



# schoolpost

Term 4, 2014



## Inside



**Criminal History  
Checks for Volunteers**



**Children's  
Commissioner**



**Homework**

# Your Association



## SAASSO's Role

**SAASSO is the peak parent body for education in South Australia.**

SAASSO supports the role and right of parent involvement in the education of their children in South Australia's public schools.

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

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

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

## 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.

## SAASSO's Services

SAASSO provides a range of invaluable services to its members:

- Training – at your school in all areas of Local Governance
- Bulletins – SAASSO's weekly update of all the latest education news
- [www.saasso.asn.au](http://www.saasso.asn.au) – your interactive repository for all things Governance
- School Post – the quarterly magazine for parents and Governing Councillors

## Contents

FAQ's	4
Criminal History Checks for Volunteers	6
Top Issues for Young Australians	8
Children's Commissioner	10
Governing Council Training	14
Homework	17
PISA: Do Our Students Have the Drive to Succeed?	20
Flipping Classrooms	22
Australia at a Glance	24
SACE	25
Book Reviews	26

### School Post

School Post is published each term by SAASSO.

- Subscriptions
- Advertising
- If you have an idea for a story

Please call (08) 8223 2266 or email [info@saasso.asn.au](mailto:info@saasso.asn.au)

Advertisements appearing in the magazine are not necessarily endorsed by SAASSO. The views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of SAASSO or its affiliates. ■

- Advice & advocacy – 8223 2266 – for all your governance questions
- Representation – SAASSO represents you on education boards and committees – ensuring the parent voice is always heard. ■