

Latest News

Programs and Services



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From the Director of School Programs and Services



Hello everyone,

I'm delighted to share this month's *Program & Services Directorate Newsletter*, where we highlight the incredible work happening across AISWA and our member schools. This edition covers a wide range of initiatives, including the AISWA International Study Tour, Wellbeing, Inclusive Education, School Operations Support, Future Footprints, Psychology, and Professional Learning Opportunities. I hope you find these updates valuable as we continue to support schools.

This month, we celebrate a very special milestone—*10 years of dedicated support from our Psychology Team!* With 16 experienced psychologists, this team has been a vital resource for WA Independent Schools, providing expert guidance and care for students. A heartfelt thank you to the eight team members who have been with us since the very beginning—your dedication has helped shape this essential service. If your school needs support in 2025, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I'm also thrilled to congratulate *Andrew Beck* and *Adrian Scott* on their new leadership roles within the *Programs and Services Directorate*. Andrew will lead *First Nations Leadership and Partnerships*, strengthening programs and relationships across WA, while Adrian will oversee *School Operations Support*, managing key areas like industrial relations, legal support, policy, and compliance. I know they will both do a fantastic job, and I look forward to seeing their impact in these spaces.

Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to our schools and students—I'm grateful to work alongside such a passionate and dedicated community.

Warm regards,

[Helen Aguiar](#)

Director School Programs and Services

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PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALENDAR



Don't miss out on our Professional Learning events in 2025. Our easy-to-use 2025 Professional Learning Calendar features a variety of in-person sessions, online webinars, and conferences.

Secure your spot today! Our events cover topics such as governance and compliance, school leadership, teaching and learning, non-teaching staff support, student wellbeing, and much more. Our experts are dedicated to developing and delivering programs and services that enable excellence in education.

You can explore all professional learning opportunities for 2025 [here](#).

AISWA INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR



We are excited to announce a proposed AISWA Study Tour planned for the September/October holidays this year.

This will be a unique opportunity to be immersed in a world-class school leadership program in London, designed to inspire fresh perspectives and practical insights.

For information and to register, please follow this [link](#).

If you have any questions, please contact our tour organisers [Kris Stafford](#) or [Helen Aguiar](#).

WELLBEING PROGRAM



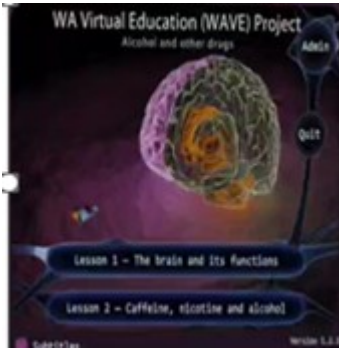
Consent and Respectful Relationships Education

AISWA is excited to offer an interactive and practical half-day Professional Learning session on Respectful Relationships Education. This session will empower educators with tools, real-world scenarios, and evidence-based strategies to confidently teach consent, inclusivity, and gender diversity in schools.

What you'll gain:

- ✓ A deep understanding of Consent and Respectful Relationships Education (CRRE).
- ✓ Insights into current challenges and how to engage students effectively.
- ✓ Hands-on experience with Talk NOW! resources.
- ✓ Strategies to navigate complex classroom discussions.
- ✓ Access to two funded Talk NOW! topics for your school.

The course date is 20 March, to find out more please click [here](#).



Alcohol and other Drugs Virtual Reality Resource

The resource includes a VR experience for students accompanied by classroom activities. It aligns with WA Curriculum for Year 9 Health and Physical Education, and Science.

- Lesson 1: The brain and its functions.
- Lesson 2: Caffeine, nicotine and alcohol.

The [SDERA](#) education resources webpage contains further information about the resource and how to express interest to implement it into your existing drug education program.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION



Funding Information for Students with Disabilities

Round 1 Funding applications are now open. The round will close on 26 March at 5pm. If you have any queries or require further assistance, please either refer to the AISWA website [here](#), email the [AISWA IE Team](#) or contact Simon Campbell on 9441 1612.



