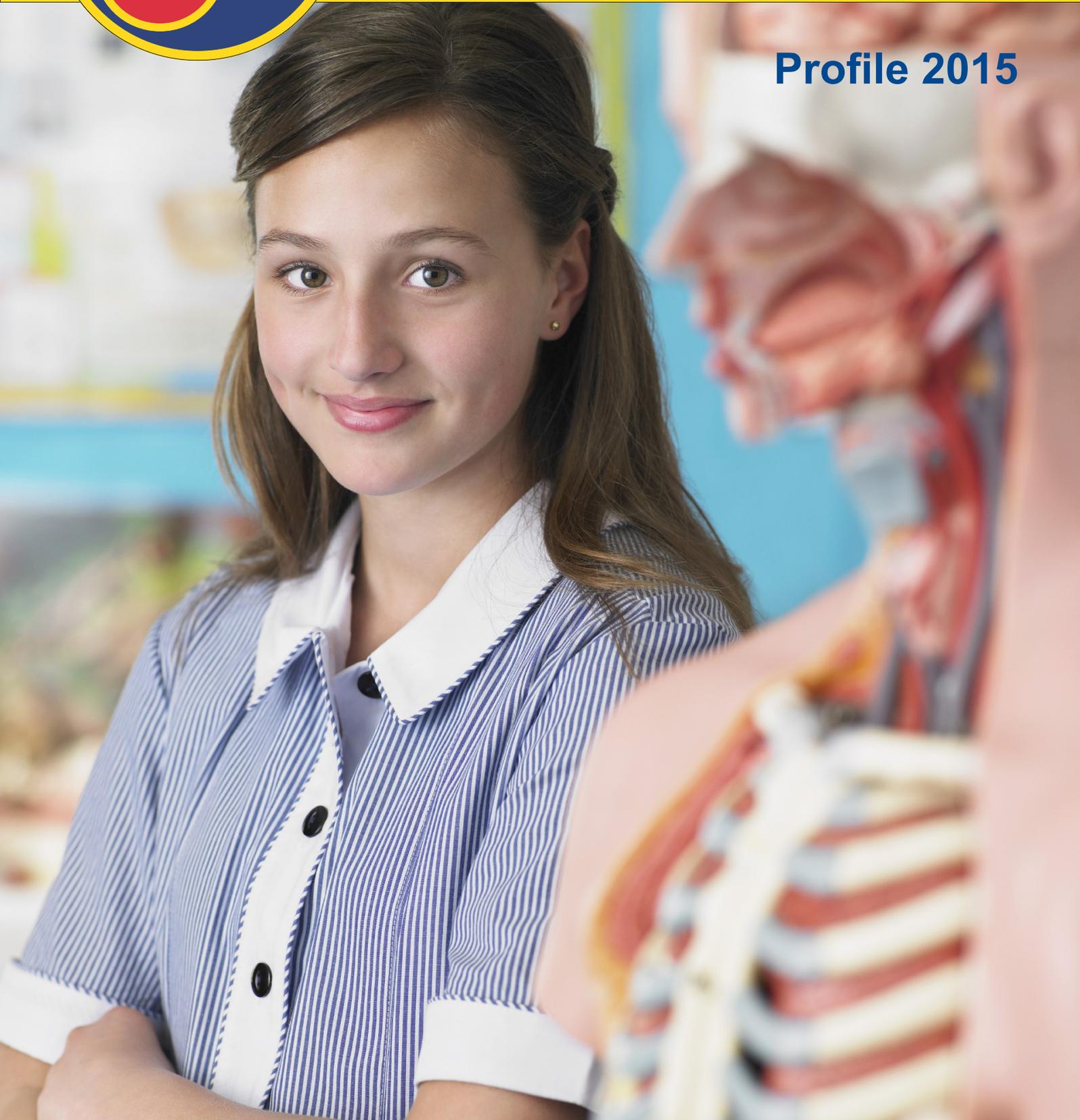




South Australian Association Of State School Organisations Inc.

Profile 2015





The South Australian Association of State School Organisations Incorporated (SAASSO) is a not-for-profit body, incorporated under the Associations Act.

SAASSO's state council is elected by SAASSO affiliates at the Annual General Meeting.

The state council appoints SAASSO's board.

SAASSO is the parent association for public schools in South Australia.

