

**Subject:** AISWA Programs and Services Newsletter - April Edition

**Date:** Wednesday, 24 April 2024 at 10:30:57 am Australian Western Standard Time

**From:** AISWA

## Latest News Programs and Services



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### From the Director of School Programs and Services



#### **Helen Aguiar**

Director School Programs and Services

Email: [haguiar@ais.wa.edu.au](mailto:haguiar@ais.wa.edu.au)

Phone: 0412347568

Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) held the annual Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS) conference in Broome last week.

This week offered a unique opportunity to prioritise the act of listening—an essential component of effective decision-making.

The conference, themed "Whatever it Takes," convened nearly a hundred school staff and leaders in Broome. Together, we delved into an array of critical topics, including cultural learning, literacy, numeracy, and the importance of on-country learning.

Early feedback indicates that some of the most valued sessions included:

- Literacy support
- Effective routines in the classroom

- Two way learning Parnngurr Community School session (and other school sharing sessions)
- The work with Emeritus Professor Simon Forrest

One of the most profound aspects of the conference was the opportunity to engage with esteemed Aboriginal role models such as Susan Edgar, Bart Pigram, and Emeritus Professor Simon Forrest. Their perspectives offered deep insights into the challenges and triumphs of our educational landscape.

Moreover, hearing the journeys of past Future Footprints alumni and witnessing the remarkable achievements of Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS) left an indelible impression on all attendees, highlighting the invaluable opportunities these schools provide for our youth.

Amidst the formal sessions, meaningful conversations with colleagues fostered a sense of camaraderie and collaboration.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Future Footprints Team—Andrew Beck, Kristy Ninnette, and Ana Palassis—for their meticulous planning and execution of the conference. Your dedication ensured a seamless and enriching experience for all participants.

Furthermore, I want to express gratitude to the AISWA staff and school representatives whose contributions enriched the conference program. Your expertise and commitment to excellence were evident throughout the event.

In the coming weeks we will consider the feedback received in detail and this will inform our planning for the 2025 AICS Broome Conference.

Participating in the AISWA 2024 Broome Conference was a privilege, offering valuable insights and connections that will undoubtedly inform our ongoing work. To see more from the conference, click on the video below.



Term 2 is full of exciting opportunities and we encourage all member schools to embrace and utilise the services and support that ASIWA affords our members.

We wish all leaders and staff in our members schools the very best for Term 2.

## Reconciliation in Education





For schools looking for information on upcoming events including ANZAC Day and Reconciliation Week please see the Djeran Education Newsletter [here](#).

## School funding to advance the journey of Aboriginal reconciliation (WA)

Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Tony Buti, says advancing and promoting Aboriginal reconciliation in the community through Western Australian school and kindergarten projects is the aim of a Cook Government initiative which is currently offering a total of \$799,000 in grants. The Partnership Acceptance Learning Sharing (PALS) program is available to all WA primary and secondary schools and kindergartens.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

## 2024 AISWA Leaders Conference - Embrace the Change

<b>Prof. Donna Cross</b> 	<b>Steve Sammartino</b> 	<b>Mick Liubinskas</b> 	<b>The Hon Julie Bishop</b> 
<b>CONFERENCE SPEAKERS</b>			<b>DINNER SPEAKER</b>

Tickets for the ALL NEW 2024 AISWA Leaders Conference - 'Embrace the Change', on Monday May 20 at Optus Stadium are selling fast. For school Principals, Board Members and Leaders. [CLICK HERE](#) for details and follow the links to book your tickets and/or school table and support this inaugural conference.

## Professional Learning Opportunities Program & Services

Click the links in the table below to learn more about our upcoming PL opportunities. For a comprehensive list, including online learning courses, visit the [AISWA PL & Calendar](#).