Term 1 is typically the planning phase of NCCD. The key activities as recommended by the Australian Government include:

- Extending or building an understanding of the NCCD in schools.
- Consolidating understanding of the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Discussing and establishing processes including moderation processes.
- Communicating with students, parents, guardians and carers.

For more information, please visit the [NCCD website](#) or contact your AISWA [IE consultant](#).



Team Teach Level One Course

Reduce restrictive practices in your setting and equip your staff with the skills to de-escalate distressed behaviours. The Level One Team Teach course teaches simple and safe ways of working, using a shared language to promote a consistent, respectful approach to behaviour support, maintaining positive relationships. This is a full day course on the 13 March 2025.

To sign up for this course please click [here](#).

SCHOOL OPERATIONS SUPPORT - REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE



It's been a busy start to the year, with schools contacting us to prepare their re-registration submissions. This is particularly important for schools preparing submissions for the second half of 2025, which are due to the NGRS by the end of the first semester. We have enjoyed visiting schools, getting to know you, understanding your needs, and helping you prepare your materials.

A Compliance Update has been posted on the AISWA website this week. You can access it [here](#) (login required).

We encourage you to review the changes regarding Casual Employment and the updated information for Contractors from Working with Children. The document includes links for further information.



Governance Workshop:

Governance Specifics in an Independent School will be held on 14 March. This workshop is designed to equip board members with the essential knowledge and skills for their role, focusing on the specifics of school registration. More information is available [here](#).

Annual School Registration Seminar

This informative session will be held on 18 March and is designed to support schools in maintaining regulatory compliance and preparing for upcoming registration audits. Our expert presenters from AISWA, NGRS Consultants, and the Ombudsman Reportable Conduct Directorate will delve into crucial topics on current registration standards and other requirements. More information is available [here](#).

AISWA FUTURE FOOTPRINTS



AISWA On Country Teacher Cultural Immersion Opportunity

- AISWA Future Footprints is excited to announce the 2025 East Kimberley First Nations Immersion Program scheduled for 7 – 11 July 2025. This is an inaugural opportunity being offered by AISWA Future Footprints.
- The On Country Teacher Cultural Immersion Program will have participants engaging in a range of hands-on activities which will include some of the following: Ngarinyin language lessons, kinship structures, bush tucker and bush medicines, making fire, dancing and fishing.
- The cost of the tour is \$4100.00.
- You can find out more information [here](#).
- If you have any questions, please contact [Andrew Beck](#).



First Nations Education

Information from [Murrup Barak](#) at the University of Melbourne about upcoming opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students.

- Yagilaith (Year 11 & 12) – A free University of Melbourne experience program for ATAR/IB students. Runs 7–11 July 2025. Applications close 17 April 2025.
- Victorian Indigenous Engineering Winter School (Year 10–12) – a hands-on program for students interested in engineering and IT. Further information can be found [here](#).
- Residential Indigenous Science Experience (Year 9 & 10) – A STEM-focused program for students passionate about science, technology, engineering, and maths. Further information can be found [here](#).

PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE



Understanding and Responding to School Refusal – 17 March

School refusal can negatively impact a young persons' learning and development. It can also affect friendships due to missed opportunities to connect with friends and other students. This free half-day session at ASIWA on 17 March aims to develop participants' understanding of school refusal behaviour and basic school-based strategies to reduce non-attendance. For further details and registration please click [here](#).



Trauma Aware Education – 26 March

This workshop will provide an overview of the recently developed National Guidelines for Trauma Aware Education as well as an introduction to effective strategies for schools to inform a trauma-aware education response. This event is highly subsidised by AISWA, and costs only \$60 for a full day of training. Participants can expect to:

- Gain an understanding of the impacts of complex trauma and the evidence-base for trauma-aware education.
- Develop an understanding of effective strategies for a trauma-aware education response.
- Be provided with information on further learning.

