

Latest News

Programs and Services



ASSOCIATION of INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

From the Director of School Programs and Services

New AISWA Wellbeing Manager - Lucy Sabatini



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We are thrilled to warmly welcome Lucy Sabatini to our AISWA Team as our new Wellbeing Manager. Lucy's most recent role was a senior leadership role as Director of Wellbeing.

Lucy has a vast range of experience in senior and middle leadership roles across different schools including Perth College, Iona and Port Community School (early in her career). Lucy is passionate about the wellbeing of our young people; her advocacy in the wellbeing space extends to creating supportive environments and opportunities that nurture and promote positive outcomes for staff and students.

Lucy writes:

As the Wellbeing Manager at AISWA, my role is to foster partnerships and provide leadership consultancy support and professional learning for our member schools. Supporting the development and implementation of whole school wellbeing initiatives, and in particular, content pertaining to Consent and Respectful Relationships Education (CRRE), I am committed to providing an environment where member schools feel supported; my advocacy in the area of wellbeing extending to create a supportive environment and opportunities that promote positive outcomes for staff and students.

I welcome you to contact me as I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to determine your needs and the ways in which I can be of support. I am currently building a data base of contacts in the area of wellbeing and would appreciate you completing this short [survey](#).

I look forward to visiting your school and having robust conversations regarding the wellbeing of our students. I wish you a wonderful Term 4!

ANZELA Conference

I had the privilege of attending the Australia and New Zealand Education Law Association (ANZELA) conference in Hobart, alongside Adrian and Nigel.

Staying at the forefront of education law is essential to providing high quality support to our member schools, who face increasingly complex challenges. The conference was a valuable opportunity to deepen our expertise in key areas of education law.

Some of the topics that particularly resonated with me were:

- Reportable conduct schemes
- Professional boundaries and the impact of AI
- Restorative processes in schools
- Legal risks for teachers
- Effective school governance
- Defamation in the social media era

We look forward to continuing our support for schools in these important areas.



This Month's Updates

The October Programs and Services Directorate Newsletter is full of helpful information! Including updates on:

- **2025 AISWA International Study Tour Opportunity**
- **Policy Creation Assistance Opportunity**
- **AISWA 2025 Professional Learning Calendar and Services Directory**
- **Future Footprints - Coordinators Wadjemup Cultural Tour**
- **ADHD Awareness Month and Down Syndrome Awareness Month**
- **State Funding for Students with a Disability**
- **Trauma Aware Education - National Guideline**
- **Declaration for a Trauma Aware Education Workforce in Australia**
- **The Eucalypt Way - Trauma-informed Education for Australia**
- **Momentum**
- **Youth Leadership Academy Opportunity**
- **The Kids Institute Australia**
- **WA Ombudsman Reportable Conduct Investigation Workshops – Term 4 2024**

Helen Aguiar
Director School Programs and Services

News

AISWA International Study Tour - 2025

We are excited to announce that planning is underway for an international study tour, scheduled for the **September/October holidays in 2025**. Designed for **Principals and Senior leaders**, this unique experience will provide the opportunity to engage with a variety of leaders and educators from renowned schools and institutions from selected destinations across the UK and Europe, exploring progressive reforms and innovative programs. Possible themes may include innovative workforce strategies, leading school improvement, and alternative models of schooling. If this opportunity is of interest, please click [here](#) to register by **31 October**, and to receive more information. If you have any questions, please contact [Helen Aguiar](#) or [Kris Stafford](#).

Please note: At this point we are gauging interest. As we move forward with our thinking, we may seek input from interested school leaders when designing the program. Once we have a clear design, costings and details, interested school leaders would then decide re their commitment to the tour. If you register your interest via the link provided you will be kept informed of our progress.

Policy Creation Assistance Opportunity

We have received valuable feedback from our member schools regarding the challenges and workload associated with policy creation and management. In response, AISWA has been exploring a potential solution with Ideagen CompliSpace to help schools achieve continuous compliance through what appears to be easy-to-use software.