Event Date	
Title	
Governance and Leadership	
17 June	

## [AICD The Role of the Chair](#)

Register by 24 May

## Inclusive Education

### 7 June

## [Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum at AISWA](#)

Register by 31 May

### 19 & 20 June

## [Train the Trainer Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum](#)

Register by 27 May

# Team Updates

## CHILD PROTECTION

### [Lynne Nixon](#) (Manager)

#### **AISWA Child Protection Policy and Procedure Guidelines**

After a comprehensive review and update to reflect current legislation and regulatory requirements, the AISWA child protection policy and procedure guidelines are now available on the AISWA website under the Governance and Leadership tab [Policy and Procedure Guidelines](#). We thank you for your patience while this major project was completed.

#### **Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum Train the Trainer – June 2024**

The annual train the trainer event for teachers will be on 19th (Wednesday) and 20th (Thursday) June, 2024. It is important that registration is complete by the 27th May so the presenters can plan appropriately. Please log in to the website and click [here](#). For more information, please [email](#) us.



#### **Reportable Conduct Scheme**

The Reportable Conduct Scheme (the Scheme) which is overseen by the Ombudsman WA commenced on 1st January 2023. The Scheme which includes education relates to all current

employees over the age of 18 years and includes paid employees, volunteers, contractors and ministers of religion, certain types of carers and family day care educators and assistants. Volunteers or contractors are only considered an employee under the Scheme if they have been engaged by an organisation covered by the Scheme to provide services to children.

At the commencement of the scheme in 2023, reportable conduct included sexual offences, sexual misconduct, physical assault, and other related prescribed offences.

From January 2024, reportable conduct also includes significant neglect of a child, and any behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm to a child.

The definitions of these terms including the conduct introduced this year can be found at the [WA Ombudsman](#) website with the specific definitions contained in [Information Sheet 3 Identifying Reportable Conduct](#).

Please refer to [Guide to the registration standards and other requirements for non-government schools](#) pages 39 & 52 for information specifically relating to non-government schools.

If you have any enquires regarding the scheme, please contact either [Nigel Briggs \(Industrial related\)](#) or [Lynne Nixon](#) (Child Protection related).

## REGISTRATION *and* COMPLIANCE



[Adrian Scott](#) (Manager)

Legislative and compliance updates are now available on the AISWA Website at the following link [Compliance | AISWA](#). You will need to be logged in. This will be updated regularly as legislation changes. Please share with your business managers and other relevant staff.

## PSYCHOLOGY

[Julie Townsend](#) (Lead Psychologist)

### **Psychologists and School Counsellors as Mandatory Reporters – 1st May 2024**

As you would be aware, Psychologists and School Counsellors become Mandatory Reporters on 1st May 2024. There have been enquiries across the education sector particularly as to the definition of the school counsellor role.

The definition of these new roles under the Children and Community Services Act (CSS) are:

1. Psychologist is defined as a person registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA Act) 2010* in the psychology profession (other than as a student).
2. School Counsellor is defined as an adult who is employed or engaged in a school, (as

defined in the *School Education Act 1999 section 4*), to provide counselling or pastoral care to children who attend the school. It does not include adults employed or engaged as a student or volunteer.

It is therefore reasonable to consider that roles within schools whose job description include the terms counselling / pastoral care would be considered mandatory reporters.

Examples of these may include but are not limited to:

- Chaplains/Chaplaincy workers
- Counsellors
- Qualified school wellbeing officers
- Social workers and
- Youth workers.

We advise that these roles and consequently the expectations and responsibilities, be clearly documented and understood.

Please also be mindful that any outside agencies or organisations that visit your school for the purposes of providing counselling or pastoral care to students may be considered a mandatory reporter. Please refer to the definition in the Act listed above.

Please note: Some of these roles (listed above) may already be included in a position such as teacher or minister of religion and are as such acknowledged that they are included as a specified person separately in the CCS Act.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia**

Suite 3/41 Walters Drive, Osborne Park, WA 6017

PO Box 1817, Osborne Park DC, WA 6916

+61 (08) 9441 1600



This email was sent to [jclarke@ais.wa.edu.au](mailto:jclarke@ais.wa.edu.au)

[Contact Us](#) | [Website Support](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)  
[Visit Our Site](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)