

Latest News

Programs and Services



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From the Director of School Programs and Services

Welcome to Week 10 Term 3!

I am sure that you are looking forward to the upcoming school holiday break and the potential for a slower pace of life.

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News

AISWA Inclusive Education and Future Footprints Facebook Page Closure



Our official Facebook Page ([@AISWA.education](https://www.facebook.com/AISWA.education)) will now be the sole presence for our organisation on Facebook. As a result, other existing AISWA pages, including AISWA Inclusive Education and Future Footprints, will soon be decommissioned.

To ensure continued engagement and access to relevant content, we have created corresponding Facebook Groups. We invite all members to join these Groups. Please find the links to our updated Facebook Groups below:

- [AISWA Teaching & Learning](#)
- [AISWA Early Childhood Education](#)
- [AISWA Primary Leaders Network](#)
- [AISWA HASS Teachers](#)
- [AISWA Future Footprints](#)

Ombudsman Conversation

After much feedback this year relating to the Reportable Conduct Scheme, I joined Lynne Nixon (Child Safety Consultant), Nigel Briggs (Industrial and Workplace Relations Consultant, and Adrian Scott (Registration and Compliance Consultant) for a face-to-face conversation with the Ombudsman. We shared key points including concerns about increased workloads, multiple reporting processes, and lack of clarity in Reportable Conduct procedures.

The Ombudsman highlighted procedural fairness as a key issue and noted current work being conducted in an attempt to streamline information sharing between agencies.

During this meeting, the Ombudsman announced the release of new templates, now available on their website. These are:

- Investigation Plan
- Investigation Report
- Letter of Allegation
- Letter of Proposed Adverse Findings and Actions
- Outcome letter

These documents are listed under templates on the [Reportable Conduct Ombudsman website](#).

The Ombudsman are also planning to have practical workshops about how to run an investigation available next year with an Albany workshop this December. I am currently liaising with an Albany independent member school to explore hosting this event. I may reach out to other members schools with a similar request as the dates for further workshops become available.

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

AISWA School Programs and Services Team Explores Kimberley Schools

After months of anticipation and preparation, I embarked on a journey to the Kimberley with members of the AISWA School Programs and Services Directorate: Nigel Briggs (Industrial and Workplace Relations Consultant), Amanda Fernihough (Inclusive Education Manager), and Adrian Scott (Registration and Compliance Consultant).

Our week-long trip began in Kununurra. The heart of our journey was connecting with AISWA member schools and Independent Aboriginal Community Schools (AICS) in the region. Our first visit was to Alta-1 Kununurra, where Principal Karlee Brown warmly welcomed us and shared her insights about the school. Here we also met Andy, the resident horse trainer, who not only provides emotional support to the students through his work with the horses but also shared fascinating local knowledge.

Our next stop was Purnululu Community School, where, despite a detour and a chipped windscreen, we were greeted by Acting Principal Tammy Cowan. The school came alive with the sounds of children playing basketball in the sweltering heat, and we were captivated by the incredible First Nations murals adorning the school walls.

At Yiyili Community School, after a challenging off-road drive, we marvelled at the beautiful community art and delved into the school's history, guided by Shaun, Chair of the Yiyili School Board.

Navigating the Kimberley presented its challenges—Google Maps led us astray more than once! However, with the help of Principal Christine Berberich at Kulkariya Community School, we eventually found our way. Christine's first piece of advice was, "Never follow Google!" She generously shared the story of her school and community with us—a true gift.

Christine then accompanied us to Wulungarra Community School to ensure we didn't get lost again. There, we met Principal Rosie Visiya, whose dedication as both Principal and community leader was awe-inspiring. It became clear that leading a school in the Kimberley is a vastly different experience from leading one in the metropolitan area.

Our final school visits were to Yiramalay Community School and Nyikina Mangala Community School. At Yiramalay, Principal Adele Gott welcomed us warmly, and we enjoyed seeing the students' bond with Nigel over football.

Nyikina Mangala Community School is set against the stunning Leopold Ranges. Despite the quietness due to sorry business, the resilience and beauty of the community shone through as we spoke with Principal Wikitoria Bacon.

Throughout our visit to seven AISWA Independent Kimberley Schools, we were privileged to learn from and offer support to these dedicated leaders. Our relationships with these schools were strengthened, and our understanding of their unique contexts, challenges, and celebrations deepened. The lessons learned and connections made during this trip will stay with us long after the dust settles.

Special thanks to the leaders in each school for your warm welcome and willingness to teach us about each of your contexts.

To all students entering exam season in the coming weeks, especially our resilient Year 12 boarding students who have pursued their studies away from home—your hard work is about to pay off, and a bright future is just around the corner.

Wishing you a safe and restful holiday!



Future Footprints Year 12 2024 Graduation

This time of year, is filled with celebrations of achievement, and one notable event was the 2024 AISWA Future Footprints Year 12 Graduation Ceremony held last week at Mineral Resources Park.

A remarkable 131 boarding students graduated from the AISWA Future Footprints program this year. These students have been supported by AISWA Future Footprints, MADALAH, AIEF, and other dedicated sponsors, helping them achieve their personal goals throughout their educational journey at AISWA Independent Schools.

The AISWA Future Footprints program offers vital support to all First Nations students attending AISWA Independent Boarding Schools. Through activities, mentoring, access to information, and a strong support network, the program ensures that both students and their school coordinators have the tools they need for success—both in school and beyond.

What started with just 12 graduates in its first year has grown to 131 graduates in 2024! Thank you to Andrew Beck (Aboriginal Education and Future Footprints Consultant), Kristy Ninyette (Aboriginal Education Consultant) and Ana Palassis (Administrative Support Officer) for the dedication to this work.

