

# A message from ACSSO Chair Sharron Healy



## A confident start

Welcome back to school in 2022 and to in-person learning! For many students, teachers, and families, it is the start of a new school year where we're feeling fairly confident that enforced remote learning is not on the horizon.

Well into Term 1 now, we are seeing schools manage Covid cases in students and staff without having to close the doors, which is such a positive for everyone. Most students have no doubt spent this first month of school catching up with friends and developing or restoring their social networks. These things are vital to getting children's and young people's mental health back on track, which in turn will facilitate their ability to reconnect with the academic side of their schooling.

### Pre-election planning

ACSSO has had a very busy start to the year. In fact, there wasn't much downtime at all. We are currently in the process of building our pre-election policy expectations for whichever party is in government following the next Federal election. This weekend our directors and member representatives are meeting to thrash out exactly what that will look like.

We are very keen to hear from parents and families also, either through your local school parent organisation or individually. Your needs matter, whether you're a member or not, and we want to include them when discussing our expectations with the three major parties.

Please, email me at any time at [president@acssso.org.au](mailto:president@acssso.org.au) with what you believe our government schools require to facilitate the best wellbeing and educational outcomes for your children.

As part of our pre-election strategy, we are inviting the education spokespeople from the Liberal and National Coalition, from Labor, and from the Greens to participate in webinars. In those online forums you'll be able to submit questions and we will delve

into their party's plans for improving opportunities for students in public schools. More details to come.

### **Save the date!**

ACSSO turns 75 this year and we will celebrate this great achievement of parents advocating for, and supporting, government school families and working with education officials, stakeholders and departments at the highest level, during our conference to be held on the weekend of 5-6 November in Canberra. Please save the date and consider joining us for this amazing milestone!

**Sharron Healy**

**Chair**

**Australian Council of State School Organisations**

**February 2022**