

### Action 3: Alternative learning centres

This strategy requires urgent funding to ensure its expansion. The implementation of the exclusion instruction and suspension directive has resulted in an increase in students directed out of our schools.

We would expect this growth to continue. The government/department will need to move this standalone short term option if they are to ensure the line is held and that neighbouring schools do not become alternative learning centres.

The ongoing union campaign will target government funding as essential for the deliver on this action strategy.

The government has not delivered support in this year's budget. Quality care and education alternatives for students at risks are of concern and must be addressed.

### Action 4: Clear advice for principals, teachers and education assistants on authority and responsibility to take action

The union and department have negotiated guidelines to provide advice to employees who are confronted with violent student or adult behaviour at work.

These guidelines are important for the school leaders and the managers of these incidents. The application of these reviewed guidelines for Regulation 38 will now be tested.

Where the union is of a view it is not applied fairly, the union will challenge and question the case to ensure employees are assessed as acting accordingly when they act to protect other students, employees and themselves.

This action in the minister's 10 point plan will need continued monitoring and attention.

### Action 5: Provide training and support for school staff

The initial training of school leaders at the commencement of 2019 was welcomed by the union.

However, this was not mandated training and the follow up of providing this training to all school staff has not occurred in many schools.

The lack of this training for all school staff has seen errors arise in applying actions one and two, misunderstandings between



staff and in a few instances highly divisive outcomes.

Additional to the school leader training, all graduate teachers now have Team Teach as the required graduate module four.

Moving forward, the challenges and direction for our Safety in Schools campaign for 2019/2020 are:

- Building a union team to provide immediate direct school advice and action to ensure the correct application of the student exclusion and suspension requirements and correct laws and policy that ensure staff safety. This team will work with the new DoE unit to ensure proper process, examine processes where required and improve processes (eg re-entry plans).
- Building on our current training program to be the providers of a discrete TUT accredited 2020 course for Keeping Our Workplace Safe and the minister's 10 point plan.
- Ensuring improved safety at work provisions through our General Agreement 2019.
- Continue to challenge and prosecute those member cases that demonstrate a lack of adherence to the policies and laws covering our safety and rights.
- The provision of a targeted resource package for those schools where behaviour management and violence is a major issue.
- Developing campaign materials for the next stage of our campaign – for

our members and targeted allies and audiences (other school employee unions, non-members, parents, school councils, local politicians, government and the community).

In conclusion, we have been successful in achieving direct action from the minister and the department for more effective immediate management of violence in schools, but this only represents the first step in our campaign.

### Play is Learning

The SSTUWA is also currently running an early childhood education campaign, *Play is Learning*, which aims to support K-2 teachers to teach a play-based curriculum in line with the National Quality Standard and Early Years Learning Framework .

An integral part of the union's *Play is Learning* campaign has been to explore the state of play in our schools and the SSTUWA has conducted a survey of early childhood educators regarding learning and play in K-2 classrooms.

Murdoch University early childhood education director Sandra Hesterman will present major findings of the survey at the Early Childhood Educators Conference at the SSTUWA on 12 August.

Dr Hesterman, one of the conference's guest speakers, will also share recommendations on the state of play in WA.

The conference is now fully booked out, but members can request to be added to the waiting list at [sstuwa.org.au/training](http://sstuwa.org.au/training)

To learn more about the Play is Learning campaign, visit: [playislearning.org.au](http://playislearning.org.au)