A heartfelt congratulations to the 2024 AISWA Future Footprints Graduates!



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		
10 October	Inclusive Education Symposium	Register by 3 October
21 & 22 November	GERRIC UNSW Mini-COGE (Gifted Education)	Register by 14 November
4 December	Autism Awareness & Neurodiversity Workshop	Register by 27 November

Team Updates

CHILD PROTECTION



E-Safety Commission

AISWA currently has a representative on the National Online Safety Education Council which meets each term and provides valuable information and updates for schools. Information from the recent meeting includes:

Family Capacity Building Project – the [new resources](#) support parents/carers to protect children and young people from child sexual abuse online. Additional resources will be released in October 2024. Please share this information with your families.

eSafety will be hosting a **live professional learning webinar** on Online Safety Considerations for Generative AI in Education on 22 October. Register [here](#).

New Spotlight on Cyberbullying resource for schools. See [here](#).

Five new professional learning videos available for the Best Practice Framework for Online Safety Education. See [here](#).



National Child Protection Week: 1-7 September

This is a reminder to [share](#) any photos or stories from your school's activities during National Child Protection Week.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



AASE/WAESPA Conference

The IE team attended the AASE/ WAESPA Annual Conference at The Esplanade in Fremantle earlier this month. It was a thought provoking and insightful 2 days of professional learning. Throughout the sessions, strong themes of wellbeing and connection were evident and truly reflected the 2024 theme of 'Empowering Minds, Connecting Hearts.'



The Flourish Movement, partnering with Deakin University are conducting a research project about Vicarious Trauma, secondary trauma stress. If you would like to be involved, please click [here](#).



The Australian Government of Education has advised that the 2025 NCCD Guidelines, approved by AESOC on 4 June 2024, were published on the NCCD Portal on 9 September 2024. The 2025 Guidelines are available [here](#).

The department made minor updates to the NCCD Quick Guide to reflect the change in year and the 2025 Quick Guide is now also available on the NCCD Portal [here](#).

The [home page](#) of the NCCD Portal has been updated with information about the 2025 NCCD Guidelines and a banner and news item has also been published on [SchoolsHub](#).

The 2025 NCCD national key dates (on the home page of the NCCD Portal) will be updated when the activity timelines for 2025, including Census Day, are determined. Similarly for the [Notice for schools and school principals](#).

The department has asked that we inform Independent schools of the availability of the 2025 NCCD Guidelines and Quick Guide.

Creativity for Schools – Collaboration Grants

The next round of Creativity for Schools is now open.

[Creativity for Schools](#) connects Western Australian creatives with schools to embed creativity into students' learning and understanding.

The Collaboration category offers funding for up to \$60,000 and supports activities for students (K to 12) utilising arts-based practice to engage them in their learning.

Key Dates



- Draft Review closes: 4 PM, 26 September 2024
- Funding round closes: 4 PM, 10 October 2024
- Activity start dates: From 15 January 2025

Visit the [website](#) to find out more and view the funding guidelines and application support document.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Creative Learning team by [email](#) or by phone on 6552 7400 for more information or if you have any questions.

PSYCHOLOGY



Increasing concerns for student wellbeing has led some school leaders to consider using student self-report wellbeing surveys. The AISWA School Psychology Service has created some guidelines for school leaders thinking about measuring student wellbeing in the school setting. You can access these guidelines by following this [link](#).

Other News

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION

Professional Growth Opportunity for Principals

If you are looking for your next professional growth opportunity this might be of interest.

The Principals' Centre in Australia

- Tuition Discount for Early Application
- 13 – 17 January 2025 | Sydney
- Early Bird Tuition: \$7250

Presented by the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Club of Australia, The Principals' Centre in Australia is a five-day, in-person program designed to help school leaders cultivate and strengthen their leadership skills.

Application deadline: 15 November 2024. More information [here](#).

Curtin University – Education Advisory Board



Throughout the year, after many conversations with our members schools including the WA Collegiate Schools, CARE schools, regional and remote leaders, there have been requests for AISWA's assistance to work with universities to support the placement of teaching practicum students in schools. The feeling is that incoming teachers with experience in a wide range of schools will be better equipped when stepping into their own classrooms for the first time.

This message was shared at the Curtin University Education Advisory Board meeting. Curtin University is very interested in connecting with AISWA schools open to hosting practicum students. For remote and regional schools, the

ability to house the student/s is a factor which needs to be considered by interested schools.

Below is an outline of the critical placements for the remainder of 2024.

Both groups of students will be completing their 3rd placement:

- Master of Teaching – 28 Oct - 15 Nov (3 week placement) – Year 1-2 classroom required
- Graduate Diploma in Education - 28 Oct - 22 Nov (4 week placement) – Year 1-6 classroom required

Teachers who mentor students will be remunerated at \$25 per day (\$375 for a 3 week placement, \$500 for a 4 week placement).

Curtin is open to facilitating practicum student experiences in remote and regional areas especially if accommodation is available.

If you are keen to host some Curtin practicum students, please contact [Melissa Brodie](#) to start this valuable conversation.

For schools that are finding staffing challenging this could offer a valuable pipeline to some up-and-coming talent!



Indigenous Futures High School Challenge 2024

This three-day program for Year 7-12 Aboriginal offers a hands-on experience designed for students eager to develop new skills while exploring the concept of an Indigenous Future within the creative industries. Students will engage in activities centred around the creative industries on a University campus. More information [here](#).



Commissioner for Children and Young People Voting age Survey

The Commissioner is seeking feedback from children and young people about the voting age. Secondary teachers are invited to share this link with students to have their say. More information [here](#).

Survey closes on 20 September 2024.

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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