

# Latest News

## Programs and Services



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### From the Director of School Programs and Services

Amazing to think that we are at the midpoint of Term 3!

AISWA Future Footprints supported MADALAH at their annual MADALAH Ball. 900 dedicated supporters came together to celebrate and advance the education of First Nations students from remote and regional communities across Western Australia. We were welcomed by Tex Garstone, Latoya Jones and Dr Tony Buti MLA.

MADALAH, a not-for-profit organisation, provides vital secondary and tertiary education scholarships to these students, many of whom attend AISWA schools. Through our AISWA Future Footprints Program, we proudly support these students with mentoring, career guidance, relationship building, and cultural celebration. Under the leadership of Andrew Beck and Kristy Ninyette, this program continues to set the standard for excellence.

MADALAH and AISWA Future Footprints share a deep commitment to ensuring the success of our First Nations students, both now and in the future. It was truly inspiring to hear the stories of past students and witness the incredible talent of current AISWA member school students who performed and spoke at the event.



Wishing you all the best as we work our way through the second part of Term 3.

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# 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	
<b>Child Protection</b>		
17 September	<a href="#">Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum training</a>	Register by 11 September
<b>Inclusive Education</b>		
10 October	<a href="#">Inclusive Education Symposium</a>	Register by 3 October
21 & 22 November	<a href="#">GERRIC UNSW Mini-COGE (Gifted Education)</a>	Register by 14 November
4 December	<a href="#">Autism Awareness &amp; Neurodiversity Workshop</a>	Register by 27 November

### Behaviour Tonics Professional Learning - Supported by AISWA

If there are staff who wish to learn how to manage student’s difficult behaviour, while also teaching self-regulation using practical responses then this Professional learning opportunity is worth a look! More information and registration [here](#).

## Team Updates

### CHILD PROTECTION



#### National Child Protection Week: 1-7 September

In 2024, the National Child Protection Week message that ‘**Every child in every community needs a fair go**’ will be complemented with the theme ‘**Every conversation matters**’.

During National Child Protection Week we invite you to speak up – and speak together – about what needs to change for every child in every community to have a fair go.

This theme provides a platform to:

- engage in important conversations,
- promote the value of conversations, and
- equip us to have conversations that keep kids safe.

Mark the date for **National Child Protection Week 2024 (1-7 September)**. The program including free webinars that are conducted during the week and resources will be available [here](#) soon with posters, stickers and banners already available.

***AISWA would love to see what you are doing at your school during National Child Protection week. Please [send](#) us your photos with a brief blurb so we can include it in a collage celebrating the week. Alternatively, if you would like to invite us to your school during this week, please [email](#).***

## Reportable Conduct Scheme

Thank you to all who either took part in the live webinar or have listened to the recording. The high registration numbers clearly show the importance of schools understanding the requirements and information, and the support available to them regarding the scheme. If you would further support whether it be a conversation or school visit regarding this topic please contact [Nigel Briggs](#) or [Lynne Nixon](#).

For information relating to the Reportable Conduct Scheme please refer to the following:

AISWA Website: [Information and Resources](#) on the Child Protection Section of the AISWA website (please log in first)

Ombudsman website: click [here](#).



## Respectful Relationships

### The Hidden Trends of Disrespect

Social media allows young Australian to connect with others, create and maintain relationships and to express themselves. It can also expose them to a world of disrespect.

Many resources available on this [government website](#) including in various languages. There are also First Nations resources. This website may be useful for implementing your respectful relationship education.

## INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



## Disability Royal Commission

The Australian and Western Australian Governments have released their responses to the Disability Royal Commission with several references to schooling.

Through the initial response to the Disability Royal Commission, the Australian Government is investing in a range of initiatives to better support inclusion and access, recognising the diverse and intersectional experiences of people with disability and their carers at all life stages.

These initiatives include:

- Working with state and territory governments in partnership with people with disability to help educators, schools and school systems deliver more inclusive education to improve outcomes for school students with disability.

Our existing work goes beyond the Disability Royal Commission's recommendations, including:

- In education, the Australian Government is providing an estimated \$3.7 billion in 2024 to support schools to implement reasonable adjustments through the Schooling Resource Standard students with disability loading. The Department of Education will also commence work to inform national system reforms to drive more accessible and inclusive school education and improve outcomes for students with disabilities. To complement this, the Government produces resources to support students, parents, and carers to understand their rights; and support school staff to understand their obligations. The Government also supports professional development for school staff to build skills and understanding around autism through the Positive Partnerships Program; and provides funding through the Higher Education Disability Support Program to assist universities to support students with disability.

Volume 7 considers the experiences of people with disability in accessing inclusive education, employment and housing. It includes 44 recommendations, 35 of which are within the Australian Government’s primary or shared responsibility. The Australian Government:

- Notes recommendations 7.14 and 7.15 around the phasing out of segregated education. The Australian Government recognises the ongoing role of specialist settings in service provision for students with disability and providing choice for students with disability and their families. State and territory governments will continue to be responsible for making decisions about registration of schools in their jurisdictions.
- Working with state and territory governments in partnership with people with disability to help educators, schools and school systems deliver more inclusive education to improve outcomes for school students with disability.

These responses are the first stage of a broader program of reform to address the Disability Royal Commission’s recommendations alongside related disability reforms. To access the WA response, please click [here](#).



### AASE Conference

The IE team will be attending the National AASE conference on 5-6 September in Fremantle. The 2024 conference theme: Empowering Minds, Connecting Hearts. The 2024 theme acknowledges the importance of people coming together to respond to the diversity of learners in Australian schools. ‘Empowering Minds, Connecting Hearts’ acknowledges the importance of creating learning environments that equip individuals with the essential knowledge, skills, confidence, and resources necessary for making informed decisions. We hope to see you in Fremantle. More information [here](#).

## Other News



### Bullying No Way: National week of action

Marking Bullying No Way: National week of action (12-16 August), eSafety has launched new resources designed in collaboration with child wellbeing expert and NSW Chief Behaviour Advisor, Professor Donna Cross.

[Spotlight on Cyberbullying](#) is designed to further boost resilience among families and schools.

Spotlight on Cyberbullying promotes a whole-school approach, offering tailored resources for principals, educators, parents, and children.

Educators can access teaching and learning activities and professional development resources to integrate cyberbullying awareness into online safety education programs and curriculum.

Parents and carers can benefit from practical advice on monitoring and supporting their children's online activities.

Children can access interactive content to learn about online safety and how to report incidents.

Linked to the National Week, eSafety is hosting a range of events all throughout August, including [Virtual Classrooms](#) for primary students, [teacher professional learning](#) and [parent/carer webinars](#).



### TalkNow Evaluation

Researchers from Curtin University have been appointed to externally evaluate the impact of the [TalkNow!](#) Respectful Relationships Programs. Any school site who agrees to trial the program during 2025 will be asked to support the following activities:

- Teaching staff who will be responsible for delivering the lessons/topics will participate in two 60-minute focus group discussions during the year (Term 1 and Term 4)
- A Curtin researcher will visit each school site and take observational notes whilst 2 lessons (different topics) are being delivered
- A group of parents from the school will participate in a 60-minute focus group discussion (Term 4)

All activities will be reviewed and approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee before they commence. Schools and individuals will not be identified in any final reports without permission.

For more information or to be involved, contact [Tasha Lawton](#).

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*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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