

Latest News Programs and Services



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From the Director of School Programs and Services

Welcome to the final Programs and Services Directorate Newsletter for 2024!

It is hard to believe that we are reaching the end of the year and Christmas is just around the corner.

As a team, we thrive on supporting our schools and we thank you for your trust in us.

The Programs and Services Directorate extends warm wishes to all member school communities. We hope the year ends smoothly and that you enjoy a safe and restful Christmas holiday period with family and friends. Merry Christmas.

We look forward to supporting you in 2025!



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This Month's Updates

This newsletter contains the following information:

- Study Tour 2025
- Call for Video Footage from Independent Schools
- Upcoming Professional Learning Events
- AISWA Calendar and Services Directory
- eSafety Resources
- Reportable Conduct Scheme Workshop
- Child Protection – Planning Your Training
- Celebrating 20 Years of Support for First Nations Students in Independent Schools
- Inclusive Education Consultant Update
- IE State Funding
- IE Transitions
- NCCD
- Positive Partnerships and AISWA Sector-led Professional Learning Program
- kiind Resource
- CaRE School Conference
- Be You 2024 National Mental Health in Education Survey Report
- The Kids Research Institute Australia Helpful Information

- Bullying No Way Information
- Early Childhood Road Safety Education (Smart Steps)
- Keys4Life

AISWA Study Tour 2025

Thank you to those who have expressed interest in the proposed AISWA Study Tour planned for the September/October holidays in 2025.

This exciting tour will offer participants the chance to explore contemporary global perspectives and practices in education, deepen knowledge and understanding of innovative leadership structures and supports, enhance expertise and capacity to lead change, and grow networks.

We are currently in discussions with various providers about possible development opportunities, school visits and cultural activities. These will cover a range of themes such as school leadership, innovative workforce programs and models of schooling. Our goal is to generate a draft agenda early in the new year.

We will reconnect with you once we have this draft agenda. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to [Helen Aguiar](#) or [Kris Stafford](#).

Please feel free to share this email with your network. The **Expression of Interest** will remain open at this [link](#) for the remainder of the year.

AISWA Promoting Independent Schools

Member schools have the opportunity to appear in AISWA promotional materials!

AISWA is excited to gather video footage from Independent schools to use in promotional materials. These videos will help us promote the WA Independent School sector, highlight AISWA as the peak body advocating for this sector, and showcase our professional learning opportunities and conferences.

We are looking for footage that features students and teachers in everyday activities such as studying, attending classes, playing, participating in groups, sports, drama, music, or using technology. Schools with suitable footage and the necessary permissions are encouraged to share high-resolution versions directly or save them into the designated folder [School Videos](#) or [Dropbox](#)

AISWA will ensure that all videos are shared with the respective schools for approval before use. For any questions or more details, please contact [Louise Muhling](#) (Marketing and Communications Manager at AISWA).

Professional Learning Opportunities

Program and 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 Events & Calendar](#).

Event Date	Title	
Inclusive Education		
27 November	CaRE: Navigating Ethical Leadership and Quality Decision-Making through Courageous Conversations	Register by 20 November
Wellbeing		
2 December	Reportable Conduct Scheme Workshop with the Ombudsman	Register by 26 November

AISWA Calendar and Services Directory

AISWA have recently produced two new resources for member schools. AISWA's new [2025 Professional Learning Calendar](#) and [Service and Support Directory](#). The Calendar includes face to face events, conferences, webinars and regional meetings. The calendar will be regularly updated as more events are announced.



Team Updates

CHILD PROTECTION

eSafety resources

With the summer school holidays rapidly approaching, we have the opportunity to remind our school community about safety online.

On the eSafety Commissioner website, there is an amazing amount of helpful information to help everyone keep safe online and to assist when there is an issue.

[eSafety young people](#)

[eSafety kids](#)

[eSafety parents](#) - This includes online safety basics; how to support my child if they are being cyberbullied; learning how to protect child from online sexual abuse.

A great resource especially for Christmas is a [tech gift guide](#), which includes age recommendations, key features to consider and tips to ensure your family stays safe.



eSafety Commissioner

Reportable Conduct Scheme Workshop

Don't forget to register for the Reportable Conduct Investigation Workshop in Albany. Details below.

Location: Great Southern Grammar School Albany

Date: 2 December 2024, 2.30pm - 4pm (Numbers are limited)

Register [here](#). If you have any enquiries regarding the Reportable Conduct Scheme please [email](#) or call 0447 502 560.

Child Protection: planning your training

Quite often, AISWA receives enquiries about Child Protection training including Mandatory Reporting of Sexual Abuse for all staff (Standard 10.5 – Non-Government Registration Guidelines) and whether this has to be face-to-face or whether it can be online.