To register please click [here](#).

Our Psychology Team

Julie Townsend (Lead Psychologist)

Bas Snijder

Ben Smithers

Dana De Bunnetat

Jane Kirkham

Jemma Millar

Katy Dias

Larissa Roy

Mandy Marett

Michele Blacklock

Michelle Aulfrey

Shannon Heard

Stephanie Luke (Busselton)

Tammy Barnes

Wendy Vasquez

Diann Kerr

Zoe Robson

- Provide psychological services to assist with learning and disability.
- Provide support with behaviour, engagement, and attendance.
- Support wellbeing and mental health; and
- Emergency and critical incident management.

The Psychology team assists schools across individual, group, whole school, and systems levels to help build capacity in schools and school staff.

Please forward any enquiries to the Lead Psychologist [via email](#).

Professional Learning Opportunities

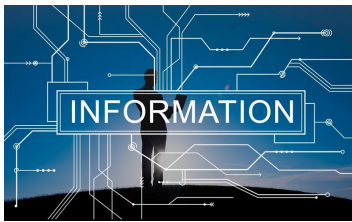
Program and Services

Click the table links below to learn more about our upcoming Professional Learning opportunities. For a comprehensive list, including online learning courses, please visit AISWA's [Professional Learning Events Calendar](#).

Event Date	Title	
Curriculum and School Improvement		
31 March	Sharp Reading: Teaching Reading to the Beginning Reader	Register by 24 March
Day 1 - 4 April Day 2 - 28 April	High Impact Teaching Strategies for Mathematics	Register by 28 March
7 April	High Impact Practices (HIPS)	Register by 31 March
8 April	High Impact Practices (HIPS)	Register by 1 April
Governance and Business Operations		
14 March	Governance Specifics in an Independent School	Register by 7 March
18 March	School Registration Seminar	Register by 11 March
Leadership and Development		
Day 1 - 12 March Day 2 - 3 April Day 3 - 18 June Day 4 - 4 Sept	Women in Leadership Program with ACEL	Register by 5 March
14 March	New and Early Career Principals Network	Register by 7 March
19 March	National Certification of Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers	Register by 12 March
Day 1 - 27 March Day 2 - 28 March	Early Career Teachers Program - Semester 1 Intake	Register by 17 March
2 April 2025	Managing Public Relations Risks in Schools: Essential Media Training	Register by 26 March
School and Student Support		
7 March 2024	Teaching Autistic Students	Register by 1 March
Day 1 - 10 March Day 2 - 11 March	Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training	Register by 3 March
13 March	Team Teach Training	Register by 6 March
17 March	Understanding and Responding to School Refusal	Register by 10 March
20 March	Consent and Respectful Relationships (CRRE) with Talk NOW!	Register by 13 March
24 March	Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum Training	Register by 17 March

26 March	Trauma Aware Education	Register by 19 March
Day 1 - 31 March Day 2 - 1 April	Youth Mental Health First Aid	Register by 24 March

INFORMATION



The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 introduces a mandatory minimum age of 16 for accounts on certain social media platforms, forming one part of a broader strategy to create safer digital spaces for everyone. The age restriction requirements will take effect by December 2025. The link to the eSafety website with information to support understanding of the social media age restrictions legislation, which will come into effect in December 2025 can be found [here](#).

The Australian Government Department of Education has published a new information resource on the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with disabilities and their parents and caregivers. Titled "Our Right to Learn and Play" and it can be found on the Department's website [here](#).

Empowering Educators: Practical Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms - Are you looking for effective, research-backed strategies to support diverse learners in your classroom? Join us at the 2025 Education Symposium and gain practical tools to enhance inclusion and student engagement. This two-day event is tailored specifically for educators, featuring leading experts in autism research, inclusive education, and classroom strategies. You can learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).

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

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



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