A volunteer organisation, SAASSO has been supporting the role and right of parents in the education of their children since 1923.

SAASSO is the Governing Council Association for South Australia's public schools.

SAASSO supports and advocates for the parent-led Governing Councils in their role as the governing body in SA's public schools.

The foundation of Local Governance is that the local community - parents, teachers, members of the local community and principals are best equipped to determine the needs of their children and therefore the policies and strategic direction of their local school.

South Australian Association of State School Organisations Inc.

www.saasso.asn.au

info@saasso.asn.au

PO Box 6178, Halifax Street
Adelaide SA 5000

(08) 8223 2266

SAASSO's Vision

All schools are different and so have different needs. Local Governance is your school community - not the education department - making the decisions at your local school, in the best interests of your children. Research shows that Local Governance is superior to central bureaucracies, because parents and the local community:

- are more committed to their members than central bureaucracies are to their clients
- understand their problems better than a bureaucracy
- are more flexible and creative than large bureaucracies
- are cheaper than bureaucrats, leaving more dollars for actual service delivery.

The OECD states that the benefits of Local Governance include:

- increased efficiency
 - improved financial control
 - reduction of bureaucracy
 - increased responsiveness to local communities
 - creative management of human resources
 - improved potential for innovation
 - creation of conditions that improve education quality.
-

SAASSO's Mission

While our Education Act theoretically bestows Governing Councils with the authority, autonomy and resources to plan, staff and operate their schools - in practice, Governing Councils have limited and declining scope to make decisions to impact on the school; "The Governing Council is more a policy taker, than policy maker".

Academics have described principals and Governing Councils as being "caught in a power struggle with education departments". As such, our school system remains highly centralised, with bureaucratic resistance limiting the development of true self-governing schools.

Local Governance is a "Global phenomenon, liberating schools from bureaucratic shackles". We must - finally - achieve true Local Governance if we are to give our children the quality of education they will need in the 21st century.

a snapshot of schools - protecting your child's skin - children's commissioner - national quality framework snapshot - why your children need you - outsourcing oshc - pisa - health benefits of education - naplan - education policy outlook - census at school - sace - faqs - materials & services fee - children's financial literacy - talis - behaviour at school study - making time for great teaching - physical activity report card - every child counts - photography in schools - australia's children - criminal history checks for volunteers - homework - flipping classrooms - do our children have the drive to succeed - australia at a glance - let's play survey - the debelle report - new education & care qualifications - child care in australia - independent public schools - post education revolution - aedi snapshot - regional bus survey - the buck stops where - the cost of raising kids - questions from south Australia's parents - is it okay to be away - teaching and learning senate report - oshc additional needs - decd procurement framework - sex abuse timeline - higher standards for teacher training courses - safe schools framework - governing council committees - national reading blitz - chaplains - oshc policies - regional education - parent survey - how young people are faring - poverty in australia - teacher pay - agm - oxfam - obesity in australia - be sunsmart about vitamin d - social outcomes of education - school size - teacher job satisfaction - will young australians be better off - how much time do teachers spend teaching - childcare and early learning - top issues for young australians - spend per student - turning schools around - the myth of markets in school education - children's vision - changes in school intake - children behind in speech - sace evaluation - let's read them a story - childcare costs - does preschool help - our land, our languages - class size - adolescent literacy - Australian curriculum - oshc quality framework - the state of science - new directions in teaching - school amalgamations - uniform policy

Children's Education and Care Services - Snapshot

By Faye Williamson

Quality Rating

The number of approved services by jurisdiction and service type as at 30 June 2013

Jurisdiction	Approved services	Enrolled children
ACT	20	1
NSW	2,000	1,000
NT	100	1
QLD	1,200	100
SA	1,000	10
TAS	200	10
VIC	1,000	100
WA	100	10
Total	6,700	1,200

Quality Rating

The percentage of approved services by quality rating as at 30 June 2013

Quality Rating	Number of services	Percentage of services
4	100	1.5%
3	1,000	15%
2	1,000	15%
1	1,000	15%
0	1,000	15%
Not rated	1,600	24%

Quality Rating

The percentage of enrolled children by quality rating as at 30 June 2013

Quality Rating	Number of children	Percentage of children
4	10	0.8%
3	100	8%
2	100	8%
1	100	8%
0	100	8%
Not rated	1,000	84%

Quality Rating

The percentage of services with a quality rating of 4 or 3 as at 30 June 2013

Quality Rating	Number of services	Percentage of services
4 or 3	1,100	16.4%
2 or 1 or 0 or Not rated	5,600	83.6%

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4 or 3	110	9.2%
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Outsourcing OSHC

By Frankie Rooney

Governing Councils now have the option to procure a commercial (or not-for-profit) party to operate the OSHC services in their school, or to operate it themselves.

