

# A message from ACSSO Chair Sharron Healy



## It's conference season!

It's hard to believe that we're in Term 4 and our very special 75th anniversary [conference](#) is not too far away – it's conference season!

I was fortunate to attend the recent WACSSO (Western Australian Council of State School Organisations) annual conference, with our CEO, Di Giblin. The two days were packed with excellent speakers and top quality performances by WA government school students. There is certainly a plethora of talent in our schools.

Keynote speaker [Rabia Siddique](#) captivated the entire audience with her story of abuse, war, torture, negotiation, sexism, and suing the British Army for its sexist practices. Her determination, in the toughest of times, to stand up for herself and those around her was nothing short of inspiring.

Addresses by the WA Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Sue Ellery, and Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, were informative and challenging, highlighting the disadvantage faced by so many of our young people, and the need for urgent attention. I'm sure this is true across the nation.

The student panel was another highlight, with a vast array of topics and experiences all presented by a group of very well informed, articulate young people. Not only did they deliver their prepared speeches, but they answered audience questions without notice, and every answer was considered, and on-point. Another example of why sharing student voice is so vital. They really did leave us with the feeling that our future is in good hands.

Congrats WACSSO!

### Coming up in October

**October 24: Parents Victoria E- Conference – Life is Relational**

The 2022 E-Conference theme is **Relationship based Education (RbE)**.

RbE is a philosophy of education that puts relationships at the centre. It was developed by John Hendry OAM based on his 50 years experience as an educator. Relationships that form in the educational environment are the bedrock for everything else that happens. For further information check [here](#)

### **October 29: NSW P&C Federation Conference**

This will be held at the Novotel Sydney and followed by the Volunteer Awards Dinner to be held at the same venue. For further information check [here](#).

### **Australian Parents Council survey**

Finally, I'm happy to share [this survey](#) about family school experiences in the pandemic from our colleagues at the Australian Parents Council.

Cheers,

**Sharron Healy**

**Chair**

**Australian Council of State School Organisations**

**October 2022**