



### **Chairperson Report 2022– Dean Tollis**

Teamwork, integrity, and passion drives the committee at Gifted WA. Showing up and donating your time is a big ask of anyone, however for the group of individuals I work with it seems even greater. We deal with Gifted Kids 2E kids and basically neurodiversity every day and must not only navigate our students or our children, life, COVID and then find some time to volunteer our time to help you, our members. We are not paid to provide the value and advocacy we do for you. We do it because we are passionate about helping schools, teachers, parents and of course children with high cognitive ability.

2022 has again been a tough year with some strong COVID restrictions early in the year impacting some of our plans not to mention a few our committee was impacted directly by getting COVID themselves, some more than once and some fell to long Covid.

Gifted WA has continued to grow expand its membership base. The exciting part was a program we launched to bring news schools in as members. This year we went from just over 20 school membership in 2021 to 75 school members.

One of the most powerful ways to advocate is to educate and as we connect with schools and introduce them to professional development opportunities, we begin to expand the knowledge of educators and leaders. Principals should be encouraging their peers to take up memberships, the access to sending all your staff to an event at no additional cost to the annual \$190 membership investment is one of the strongest selling points for school membership.

Gifted WA continues to bring some of the best though leaders, researchers and other professional resources who share their knowledge with members, often give you tools or strategies that you can implement straight away.

This is only our 6-year anniversary, and we are still building the association, narrowing in on our objectives and how we can best represent our members.

Our total membership is currently 184 made up of individual, family, and school memberships. Our strong membership numbers also support our affiliated national body the AAEGT and increases revenue for the national association for which are also members of. WA helped the growth of the AAEGT Biannual Journal representing 135 subscriptions to this great research that is being undertaken in the gifted space.

In 2022 Gifted WA was able to deliver a great line up of events and we are looking at having a broader mix of in person and virtual events in 2023. We have some exciting international experts who have indicated they would be part of virtual events next year.

Brooke our events coordinator has consistently demonstrated her ability to coordinate and promote Gifted WA events and this year was no exception. We started 2022 with Identifying Giftedness in the Early Years with Dr Eileen Slater, as professional development for teachers. We then offered 'I am new, what do I do', a where to start guide for parents and teachers.

The annual Gifted Awareness week Picnic with Mensa at Whiteman Park an opportunity for everyone to meet and socialise, parents, teachers and children. I hosted a Caffeine Fuelled Networking morning tea, an informal gathering to me ask questions and share experiences.

Melissa Morrison ran Differentiation: Strategies for Classroom Teachers at Leda Primary School providing yet more great professional development opportunities for our members.

We supported UNSW and hosted the Mini COGE (certificate of gifted education) course at Christ Church Grammar, in what turned out to be a sell-out event.

At tonight we had 'Why Gifted Children Under Achieve' and I am sure many of you learned something or got further clarity from Kylie Bice's presentation.

We have improved our processes this year, documented roles and sought to make transitioning to a new committee member role easier. As with any not-for-profit volunteer organisation we need helpers, we need passionate people who want to make a difference beyond parenting or teaching gifted children. If I am talking to you, now please consider getting involved either on the committee or subcommittee or volunteering to help at an event.

I must finish by thanking my fellow committee members Kate, Brooke, Lucy, Nina, Romney, Trixi and Melissa. It's awesome when you get to work with great people. I would also like to acknowledge Karen Browne's contribution as committee members and the value she added during her tenure.

Finally, I would like to extend a huge thank you to Dr Kate Burton for her foresight to establish this body and her involvement over the past 6 years. Kate has contributed both her time and wealth of experience to establish Gifted WA. Kate has chosen to step down from the Executive Committee but remains ever welcome to sit on subcommittees or to present at events.

We are currently considering some way to acknowledge the founding members that keeps them connected to Gifted WA. Perhaps lifetime members, or recognition on the website or similar, we will work through this in the coming months and communicate where we land early in 2023.

Thank you for your attendance today without you we would have no one to volunteer for. We know our efforts impact the lives of so many people in varied ways. We will continue to serve you, listen to you, and remain relevant. Thank you.

Dean Tollis – Gifted WA Chairperson 2022