



Submission feedback form

Thank you for contributing to the public consultation on the review of public school and preschool governance.

Submissions received to the Issues Paper will inform the development of recommendations to the Minister for Education and Child Development, the Hon Jennifer Rankine, about how governance arrangements can be strengthened and supported in South Australian public schools and preschools.

You may wish to provide written comments in response to all or some of the consultation questions included in the Issues Paper or provide additional comments that you consider relevant to strengthening governance in public schools and preschools.

Written submissions are invited by close of business on Friday 1 August 2014.

You can forward your submission by:

Email: edlawreform@sa.gov.au

Post: Hon Bronwyn Pike
Lead Reviewer, Independent Review of
Government School and Preschool Governance
c/-Legislation Reform Unit
GPO Box 1152, ADELAIDE SA 5001

To navigate this form, please use the Tab key to move between fields.

Submission made by

Name	
Address	
Organisation (if applicable)	
Title in Organisation	

Please note that all written feedback may be published on the Education and Child Development Legislation Reform website at www.edlawreform.sa.gov.au.

☐ If you wish your feedback to remain confidential, please check this box.

All written feedback may be subject to applications for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and any such requests will be determined in accordance with that Act.

A little about you

If this is an individual response, you are a:

- ☐ School governing council member
 - ☐ current ☐ past
- ☐ School council member
 - ☐ current ☐ past
- ☐ Preschool governing council member
 - ☐ current ☐ past
- ☐ School principal
- ☐ Preschool director
- ☐ School staff member
- ☐ Preschool staff member
- ☐ Government agency staff member
- ☐ Parent
- ☐ Community member
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Service provider (please specify)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If this is a group response, you represent a:

- ☐ School governing council
- ☐ School council
- ☐ Preschool governing council
- ☐ School
- ☐ Stand-alone preschool*
- ☐ School-based preschool*
- ☐ Affiliated committee
- ☐ Parent association
- ☐ Professional association
- ☐ Community group
- ☐ Government department (please specify)
- ☐ Service provider (please specify)
- ☐ Other (please specify below)

*See Issues Paper section titled 'Terms used in this paper'.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

PART 1

Parent and community involvement in public school and preschool governance (questions from page 13 of Issues Paper)

- 1.1 Do you believe that your school or preschool governing council effectively represents you as a parent? If not, how do you think this could be improved?

- 1.2 How can a school or preschool governing council ensure all parents in the school or preschool community have an opportunity to present their views and participate in decision-making?

- 1.3 What are your views on the way your school or preschool governing council shares information in relation to the operation of, and decisions made by, the council? What type of information would you like to receive?

- 1.4 Are you satisfied with the information your school or preschool provides you about participation on its governing council? Do you believe all parents are actively encouraged to be involved in governance at your school or preschool?

- 1.5 Are there barriers to participation on your school or preschool's governing council? How can schools and preschools better attract people willing to participate on councils?

- 1.6 What are your views on how a school and preschool governing council can best contribute to the school or preschool community? For example should councils have certain tasks they undertake to support the engagement of parents and the wider community in the school and preschool?

PART 2 – Schools

Powers, functions and operation of governing councils and school councils (questions from page 16 of Issues Paper)

- 2.1 In your view, are the current powers and functions set out in the model governing council constitution appropriate for a governing council? Should the scope of these powers and functions be changed? If so, in what way?

- 2.2 Do you think the role and function of governing councils needs to be clearer or better defined? If so, in what way?

- 2.3 Has your governing council or school council encountered any challenges in applying the requirements of their constitution? If so, what have they been? What would help improve this?

- 2.4 Do you think the operation of a governing council in a school could be improved? If so, in what way?

- 2.5 What factors are important in establishing positive relationships with the principal, other governing council members, the wider parent community and other community members?

Roles and responsibilities of governing council and school council office holders and committees of council (questions from page 18 of Issues Paper)

2.6 What are your views on the current roles and responsibilities of governing council or school council office holders?

2.7 Should the scope of these roles and responsibilities be modified? If so, in what way?

2.8 What are your views on the current operation of council committees? What is working well? Could any areas be improved?

2.9 Could further support be provided to office holders? If so, in what way?

Composition of governing councils and school councils (questions from page 19 of Issues Paper)

2.10 What are your views on the current membership structure of a governing council or school council?
Do you think it is working well? If not, how do you think it could be improved?

2.11 What are your views on the current size of a governing council or school council?

2.12 What are your views on the current tenure of governing council or school council members?

Role of the Minister, Chief Executive, and principal in relation to governing councils and school councils (question from page 21 of Issues Paper)

2.13 What are your views on the current roles of the Minister, Chief Executive and principal in relation to school governance?

