



**...Supporting parents, volunteers and public education
for 95 years!**

Celebrating SAASSO's 95th Anniversary



This year, the South Australian Association of State School Organisations Inc. (SAASSO) celebrates its 95th anniversary.

SAASSO was formed in April 1923; originally 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.

I have the honour of being the 23rd president of SAASSO.

In 95 years of serving the South Australian public school community, SAASSO has had many roles. With records going back to before the Second World War, our association has had a long and fascinating history.

In the 1970s SAASSO helped develop the creation of school councils. In the 1990s, SAASSO worked on developing school councils into governing bodies as part of "Partnerships 21".

Throughout nearly a century of history, thousands of parents have volunteered at SAASSO. They sat on countless committees, provided feedback and input on education plans, developed who-knows-how-many policies and stood up for parents rights, in the interests of our children, provided training to peers and produced hundreds of issues of School Post; to name just a few services to public education.

In recent years, SAASSO has developed its online services - with our website, electronic bulletins and the weekly Education Update. Most recent, has been the advent of SAASSO's online parent surveys affording thousands of people a say on a range of education issues.

Of course, SAASSO's volunteers are just a fraction of the tens of thousands (and probably more) who have volunteered in our public schools and on school councils and Governing Councils across our state.

With another state election just weeks away, we have dedicated much of the Term 1 edition of School Post to policy summaries from the three parties vying to form government -beginning on page 6.

We have included editorials from the cross-bench parties who may well hold the balance of power in our state's upper house of parliament - beginning on page 16.

In the last couple of decades, one of biggest jobs has been just trying to protect the rights of Governing Councils. Sometimes it feels like we are beating our collective heads against a bureaucratic brick wall....

However, it is heartening to read, from a number of our parliamentarians, of their respect for the vital role of Governing Councils and parent involvement in our public schools. It is obvious there is now clear understanding of the challenges these volunteers face simply trying to do their jobs.

We are also pleased to see so much support for a dedicated, independent Education Ombudsman - something SAASSO has been pleading for from state government, for a decade.

Regards,

Gino Amato

SAASSO President