Outsourcing OSHC

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has announced that it will allow schools to outsource their OSHC services to a commercial or not-for-profit provider. This is a significant step towards giving schools more control over their OSHC services and potentially reducing costs.

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Australia's Physical Activity Report Card 2014

By David Kruckey

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The Physical Activity Report Card 2014 provides a snapshot of the physical activity levels of Australian children and young people. The report card is based on data from the 2014 National Physical Activity Survey (NPAS).

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School Size

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A Snapshot of Schools in Australia 2013

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SAASSO provides a range of services to its members; South Australia's public school Governing Councils.

Advice

Chief amongst member's benefits is independent, expert advice on the role, rights & responsibilities of the Governing Council.

Events in recent years have seen a jump in parents seeking advice they can trust.

The DeBelle Report labelled advice from DECD as 'uninformative and misleading'.

SAASSO responds to thousands of contacts every year from concerned parents & Governing Councillors.

Members can access help three ways:

Email info@saasso.asn.au

Submit questions online
saasso.asn.au/services/contact-us/

Call our advice line on 8223 2266

Training

SAASSO provides training to Governing Councils to assist them acquit their vital roles in our public schools.

Delivered by qualified trainers and experienced governing councillors, SAASSO offers the following information sessions:

- introduction to governance - a comprehensive overview of the role of the Governing Council; from its composition to a step by step for developing a site learning plan
 - school budget - from financial delegation to recovering your materials and services fee this session covers the Governing Council's role in developing, approving and monitoring the school budget
 - OSHC - Governing Councils are the legal operator and employer of a school's OSHC; this session explores the responsibilities and authority of the Governing Council
 - meeting procedures - covers everything you need to know to run your meetings smoothly, legally and enjoyably; from a points of order, to special resolutions, to standing orders.
-

School Post

School Post is the journal of the association.

Published each term, School Post is the magazine for public school parents and Governing Councils.

Completely independent, School Post breaks education stories, sparks debate, influences policy and is required reading for anyone interested in public education in South Australia.

Discretionary Trust

Much of your school's property is covered should the unforeseen occur. There are, however, limitations on what is covered by the government; especially when it comes to Governing Councils.

The JGS / SAASSO Discretionary Trust, provides cover specifically for these exclusions, and is exclusive to SAASSO members.



SAASSO was formed in April 1923; initially named the South Australian Public Schools Committees' Association. The inaugural meeting was held at Adelaide High School, then located in Grote Street. Our name was changed to SAASSO in 1970. In 1972 school committees became school councils and our current role began.

Website

SAASSO's Education Portal www.saasso.asn.au provides members a wealth of resources to equip them for their role in the governance of their public schools, including:

- governance templates and resources
- training information
- news alerts
- education calendar
- e-updates & bulletins
- fact sheets
- school post
- media
- advocacy
- federal programs
- frequently asked questions.

SAASSO's site also provides the latest information on a range of education topics:

- aboriginal education
- amalgamations
- chaplains
- children's wellbeing
- early years
- extra curricular programs
- governing councils
- SACE & senior students
- special needs education.

Parents can also utilise SAASSO's [online advisory service](#).

The SAASSO website, together with the thousands of members of the SAASSO email directory, enable us to keep in continual contact with our members, ensuring they have the most up-to-date information on public education.

Education Update

SAASSO's *Education Update* is our media monitoring service. The *e-Update* gives members an uncensored, unabashed synopsis of the week's education news; from local and national media and education publications. The update is emailed, every Wednesday, to Governing Councillors, parents and stakeholders.

The *Education Update* is perhaps our most popular service, read by thousands of South Australians every week; from parents, Governing Councillors and school staff to our state and federal parliamentarians.

In an age when everyone is time poor - particularly volunteers - and information abounds, it's hard to keep up to date with everything you need to know. SAASSO's *Education Update* briefs you on what experts & stakeholders are saying and what the media are reporting, in their words.

