



Education 2007

2007 is set to be the most important year for local governance, management and parental involvement in education since Partnerships 21 was introduced – and as the basis for both is the enhancement of student well-being and achievement, 2007 is also set to be the most important year for your child's future.

Changes to education – and your involvement in it – will occur across the nation, on many levels in 2007.

At the state level, there are a number of proposed changes. Both the Education Act and the Children's Services Act will be thoroughly reviewed and revised – possibly even merged. We are already in the middle of reviews of Instrumental Music and Aquatics Programs. Last year's comprehensive review of SACE will commence implementation. 17 schools will vote whether to close and be amalgamated into Super Schools – creating unprecedented challenges for Governing

Councils, which will need to govern children from birth to year 12 and beyond, in the one site – just how will this work? A review of the SSABSA Act has already been drafted and will go to Parliament in the next few months.

The Minister is proposing raising the school leaving age to 17 and a parliamentary enquiry is currently examining the role of parents and the local community in the selection of principals and governance itself, in the wake of the Elizabeth Vale situation, last year.

And, you can be sure; the state government is considering the future of local governance and local management ... and parental involvement, in every one of these issues.

On the national level, we are facing an election in 2007 and it is already clear that education will be the key issue. Not a day goes by without either party making a sweeping comment about the future of education in Australia. Both parties are openly endorsing a federalized education system, which may include a national curriculum, national certificate of education and standardized school starting ages. Any federalization of education could mean a reduction in the role of state education departments, so the logical progression could mean a reduced scope for local governance and management.

One way or another, 2007 will see dramatic changes in how our public schools are run – and possibly how involved you are in the process...



Inside



Police Checks



First Aid



**Life Education
Completing Drug
Education in Schools**

Your Association



SAASSO's Role

The South Australian Association of State School Organisations is the peak training, support and advisory body for state school Governing Councils and Pre-School Management Committees.

SAASSO's Clients

Our clients are the affiliated schools and governing councils and pre-school management committees. SAASSO represents more than 90% of state primary and secondary schools.

SAASSO's Purpose

Our purpose is to support Governing Councils acquit their roles & responsibilities, to improve and enhance student well-being and achievement.

SAASSO's Services

Professional Development for Councillors:

The governance of a school is a demanding task, with numerous responsibilities. SAASSO provides a range of training courses, specifically designed to address the skill set required by Governing Councils.

- Governance – School & Pre-School
- School Budget – School & Pre-School
- Outdoor Facilities
- Bullying
- Out of School Hours Care
- Canteen

- Meeting Procedures
- Council Constitution
- Principal Selection Panel
- Values

Advisory Service:

Governing Councils are required to adhere to the Education Act, a constitution and the DECS Administrative Instructions & Guidelines. Pre-schools are bound by the Children's Services Act. The amount of information and legislation can be overwhelming. SAASSO provides, to its Affiliates:

- a repository of useful and required information on the SAASSO website
- up to date information, data and research via School Post
- a telephone advisory service for specific queries.

Representation:

Despite the recent advancements in local governance of schools, there is still much to be achieved. Through its staff and volunteer board, SAASSO represents Governing Councils on literally dozens of committees, boards and research bodies to further enhance the quality of education and student well-being in South Australia.

Mediation & Lobbying:

As an independent, not for profit association, SAASSO can work for and

on behalf of education and individual Governing Councils in issues with DECS, The Minister and the Federal Government, ensuring that the voice of parents and the needs of local communities are heard.

Grants:

SAASSO is directly involved in several financial education grants and provides expert advice on a range of financial assistance packages available to schools and students.

Canteen Network:

Formed in 2001, the Canteen Network assists school canteens to provide nutritional meals to students, consistent with Australian Dietary Guidelines. The network also helps schools manage the associated infrastructure and staff issues involved in providing this service to students.

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School Post

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