As this training is required to occur at least annually it is good to consider offering alternating training to all staff i.e. face to face training one year and online the following year. Therefore, providing opportunity for schools to discuss child protection together during face-to-face presentations alternating every two years can be considered.

It is important for staff to share and discuss scenarios that open conversations about our duty of care in

keeping our school community a safe place for all. This allows us to be able to provide training to cover as many member schools as possible. While it is not a requirement of the Guidelines that AISWA provides the training, the following training alternatives are available:

Child Abuse Prevention by all staff. This is the 3-hour face to face presentation that includes (Child Abuse reporting including Mandatory Reporting, Understanding Children and Young People's Sexual Behaviour, Grooming and Staff Professional Boundaries) with this content covering the two options below.

Child Abuse Reporting including Mandatory Reporting - online learning course. This only covers indicators and reporting of all forms of child abuse and the legislation related to this.

A follow up course to the online course is a face-to-face session which is approximately 90mins called *Beyond Child Abuse Reporting: Understanding Sexual Behaviour in Children and Young People, Grooming and Staff Professional Boundaries.* This can be presented on a PD Day or during a staff meeting and is best delivered after staff have completed the online course.

The Department of Communities – Child Protection also offers online training:
[Mandatory Reporting Online Training Modules](#)

If you would like to book a session or require further information, please email [Lynne Nixon](#). Please note that the dates from 22 January to 7 February are fully booked, therefore available dates are from 10 February 2025.

For more regarding Child Protection on the AISWA website, please click [here](#) after logging into the AISWA website.

FUTURE FOOTPRINTS

Celebrating 20 Years of Support for First Nations Students in Independent Schools

On Friday 8 November, we gathered to celebrate two decades of the AISWA Future Footprints Program, marking 20 years of support for First Nations students in Western Australia's Independent Schools. Since 2004, this program has empowered students through strong partnerships with schools and deep consultations with Elders, students, families, and community representatives.

One of the evening's highlights was a panel discussion with our inspiring alumni: Roxy Bin Swani from Presbyterian Ladies College, Sam Edgar from Christ Church Grammar School, and Roni Forrest, Future Footprints' longest-serving coordinator.

Reflecting on their journeys, they shared powerful perspectives that inspired everyone in attendance and offered a glimpse into the program's transformative impact on their lives.

The event welcomed esteemed guests, including Hon Dr Tony Buti, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship; and Multicultural Interests, alongside AISWA senior executives, principals, school representatives, and many of our valued alumni. It was a powerful reminder of the program's impact and the community's dedication to supporting students as they pursue their dreams.

We are grateful to everyone who celebrated this milestone with us. Here's to the next 20 years and to the day we'll say, "*Remember when we only had 20 schools!*"



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Consultant Update

Tania Wray - we farewelled Tania earlier this month, she will be taking a well-earned break before she

embarks on a new journey. Tania joined AISWA in April 2012 and has been a key member of the Inclusive Education Team. We take this opportunity to wish Tania all the very best for the future and thank her wholeheartedly for all of her efforts at AISWA.

School consultant allocations will be updated and confirmed in the new year.

State Funding

Tentative dates for your diaries:

- 20 February – Round 1 opens
- 26 March - Round 1 closes

Transitions

As planning for 2025, is well underway, we hope that transition programs are running smoothly and benefiting the students. Should you require any support or want to chat about transitions, please feel free to reach out to the [IE team](#).

NCCD

The reflection phase, typically in Term 4, the school team evaluates the application of the NCCD model. They consider how school practices and processes could be improved to facilitate the next year's NCCD.

It is important to establish ongoing reflection and improvement as part of the NCCD process. Effective review of procedures and outcomes, with focused reflection on the strength of these, will enable schools to determine what they could improve on to be ready for the next planning phase.



Positive Partnerships and AISWA Sector-led Professional Learning Program

We are excited to announce the Inclusive Education team will be running the Positive Partnerships two-day professional learning program in 2025. Pre-registration is now available via the AISWA website.

We will explore:

- Evidence-informed knowledge of autism and how it directly impacts on a young person's learning and participation.
- Effective strategies to help maximise a young person's learning in the school and home environment.
- Understanding the support needs of young autistic people and their families' experiences at home and school.

This free workshop is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. As part of the agreement, it is a government stipulation that each school **must send two teachers** to the workshop. We encourage schools to send staff who are new to teaching autistic students or those who would benefit from additional training in the Autism space. Schools will be eligible for \$500, GST inclusive, of teacher resource support funding for each pair of participating teachers upon attendance at both workshop days.