Since the *Education Update* began in 2009:

- more than 200 editions have been published
- more than 1,300 stories reported.

Bulletin

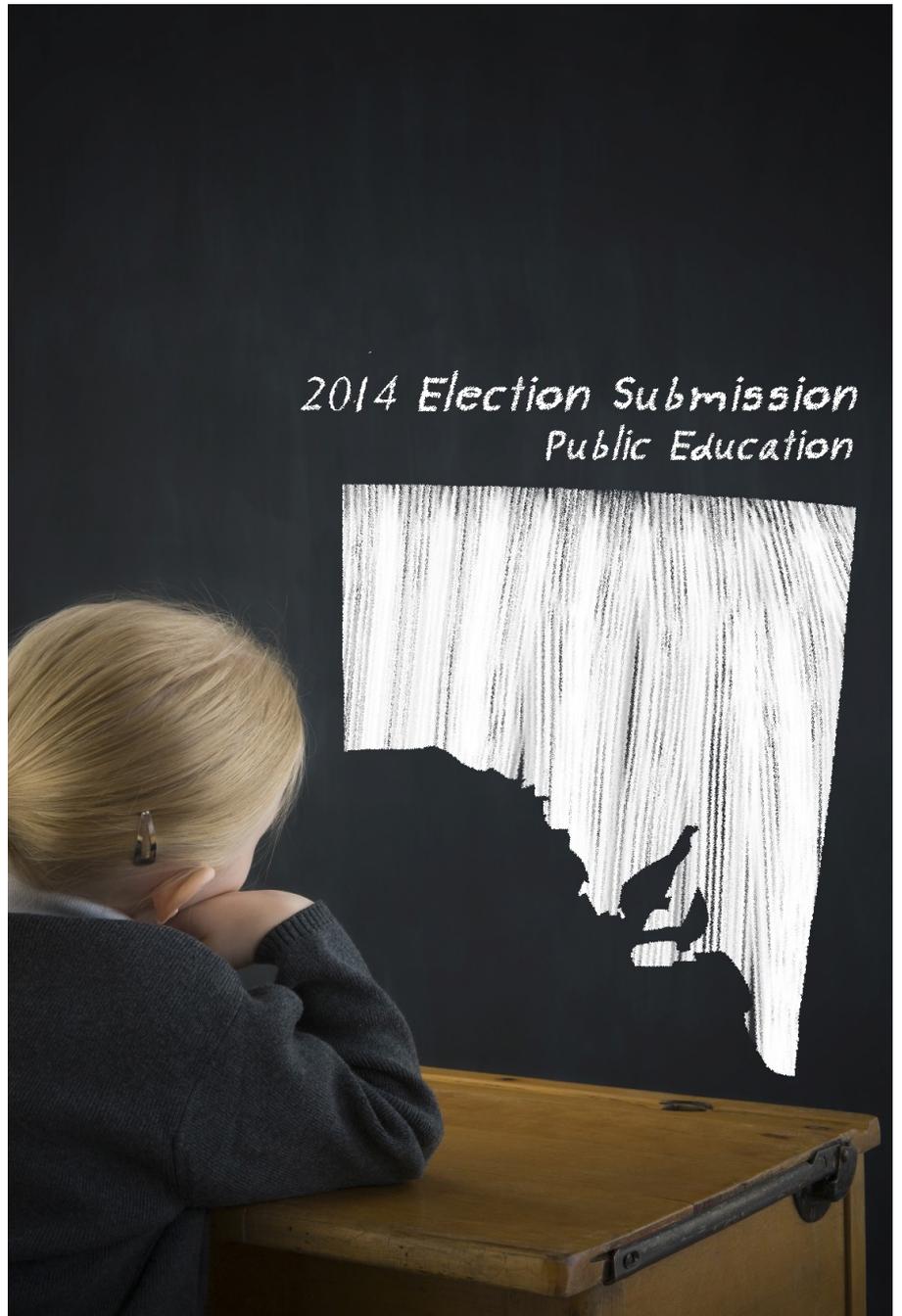
Each Monday, SAASSO emails its weekly Bulletin to members.

The Bulletin delivers the latest education news, research, events, surveys to parents and governing councillors. Bulletins include original SAASSO articles, Fact Sheets and latest national and international data.

