



SYNOD 2023 REPORT

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE

MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Claire Poll (from Jan 2019)
Moderator (Visitor)	Susy Thomas
Deputy Chair	Morgen Lewis
Member	Michelle Barrett
Member	Charlie Bolt
Member	Fiona Crowe
Member	Jordan Foster
Member	Jonathan Smeulders
Member	Prof Carole Stekette
Member	Alan Ng
Member	Annabelle Henderson
Member	Matthew Weaver

REPORT

Christian Community for Everyone

The PLC community is strong and supportive, living by the College values of Integrity (Honore), Learning, Community and Effort (Labore). Throughout the year, PLC Foundation,

in true Christian spirit, has continued to support families in financial hardship to keep their daughters at the college. Our students, as well, are active participants in programmes which support disadvantaged social groups such as homeless, young mothers, families that have endured trauma and many others. Some more of the school's contributions through volunteering and fundraising are mentioned in the next section of the report.

Recognising the importance of working collaboratively to deliver social justice education and service learning, the College Council has continued to adhere to the MOU formalising the relationship between Uniting WA, the Uniting Church and the 8 Uniting Church Schools. Living by the MOU's values and intent, PLC will keep consolidating the long-standing relationship with Uniting WA.

Leadership and Service Learning

Young People. Small Steps. Real Changes.

PLC continues its ethos of being a school with a social conscience and engaged with a range of service organisations by volunteering, providing financial support through fundraising activities and donating goods. Students have had the opportunity to volunteer their time with a variety of causes that they connect with such as beach clean ups, The Smith Family student2student reading programme, cooking for St Pats through the Cooking for A Cause programme, 'Tech Tips' supporting seniors with technology at the local library, community Christmas carols and with Boab network to name a few. The whole senior school and several junior school classes committed to making 7500 outback packs for Keep Australia Beautiful Council, which are shared around the state to help keep our country litter free. As a school we continue to sponsor two young girls through World Vision and two Year 12 student organised the Sleepout for Homelessness in Term 1, raising over \$2 000 for Uniting WA. Over sixty thousand dollars were raised during the year to support several charities.

The Year 9 Service Leadership Programme has now been implemented at PLC. The programme challenges students beyond service-learning and into a model of service leadership. Through a Challenge Based Learning Framework the students collaborate in teams on student-led projects alongside community partners towards a common purpose: 'As young people we aim to take a small step to create a real change in our community'. The teams are aligned under each of the eight service portfolios: Homelessness, Education (working specifically with Uniting WA), Environment (who are in discussion with Good Sammy's about two possible upcycling projects), Mental Health, Social Justice, Children, Seniors and Disability. The intention of the programme to address real world issues,

highlighted by The United Nations Sustainable Development goals. The portfolio teams are accountable for their outcomes as custodians of the partnerships for a year, before handing them over to the next year group to continue with their small steps.

PLC and Scotch College

In 2003, PLC and Scotch College formalised their long history as a sister & brother school with a Memorandum of Understanding. Since that time, the Councils and Senior Leadership Teams of both Colleges have been committed to developing the relationship and collaborating on joint projects. In 2020 the MOU was revitalised and redesigned recognising the increased unity, collaboration, and continued commitment by each of the Colleges. Both Colleges remain committed to offering the International Baccalaureate, Primary Years Programme and the Diploma and working on joint programmes and classes in the senior years. This year a new programme, “Beach and River School”, was implemented for our Year 1 and 2 students, in collaboration with Scotch College. The programme has an emphasis on hands-on learning and discovery and the benefits nature play provides to young people. The two Principals continue to work collaboratively to ensure we are offering shared opportunities for our students throughout the Junior School and Senior School.

Mission and Strategy

Council continues to focus on longer term strategic and master planning for the College. The new Master Plan was presented at the Council Strategy Day in August 2022 and approved by the Council in November 2022. Through consultation with stakeholders, 5 design principles were synthesized. These principles identified new trends, values and needs emerging in the school and they are reflected in the proposed short/medium/long term projects included in the Master Plan.

PLC’s Strategic Plan designed to support the College Vision of ‘Empowering generations for young women who are brave, authentic and who thrive today and tomorrow’ has been finalised. The Plan champions the PLC’s values and brand – ‘A modern legacy in the making’. The Senior Leadership Team has defined the pillars of the Strategic Plan and how they translate in the operations of the College. PLC has a strong focus on learning, leadership, wellbeing, culture and environment. With prudent financial stewardship and by continuously building on relationships with our supportive community we ensure the College continues to thrive for future PLC generations. The revitalised Strategic Plan, including the Master Plan will be launched to the College community later in 2023.

During the last 12 months, PLC has also undertaken a formal review of the Sports Programme and utilised the findings to develop a Sports Strategic Framework. Implementation of the identified strategies and initiatives has commenced in 2023.

The Senior Leadership Team, under Council's and Principal's guidance, has designed a Strategic Plan for Wellbeing, consolidating and communicating a modern and inclusive whole school approach to wellbeing, under the motto "Balance defines us".

Teaching and Learning

Teachers continue to strive to develop and enhance students' learning experiences. Considerable professional development has been undertaken around differentiation, particularly in regard to assessment and many departments have begun to implement strategies in this regard. In the Senior School, individual Departments are receiving training to enhance their teaching through the use of iPads in the classroom and, as PLC is an Apple Distinguished School, teachers have undertaken professional learning with Apple, with some teachers training to become Apple Learning Coaches. Work continues on developing future skills to prepare every student to be personally successful in an evolving world. In the Junior School, teachers continue to review the Programme of Inquiry and have engaged in targeted professional development looking at the work of inquiry expert, Kath Murdoch. Staff have also undertaken professional development in the field of Purposeful Pedagogies, looking at Project Based Learning.

Compliance

Effective governance and continuous compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements are important functions of the College Council.

The Risk & Compliance Committee and PLC team are actively reviewing and revising all College policies in line with changing legislation, Department of Education Registration Standards and other requirements for Non-Government Schools. Complispace PolicyConnect is the central depository for all College policies and key procedures, and our risk management portal Tickit on Demand, ensures all tasks and risks are monitored and assessed, as and when required. PLC is committed to providing and ensuring compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The 10 National Principles are designed to ensure child safety and wellbeing is embedded in our leadership, governance and culture. This requires informing and involving students and families through available communication channels and stakeholder consultation, so that policies and procedures are child-safe, child friendly, accessible, and culturally appropriate.

The College Council takes its responsibilities seriously, particularly regarding child safety and wellbeing, and providing a safe workplace for staff, students, volunteers, and visitors.

Staff

The College Council acknowledges the expertise and commitment of the Principal and her Senior Leadership Team in overseeing the safety and wellbeing of staff. All the staff in the College work tirelessly to ensure the continuation and delivery of all teaching and learning programmes at very high standards. The College Council acknowledges every PLC staff member for their commitment, adaptability and resilience during a time that continues to be challenging. Within our Strategic Plan there is a focus on supporting the professional development and wellbeing of all PLC staff.

We would be pleased to provide any further information to support this report. Should that be required, please inform our Chief Financial Officer and Council Secretary, Mrs Raluca Alecsa by email, raluca.alecsa@plc.wa.edu.au or by phone, on 9424 6528.

Claire Poli, Chair

Cate Begbie, Principal