Resource

Kiind supports families raising children living with disability, developmental delay, autism, genetic, rare, undiagnosed and/or chronic conditions. Visit their website [here](#).



CaRE School Conference

We are excited to share that we are in the final stages of securing a location for the 2025 CaRE school conference on 22 August 2025. We will be requesting submissions early in Term 1.

PSYCHOLOGY

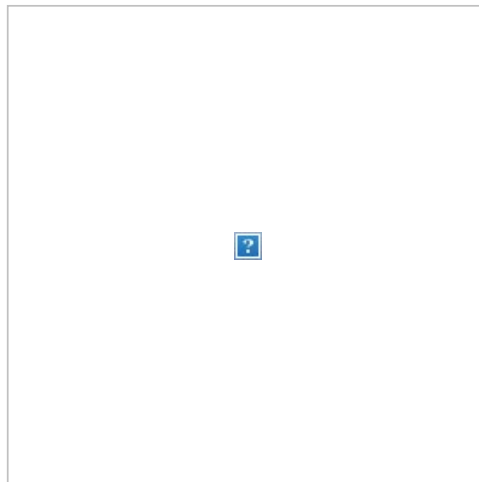
Be You National Mental Health in Education Report

The National Mental Health in Education Survey has been conducted annually since 2018 as part of Beyond Blue's mental health in education initiative, Be You. This year the survey gathered insights from 2630 educators working in early learning services and schools, including those studying to become educators. It captures the perceptions and observations of their own mental health in addition to their colleagues, and children and young people in their care. Clear barriers to educator wellbeing were identified from the survey responses. These include high levels of staff turnover, workforce shortages, a lack of resources to enable leadership support, time constraints, and the impact of increased critical incidents within the education sector.

The National Mental Health in Education Report translates the findings of the survey and offers a series of recommendations to implement at a system level to combat the key barriers identified. The recommendations are:

- **Strengthen leadership support available to educators** by first uplifting support for leaders. This will empower leaders to effectively nurture the wellbeing of their staff. Educators require leaders who can implement sustainable wellbeing strategies.
- **Embed mental health training in pre-service education** to better prepare all future educators with the mental health literacy required to thrive in their career.
- **Provide paid time for educators to engage with wellbeing initiatives** such as Be You. Adequate funding is needed to ensure all educators have access to paid time for planning and professional development focused on mental health.
- **Invest in dedicated wellbeing support roles** in all learning communities. Funding for such roles across Australia will help ensure positive outcomes into the future.

The report contains useful strategies and links to resources. Read it [here](#).



WELLBEING

The Kids Research Institute Australia

Formerly known as 'Telethon Kids Institute', Western Australia's biggest and only medical research institute dedicated to improving kids' health and wellbeing has rebranded to **The Kids Research Institute Australia**.

At The Kids Research Institute, there are several opportunities for teachers to support their students in exploring Science, Health and Medical Research. Via the Discovery Centre, teachers can book incursions and excursions and also have access to lesson plans.

You can find out more info about the school program, plus details around Science Lesson Plans for teachers [here](#).

Please click this link to find out more about [Broome Festival of STEM](#).

If you are interested in a Science incursion or excursion for your school, please visit the [school program page](#).

For all enquires, please contact schools@thekids.org.au



Bullying No Way

The Bullying No Way website supports Australian school communities with evidence-informed resources and activities for a proactive approach to bullying prevention and education. Extensive information and culturally responsive resources are available to support schools, students, families and carers to address and respond to bullying.

For further information, please visit their website [here](#).



Road safety education - upcoming professional learning workshops delivered by the Department of Education

Early Childhood Road Safety Education (Smart Steps)

This professional learning workshop supports those working in early childhood education to assist young children to navigate road safety challenges. Explore why children are at risk in the traffic environment and unpack the Smart Steps resources (provided) that focus on passenger safety, pedestrian safety, and safety on wheels.

Date: 26 November, 9:00 – 11:30am. Register [here](#).

Venue: Statewide Services, 33 Giles Ave Padbury

No registration

Keys4Life

This workshop is compulsory for teachers who intend to implement the Keys4Life pre-driver program and administer the Learner's Permit Test. Keys4Life is relevant for secondary teachers working with Year 10–12 students and non-school staff working with young adults. Participants receive a complimentary Keys4Life resource pack.

Date: 10 December, 8:30 – 3:00pm. Register [here](#).

Venue: Statewide Services, 33 Giles Ave Padbury

No registration fee



**Department of
Education**

For any inquiries or assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team [here](#) or call us at (08) 9441 1600.

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