You may like to review [Ideagen CompliSpace](#) website as some of product features include:

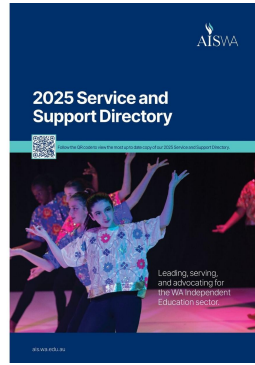
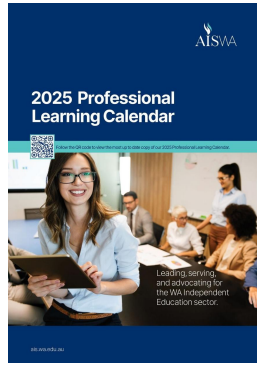
- **Policy Management:** A complete suite of policies and procedures tailored for schools, helping to ensure you have everything you need in one place.
- **Policy Content:** Policies are researched, drafted, and kept up to date with legislative changes. You can also contextualise and upload your own content.
- **Policy Management Platform:** An online platform that is searchable, secure, and accessible on all devices, with version control and audit logs.

We are keen to gauge the interest of schools in this service before proceeding with further discussions and negotiations. Our goal is to find an affordable solution, especially for our smaller schools.

If your school could be interested in a policy management solution, please complete the brief [expression of interest](#) and submit it by **Friday, 25 October**. Rest assured, your school's information will remain private and won't be shared with any vendors.

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.



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	
Administration		
12 November	School Registration Seminar	Register by 7 November
14 November	School Registration Seminar	Register by 9 November
Inclusive Education		
21 & 22 November	GERRIC UNSW Mini-COGE (Gifted Education)	Register by 14 November
4 December	Autism Awareness & Neurodiversity Workshop	Register by 27 November
Wellbeing		
19 November	Reportable Conduct Scheme Workshop with the Ombudsman	Register by 12 November
2 December	Reportable Conduct Scheme Workshop with the Ombudsman	Register by 26 November

Team Updates

FUTURE FOOTPRINTS

Coordinators Wadjemup Cultural Tour

Each year, the AISWA Future Footprints team host four forums for our school coordinators to come together, share insights, and plan for future initiatives. These gatherings are collaborative and deeply valued, as we unite with one shared purpose: the well-being of our young people. We address challenges, celebrate

successes, and discuss our collective vision for the future.

Our latest Future Footprints forum included a cultural tour of Wadjemup (Rottnest Island), offering an educational experience about the island's rich history from an Aboriginal perspective. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with participants gaining valuable insights and engaging in deep learning. After the tour, we took time to reflect on the past term, share NAIDOC celebrations from different schools, and discuss key takeaways from the day.

We are in a powerful position to provide our coordinators with the tools and strategies they need to help the next generation thrive in two worlds. It is a privilege to be part of this important journey of change.

"The endurance of Aboriginal people is in our story. It is the story of resilience, strength, and survival. Our voices still rise, our stories still matter."_ —Stan Grant

Andrew Beck, AISWA Aboriginal Education Consultant Future Footprints



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

ADHD Awareness Month and Down Syndrome Awareness Month

In the month of October, we recognise both the ADHD Awareness Month and Down Syndrome Awareness Month. [ADHDWA](#) and [Down Syndrome Association](#) have a wide range of valuable online resources available for educators.

Research indicates that inclusive education enhances both academic and social outcomes for all students, regardless of disability. Specifically, students with disabilities in inclusive settings experience:

- Significant academic improvements, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Enhanced social skills
- Increased participation in school activities
- Higher chances of securing mainstream employment in the future, and
- Greater independence in living arrangements



State Funding for Students with a Disability

Thank you for all the time and dedication in completing the funding applications for 2024.

State Funding Data Round 2 2024

Our Round 2 statistics for the IE state funding process have arrived.

- 4946 - APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
- 4729 - APPROVED APPLICATIONS
- 1013 - READ AND ASSESSED BY THE SNAC COMMITTEE
- 217 - DECLINED APPLICATIONS
- 21 - TRANSFERS

Dates for your 2025 calendars:

- 20 February - IE Symposium with Funding PL
- 20 February* - Round 1 applications open
- 26 March* - Round 1 application closes

*please note these dates are tentative and subject to change, the official timeline will be made available to schools before the end of term.

PSYCHOLOGY

Trauma Aware Education - National Guidelines

At the School Psychology Association of WA Conference in September 2024, Dr Meegan Brown (Queensland University of Technology) presented on Trauma-Informed Practices in Schools and the [National Guidelines for Trauma-Aware Education](#).

