worked passionately with school organisations across this state to improve the public education system - all the while never losing sight of a simple principle: that we are stronger together.

Which is why we work every day to build the individual capacity of all of our affiliates – empowering them through a number of support services, knowledge-sharing and learning opportunities.

It's also the reason we recognise the power of presenting a collective voice for the views of all P&Cs. As one, we have the strength and fearlessness to advocate for the positive change that will truly make a difference.

Together with the P&C community and all our stakeholders, we will work tirelessly to advance public education in Western Australia, so that every student has the best chance to realise their potential and live the life they deserve.

Your Constitution helps you and protects you

Parents and Citizens' Associations (P&Cs) are established under the *School Education Act 1999* for the purpose of supporting a strong public school system.

All P&Cs are required to be incorporated with the WA Government through the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. Incorporation of a P&C means that it becomes a legal entity, separate from the individual members, and its members are afforded the benefits of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015.* Put simply, a member or an officer of the P&C shall not be liable to contribute towards the payment of debts and liabilities of the Association, nor the costs, charges and expenses of cancelling the incorporation of the Association, provided that the Association does not secure profit for its members.

The document that provides the rules of how you must run your P&C is called the P&C Constitution. All incorporated Associations must have a Constitution and every member of your P&C should be given a copy when they join.

The Constitution exists to help and protect you, which is why it is important to understand it and refer to it regularly.

A revised Constitution

Recent and extensive changes to the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* and the *Associations Incorporation Regulations 2016* require that P&Cs in public schools revise their Constitution to meet new legislative requirements.

WACSSO has developed a revised Constitution, approved by the Minister for Education and the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) for use by P&Cs in Western Australia. This requirement to develop a new Constitution is timely and has allowed WACSSO to include many revisions and additions requested by our affiliates at Annual Conference, State Council and through the tens-of-thousands of contacts to the office regarding P&C operations and governance over the years.

We have listened and have developed a comprehensive Constitution that reflects the modern requirements of volunteers while maintaining the structure needed for strong not-for-profit decision-making and financial governance. There are over 60 changes from the previous Constitution!

Here are just *some* of those changes...

- A small school is now defined as having 200 or less students
- The quorum for a large school is now 8 financial members
- The P&C will define its own financial year within its Constitution
- The inclusion of a dispute resolution rule and process
- Executive members will need to declare the financial solvency of the P&C at every AGM
- Sub-committee operations and structure are now prescribed
- Restrictions on employee participation in decision making is established
- New financial reporting requirements are included
- Financial motions to meetings will now require notice
- Financial members may be suspended or expelled after a rigorous process has been completed
- The inclusion of a glossary

The new P&C Constitution, Q&As and much more can be found at the dedicated P&C Constitution website:

www.newconstitution.education