

11. Wesley College

<i>Chairperson</i>	Jim Walker
<i>Headmaster</i>	David Gee
<i>Moderator, as visitor</i>	Rev Steve Francis
<i>Chair Finance Committee</i>	Richard Hayes
<i>Chair Governance & Risk Committee</i>	Warren Baillie
<i>Chair Building & Works Committee</i>	Greg Ruthven
<i>Chair Fundraising Committee</i>	Grant Vernon
<i>Members</i>	Grant Vernon
	Rabia Siddique
	Ross Goodheart
	Matthew Braysher
	Cheryl Haak
	Kristie Young

OUR PLACE IN THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

With the firm grounding of a Christian culture of care, students at Wesley are encouraged to grow in both heart and mind. As a Uniting Church school, Wesley follows an authentically Christian practice of education. Christian values are embedded in all aspects of daily life – respect, integrity, compassion and courage are key to ensuring the richness of relationships at Wesley.

Wesley College is committed in our diversity to living within the faith and unity of the Church. Through worship, service, social justice and inclusiveness that celebrates difference, we provide an educational experience and learning community that offers young people spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical growth. Within the life of the College, over 17 faith traditions are represented amongst the student and staff body.

The College also acknowledges those who, by choice or uncertainty, choose to embrace no faith tradition and within that framework, the Chaplain working in close synchronicity with the Headmaster, is responsible for the spiritual guidance of the College, undertaking such responsibility in collaboration with the broader pastoral care team.

It is exciting and indeed encouraging, that there is so much demand for the service of a College Chaplain from the students, staff and wider Wesley Community. It is also encouraging that many Old Collegians return to school for weddings, baptisms, celebrating special occasions and funerals. The School provides a rich footing to grow members in a strong faith (or at least a sense of openness to the mystery of God). The enthusiasm and sense of connectedness at such occasions, is poignant and uplifting to both participants and the wider School Community witnessing the events.

The common element running through all College Chapel activities is the sense of intimate connection and affinity with what is referred to as the “Wesley Family”, past, present and future and the bonds of love that we share as God’s people

The role of the Chapel and chaplaincy in our College’s life is certainly challenging in an increasingly faith challenged society, however it remains pivotal and is in keeping with the open tradition of faith enquiry in fulfilling the mission of God that frames the nature of what Wesley College is, particularly affirming the ethos of the Uniting Church.

As a Uniting Church school, we do not just provide an educational service but are, at heart, a place of community. The basis of all communities is participation and mutual support. The success of a family in the school is often based on the effort they put into developing relationships with other families; being willing to support school events as well as learning the traditions, history and culture of the school.

Our Indigenous program is considered one of the best in Australia and testimony to our Methodist founding principles. Called The Moorditj Mob in the Nyoongar language, Moorditj means 'great', 'strong' or 'excellent' and fits well with what the College strives to achieve. The program is an important part of the College's culture and fosters great pride within the Wesley Community.

Due to the success of the program, Wesley receives support from a number of philanthropic bodies and government agencies and is now able to offer around 40 needs-based Indigenous scholarships. Students are expected to celebrate their aboriginal culture and to share it with others. A secondary aim is to ensure our non-aboriginal students (as future leaders) develop a much greater understanding of associated cultural and societal issues. One of the most well-known and public aspects of the program is the Moorditj Mob Dancers and didgeridoo players. The Moorditj Mob has been known to perform up to 60 dances annually both at the College and at outside community events.

Wesley College is prepared to give a fair go to all students, not just the high achievers, and this is central to the founding principles of the school. Wesley offers an integrated, liberal, Christian education in a caring setting, a community with a heart of justice and compassion. We are an inclusive community that always strives to be ethical advocates for 'liberty and justice for all'.

This is how Wesley is contributing to the mission of God. Theologically, our stated mission is more than a statement of our commitment to being what we claim to be 'people of God'. We will always endeavour to do our best, never to turn anyone away and to meet the community needs and concerns, in a safe, nurturing, supportive environment, with the good news of Jesus Christ in fulfilling the mission of God. In a high fee school setting, this is at times very challenging.

As a church school, our core business is education – equipping our students to develop to their fullest potential and face a changing future with confidence, and to meet the students, parents and the wider community's needs and concerns in creating a safe, nurturing, inclusive learning environment in fulfilling the Uniting Church's National Educational charter.

The notion of service and social justice is central to all we do. As a Uniting Church school, Wesley prides itself on fulfilling God's mission through both word and action and frames this approach through the quote attributed to John Wesley: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.'

Where appropriate there is a focus on issues of social justice within the formal academic curriculum, as an investigation and analysis of inequality in our community is as important as action in working toward long-term solutions. Outside of the classroom, students initiate and participate in various activities: demonstrating environmental stewardship through debris collection and data logging with Tangaroa Blue; serving the marginalised with the Red Cross Soup Patrol; connecting with the elderly by volunteering with the South Perth Senior Citizens Centre Meals on Wheels service and; by raising awareness and funds for those in the community suffering and battling illness, such as the Cancer Council and Leukaemia Foundation.

UnitingCare West (UCW) and Wesley College's Katitjin Program relationship goes back to the very beginning, and continues to grow over a decade and a half on. We have found common ground with the commitment to dedicate time and energy to helping the local community in and around the Perth Central Business District (CBD). From early days where UnitingCare West teamed up with

Katitjin to produce artwork that raised much needed funds for Tranby Centre in Perth, to recent collaborations including Food Cart Rescue and Feeding the Homeless, Katitjin and UCW continue to evolve with the community's needs. With over 40 afternoons spent at Tranby Day Centre listening to stories from homeless people in Perth, Katitjin celebrates its relationship and experiences it has shared with the amazing individuals who have made it all possible. Last year, together, UCW/Tranby and Katitjin raised over \$3000 in fundraising, supported by and helping to support our local community. We look forward to growing together as a partnership and as a part of the Perth CBD, as our paths are inextricably intertwined.

Wesley College is proud to be known as a Uniting Church school and seeks to fulfill its mission in supporting young people to develop holistically and to go out and make a difference in the world.

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