Employment and contractual responsibilities of governing councils and school councils (questions from page 22 of Issues Paper)

2.14 What are your views on the current scope of the roles and responsibilities of governing councils or school councils with regard to the operation of a canteen, out of school hours care service, residential facility for the accommodation of students or in relation to other areas of council responsibility?

2.15 Should governing councils or school councils have employment responsibilities? If no, why not?
If yes, what further support could be provided to support these councils in fulfilling their responsibilities as employers?

2.16 Has your governing council or school council encountered any issues as an employer of staff or contractors?
If so, what have they been?

PART 3 – Preschools

Functions and operation of preschool governing councils (questions from page 26 of Issues Paper)

- 3.1 In your view, are the current functions set out in the model preschool constitution appropriate for a stand-alone preschool governing council? If no, what should be changed?

- 3.2 Do you think the role and function of a preschool governing council needs to be clearer or better defined? If so, in what way?

- 3.3 Has your preschool governing council encountered any challenges in applying the requirements of the constitution? If so, what have they been? What would help improve this?

- 3.4 What are your views on the current governance arrangements for stand-alone preschools that are located within an integrated preschool and child care service or a Children's Centre for Early Childhood Development and Parenting? What has worked well? Could any areas be improved?

- 3.5 Do you think the operation of a preschool governing council could be improved? If so, in what way?

- 3.6 What factors are important in establishing positive relationships between the preschool director, other governing council members and the wider parent community?

- 3.7 What are your views on the current governance arrangements for school-based preschools? What has worked well? Could any areas be improved?

Roles and responsibilities of stand-alone preschool governing council office holders and committees of council (questions from page 28 of Issues Paper)

3.8 What are your views on the current roles and responsibilities of preschool governing council office holders?

3.9 Should the scope of these roles and responsibilities be changed? If so, in what way?

3.10 What are your views on the operation of preschool governing council committees? What is working well?
What could be improved?

3.11 Could further support be provided to office holders? If so, in what way?

Composition of stand-alone preschool governing councils (questions from page 29 of Issues Paper)

3.12 What are your views on the current membership structure of a stand-alone preschool governing council?
Do you think it is working well? If no, how do you think it could be improved?

3.13 What are your views on the current size of a preschool governing council?

3.14 What are your views on the current tenure of preschool governing council members?

Role of the Minister, Chief Executive and preschool director in relation to stand-alone preschool governing councils (question from page 30 of Issues Paper)

3.15 What are your views on the current roles of the Minister, Chief Executive and preschool director in relation to stand-alone preschool governing councils?

Employment and contractual responsibilities of stand-alone preschools and their governing councils (questions from page 31 of Issues Paper)

3.16 What are your views on the current scope of the roles and responsibilities of stand-alone preschools and their governing councils with regard to the employment of staff or contractors?

3.17 Should stand-alone preschools and their governing councils have employment responsibilities? If no, why not? If yes, what further support could be provided to support preschools and their governing councils in fulfilling their responsibilities as employers?

3.18 Has your stand-alone preschool or its governing council encountered any issues as an employer of staff or contractors? If so, what have they been?

PART 4 – Matters relating to governing councils in schools and preschools

Support provided to governing councils in schools and preschools (questions from page 33 of Issues Paper)

- 4.1 What are your views on the current support that is provided to school and preschool governing councils by the department, South Australian Association of School Parents' Clubs, South Australian Association of State School Organisations or any other entities?

- 4.2 Can the support and information provided to school and preschool governing councils be enhanced in the future to ensure that council members understand and are best able to fulfil all of their governance responsibilities?

- 4.3 In your view, what types of support/information/resources would best support the successful operation of school and preschool governing councils? Is there a specific role here for the department?

- 4.4 How can school and preschool governing councils learn from each other?

Resolution of disputes – governing councils in schools and preschools (questions from page 35 of Issues Paper)

Schools

- 4.5 What are your views on the interim dispute resolution process that specifies the engagement of mediation services where the governing council of a school is in dispute with the department?

- 4.6 What are your views on a future dispute resolution model also including other processes where there is a dispute between the governing council of a school and the department?

- 4.7 What are your views on how other governing council disputes could be handled?

Preschools

- 4.8 What are your views on establishing a dispute resolution model for preschool governing councils that is consistent with that established for governing councils in schools?

Seeking independent legal advice - governing councils in schools and preschools (questions from page 36 of Issues Paper)

Schools

- 4.9 What are your views on the current process that specifies how the governing council of a school can seek independent legal advice when in dispute with the department?

Preschools

- 4.10 What are your views on developing a process by which stand-alone preschool governing councils can seek independent legal advice if in dispute with the department?

- 4.11 What modifications might be required to apply the process developed for schools, to preschools?

Any other matters (question from page 37 of Issues Paper)

- 4.12 Do you have any other suggestions about how public school and preschool governance could be strengthened?