

PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS

Statement by Member for Bicton

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.59 pm]: Education is critical to successful life outcomes. Teachers are integral to this, but parents are our children's first teachers and when they remain actively engaged during their children's formal education years, there are significant benefits to learning outcomes. There is no better example of this than through P&Cs and their partnership with principals and schools to support and enhance their children's learning environment.

The year 2021 has been another challenging year for our school communities. The continued prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused ongoing disruption to education. The work of P&Cs in supporting their schools and local communities has never been more important. That is why I would like to acknowledge and thank the following P&C presidents, committees and members: Mark Jeffrey from Attadale Primary School, Lisa Veart from Bicton Primary School, Ross Warton from Melville Primary School, Pip Brown from Palmyra Primary School, Aoife Lannon from Richmond Primary School and Jonathan Gayton from Melville Senior High School.

I would also like to congratulate the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations on achieving an impressive milestone. WACSSO is the peak parent body for P&Cs in WA public schools and 2021 marks 100 years of its partnership with parents and carers in public education across Western Australia. Congratulations and thanks to current WACSSO president Pania Turner; immediate past president and life member Kylie Catto; and state councillors and the team, including long-time staff Jodie Quinn, Karen Izard and Richard Brand. Here's to another 100 years of WACSSO and P&Cs!

Sitting suspended from 1.01 to 2.00 pm