The Guidelines have been developed via a collaboration between the Queensland University of Technology and the Australian Childhood Foundation in response to increasing awareness of the impact of complex trauma on the education and life outcomes for children and young people. There is clear evidence that complex trauma can have a detrimental impact on learning and educational pathways due to the harmful impact of toxic stress on developing nervous systems. This neurobiological impact can impair the capacity for effective relationships and for emotional regulation, which can lead to behavioural and learning complexities that place young students at increased risk of suspension, exclusion, and disengagement from schooling. The document provides guidance at both site and system level to identify elements that will support the development of effective trauma-aware approaches.

AISWA School Psychology Service will be delivering a one-day Professional Development session on Trauma Aware Education on 26 March 2025. Registrations for the event will open in January.



Declaration for a Trauma Aware Education Workforce in Australia

The [Declaration for a Trauma-Aware Education Workforce](#) is an output of the fourth, biennial Trauma-Aware Education Conference being held in on 31 October and 1 November 2024 in Brisbane. In seeking support for the Declaration, the authors have written a [background paper](#) to provide the evidence base for the Declaration.

If you wish to support the proposed initiatives to make trauma-informed education available, consistent, and sustainable throughout Australia, you can add your signature [here](#).



The Eucalypt Way - Trauma-informed Education for Australia

[The Eucalypt Way](#) is a collaboration between the Berry Street Education Model and the Queensland University of Technology. It provides educators with a pathway to understanding the impacts of trauma on the learning and engagement of children and young people and provides practical steps to support healing and growth.

The eucalypt has been chosen as a metaphor for this work because the species has evolved over millennia to suit the diverse Australian landscape. Eucalypts hold flammable oils and are vulnerable to heat and fire, but they also have unique properties that support their recovery from trauma and allow them to survive and to thrive.



Momentum

[Momentum](#) is a new, online FREE interactive self-help program designed to help young people (7 – 17 yrs) manage feelings of anxiety or unhappiness. The program was developed by clinicians and digital mental health experts from six leading Australian universities, as well as young people, parents, and community and government health partners.

In addition to tailored online treatment programs, Momentum also offers help with sleep difficulties, information on well-being and help-seeking, and tips and information about substance use for adolescents. The program can be worked through at participants' own pace and in the comfort of their own home.



WELLBEING

Youth leadership Academy Opportunity

Wil Massara, the founder and CEO of Youth Leadership Academy Australia (YLAA) has reached out to offer a wonderful leadership opportunity for students in AISWA Schools.

Will provided the following information for consideration.

Since the age of 15, I've been working to bring world-class leadership, wellbeing, and action based events to students nationwide. Six years later, YLAA has recently launched our 2025 national event series to impact around 13,000 young people by stepping up to the plate to achieve their full potential as leaders, changemakers, and innovators.

YLAA was formed with the mission of equipping young people with the skills to lead themselves, your schools, and our communities. Our 2025 event series encompasses our Secondary Youth Leadership Conference and our Primary Schools Dream and Lead Conference.

Our events are immersive experiences where students engage in hands-on workshops, hear from dynamic speakers, and network with peers across the state. Our events are designed to support many of the curriculums general capabilities outlined within the curriculum including critical thinking, personal and social understanding and intercultural understanding.

Uplifting students to be their best selves is at the core of YLAA's purpose. We believe that young people are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the leaders of today, and we're committed to equipping them with the skills, motivation, and confidence to shape a better future for all.

We believe that the experience we can bring to your young people will enable them to thrive as leaders and changemakers within your schools.

I look forward to working with you soon and welcome any questions you may have.

Kind Regards,
Wil Massara
CEO & Founder



Reportable Conduct Investigation Workshops – Term 4 2024

As part of our continuing work in supporting AISWA schools in the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the WA Ombudsman will be presenting Reportable Conduct Investigation workshops this term.

This workshop is for people already familiar with the Reportable Conduct Scheme who are responsible for conducting investigations of organisation employees in the education sector, including Principals and school leaders.

The Workshop will address:

- How can you manage risks to children in your organisation's care while the investigation is ongoing?
- How will the Ombudsman oversee your organisation's investigation?
- How should your organisation conduct an investigation?
- What happens at the end of a reportable conduct investigation?

It may also be useful to become familiar with the resources available on the Ombudsman WA [website](#) before attending the workshop.

Two workshops will occur this term with the intention of running further workshops in 2025.

- AISWA Training Rooms, 19 November 2024. [Register for this session.](#)
- Great Southern Grammar School Albany, 2 December 2024. [Register for this session.](#)

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



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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