

## **Information and Communication Technology Provision in Schools must be Equitable**

The Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA) welcomes the Auditor General's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education Report.

WAPPA has advocated that equity between schools is a major issue. This is supported by a key finding from the Auditor General's Report, *"...small schools, particularly primary and regional schools, are at a relative disadvantage. This is because DoE's devolved management model, which saw the introduction of one-line budgets and student centred funding, does not fully recognise that schools have varying levels of access to ICT expertise. Schools that lack internal expertise or are unable to fund ICT support are more likely to make poor ICT planning and investment decisions and be less able to ensure their ICT is operating reliably and used well."*

WAPPA President, Stephen Breen said "While I acknowledge that the provision of ICT in schools across the State is a significant and complex project, primary schools require dedicated and experienced ICT human resources to deliver sustainable outcomes and the effective maintenance of resources".

"Currently, many schools are unable to provide sufficient ICT infrastructure or adequate maintenance support due to financial constraints or connection and bandwidth limitations due to their geographical location. These limitations include reduced access to learning opportunities through digital tools and resources, resulting in a direct impact on educational outcomes of students," said Mr Breen.

WAPPA will continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Education as we have done for many years and would support the prompt implementation of the recommendations made by the Auditor General.

**-ENDS-**

### **Fact File**

The Western Australian Primary Principals' Association (WAPPA) is a member based, not-for-profit Incorporated Association.

WAPPA has a membership of over 1,100 comprised of primary school principals, deputy principals and aspirant leaders from across Western Australia.

WAPPA's vision is for the *sustainable enhancement of the profession of primary education in WA through member support, leadership development, and advocacy to influence educational outcomes.*

### **Media Contact**

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