

SAASSO Parent Survey

In November of 2012, SAASSO conducted a sample phone survey of parents on Governing Councils.

The survey was conducted in response to complaints from parents about the lack of genuine consultation and communication with parents, by the State Government. After the last state election, the Labor Government pledged to improve its consultation with the South Australian community.

The survey was conducted by volunteers on SAASSO's State Council - parents calling parents.

Parents were asked a short series of yes / no questions and at the end were offered the opportunity to make a comment.

The survey was conducted from November 12 until November 19, 2012.

Office Bearers (chairpersons and treasurers) from the Governing Councils of 132 public schools were polled.

Results

Question: In August of 2012, the State Government released 'Discussion Paper 5' for consultation. This paper covered proposed new child development legislation. Parents were asked if they had seen the discussion paper:

Yes: 17%
No: 83%

Question: Parents were asked if their Governing Council had discussed or provided feedback on the discussion paper:

Yes: 10.11%
No: 86.52%
Unknown: 3.37%

Question: Parents were asked if in their opinion, the State Government listens to parent concerns about education:

Yes: 23.33%
No: 76.67%

Question: Parents were advised that the State Government had announced an investigation into the events surrounding news of a paedophile working in an Adelaide school OSHC, being kept from parents. Respondents were asked if they were confident that the investigation would bring results that would lead to improvements:

Yes: 40.45%
No: 59.55%

Question: Parents were asked if the Education Minister had handled the OSHC paedophile situation appropriately:

Yes: 15.73%
No: 84.27%

Question: Parents were advised that the Education Minister had announced that DECD and SAPOL would be reviewing the policy dealing with when parents should be informed about occurrences such as the OSHC paedophile incident. Parents were asked whether parents should be involved in setting such policies:

Yes: 95.65%
No: 4.35%

“ SAASSO keep us informed twice a week. I'm always informed more from SAASSO than the Education Department. ”

“ It's good that SAASSO is taking the time to get feedback. Much appreciated. ”

“ I am disgusted with the way the Governing Council was hung out to dry. I'd like to remind the Government that the people on the Council are there for the sake of their kids, not to be a punching bag for the government. ”

“ The State definitely does not listen to parents. The forced amalgamations proved that. ”

“ I'm concerned with the Premier's blame on Governing Councils. Governing Councillors are volunteers and it wasn't fair. The government should have stood up and taken the heat. ”

“ The discussion papers are very generic – there are no specifics of how it would be done and who would be responsible. ”

“ The investigation needs to be outsourced – taken from department responsibility. ”

“ We need real parent involvement, not another discussion paper with a ridiculously short deadline. ”

“ Principals should listen more to parents and involve them more in decision making. ”

“ Parents should be consulted when policies are changed. ”

“ The minister and her department are contradictive. They tell us we have control and then make all the rules themselves. ”

“ Parents should definitely be involved in setting education policies. I can't believe they are even considering setting these rules without involving parents. There is something really lacking in the system when this sort of thing can happen. ”

“ The State Government only listens if it suits them. ”

“ There is a degree of incompetence permeating through the process here. ”

“ The Government makes rules and the Councils have to comply, without having much say on anything. ”

“ Clarification of Governing Council/School roles would be a good outcome. ”

“ Structure within schools and consultation with Governing Council is tokenistic. ”