The Bulletin also keeps members up to date on SAASSO's advocacy projects and stakeholder news.

The Bulletin covers children's wellbeing, child development as well as early years, primary and secondary education.





In the lead up to the 2014 state election, SAASSO released a series of public education submissions. The submissions aimed at improving public education and enhancing the wellbeing of our children. In light of the DeBelle sex abuse scandal, submission one advocated placing power in the hands of the school community and holding the education department to account. Submission two called for greater commitment to preschool. Submission three addressed ongoing issues with educating our special needs students. Submission four called for recognising dyslexia as a disability and providing the associated support.

In addition to direct services to members, SAASSO also advocates for public school parents and Governing Councils.

Identified through research, our state council, delegations from schools and individual parents, SAASSO raises issues and proposes solutions to the state and federal governments.

SAASSO's 2014 election submission identified four key areas of education.

Parents' Rights

1. Creation of an education ombudsman.
2. Government-funded SAASSO inductions for all Governing Councils.

Preschool

1. Preschool increase from 12 to 18 months for all children.
2. Introduction of zoning, to guarantee all children a space in their local preschool.

Special Needs

1. NEPs for all students with learning difficulties and disabilities.
2. Awareness training for all school staff and specialised training for all teachers of special needs students.
3. Independent assessment of special needs students.

Dyslexia

1. Recognition of dyslexia as a disability.
2. Early independent assessments to achieve early diagnosis.
3. Training for teachers to recognise early signs of dyslexia.

Children's Commissioner

For years, SAASSO has called for an education ombudsman - an independent watchdog for education in our state. In the wake of the ongoing abuse cases and cover-ups, in 2013, the State Government instead proposed a children's commissioner. Intended as an advocate for children, SAASSO is advocating for amendments to the government's proposal to ensure the commissioner:

1. is independent of control or influence
 2. has investigative powers
 3. is able to intervene in individual cases.
-

Special Needs

In 2014 SAASSO was informed by parents from across the state that special needs children are not being afforded the support they are entitled to, in order to sit NAPLAN.

SAASSO continues to urge the education minister to ensure all parents are aware of their children's rights, all schools are aware of their responsibilities to parents and all schools are specifically funded to pay for these 'adjustments'.

Preschool Hours

In late 2014, SAASSO petitioned the education minister to end months of confusion over cutting preschool hours from 15 per week to 12. A last-minute announcement, saw preschool hours for 2015 remain at 15 - however, we must ensure our children's preschool education is not cut in 2016.

Special Needs Transport

In 2014, a delegation from schools asked SAASSO to petition to the government to implement protocols to protect special needs children in transit.

SAASSO was successful in achieving GPS and CCTV being installed in all vehicles transporting special needs children. We are still petitioning for a trained SSO or HSO to travel with our most vulnerable children.

SAASSO represents parents and Governing Councils to education stakeholders, departments, ministers and parliamentarians.

SAASSO gathers data from its members, parents and our public schools.

SAASSO contributes to state and federal consultation processes.

SAASSO also contributes to public debate, through the media; ensuring the parent voice is heard.

SAASSO sends delegations to meet with education stakeholders; to raise issues and present the parent and Governing Council perspective:

- Education Minister
- Shadow Education Minister
- Education Department
- Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

SAASSO is a signatory to the *Advancing the Community Together* partnership between the State Government and the volunteer community.



School Bus Survey

SAASSO partnered with the Sidney Myer Chair of Rural Education and Communities at Flinders University to conduct a rural school bus survey.

Parent Survey

In the wake of the DeBelle sex abuse cover-up scandal, SAASSO surveyed Governing Councils on the State Government's attitude toward parents.

- 76.7% of parents do not believe the government listens to parent concerns.
- Only 17% of Governing Councils had seen the government's most recent consultation paper.



SAASSO provides input into state and federal education policy:

- SACE Strategic Plan
- Education & Early Childhood Services Act
- National Safe Schools & Bullying Framework
- Child Development Bill
- Child Protection Policy
- National Teacher Standards
- Reform of Federation - Early Childhood & Schools

Media

SAASSO provides the parent perspective in local and national media and education publications - on a range of education and child welfare topics; immunisation, special needs, bullying, NAPLAN, Dyslexia, behaviour management, funding, and child protection.