

Did you know...



We are here to support you.

Parent Survey - Bullying

Dear Territory Parents,

We are currently looking at our school environments and want your feedback on the extent of incidents of bullying.

This is voluntary and your answers are confidential.

There are many ways to bully someone. A bully wants to hurt the other person (it's not an accident). A bully does or says the same things over and over again. **Bullying is UNFAIR and can lead to serious consequences for our children*.*

Please help us to be aware of the issues and to be able to advocate on behalf of our children.

Visit www.ntcogso.org.au to complete the survey.

In this issue...



Special Education and Disability Services

Support Services available to students.



Messages

From COGSO President and CEO, Department of Education.



What to do if you are being bullied

Some ideas of what to do and who to contact.



Public dental services

Free dental services are provided from birth to 18 years of age.



Grand Opening

NT School of Distance Education Centre.



Carers Week 16-22 October

Say thank you to show your support for unpaid carers.



Community Grants

Grants of up to \$4,000 are now available to give kids from the bush a chance. Entries close 31 October 2016.



New Territory government - education commitments

Promises to re-invest in education.



Join COGSO

Vacant Regional Representative positions in Barkly & Katherine.

COGSO President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Here we are at the end of term 3, it has been an incredibly busy few months.

ELECTION

We gathered all of the feedback you have given us and provided it to Territory politicians and candidates, in the form of 46 questions, to see where they stand on your public education issues. We then ran a very well attended Q&A forum in August, attended by the then Minister for Education and the then Shadow Minister asking them your 46 questions.



(left to right) Former Education Minister, Peter Chandler. COGSO President, Tabby Fudge. Former Shadow Education Minister, Nicole Manison.

The NT Council of Government School Organisations (COGSO) is not a political body, however parents asked us to step up during the 2016 Election campaign on behalf of the public education system, which we did, with great results.

We now have a Territory government that has listened to schools and families and has committed to an increase of \$124M over the next 4 years to our children's education. Whilst this is a very good start to giving back to our children that which was taken, we believe the audit and assessment of Global School Budget funding that our new government has committed to, will show government that further financial commitment is required.

COGSO represents 18,000 Northern Territory families and their 33,500 children in 151 public schools. Parents are passionate about their child's education and expect our children's public education system properly resourced.



Read the questions and the commitments made by the now Territory Labor government visit www.ntcogso.org.au

GONSKI

Families across the Northern Territory have told Council of Government School Organisations (COGSO) they want the Gonski plan fully implemented. This plan would properly fund public schools. Gonski funding would see an extra \$100 million for Territory children in public schools.



We sincerely hope that our politicians will take this fight to Canberra.

Yes, it's expensive. Billions of dollars of Federal funds over the next 10 or 20 years. But it's an investment in our future – in the future of our children, in the future of the Northern Territory and Australia.

It's an investment we can't afford to ignore. For every \$1 we invest into Education we save \$10 in Health and Welfare expenses.

Territorians are very fortunate in that our politicians are very available and accessible. Continue those conversations with your local member and your Federal members about the issues that are important to your child's education and school. They can't help if they don't know!



SURVEY - BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

I would like to encourage you to check our website and our Facebook page. Due to demand, we are currently running a survey on our school environments in regard to bullying. Your input is an invaluable way of feeding information to the Minister and the Department of Education.

As always the wonderful staff at COGSO are here to help, if you have any queries at all about anything, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Have a fun, safe and relaxing break with your family and friends.

Thank you
Tabby Fudge
President, NT COGSO



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED

You have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are being bullied here are some ideas about what you can do.

Talk to someone about it. Find a trusted friend, teacher or carer who will listen to how you feel, be supportive, and perhaps even help you work out what to do.

- Talk to your friends - they can help you tell a teacher or your parents or just to feel better.
- Talk to your parents - tell them all about what's been happening.
- Talk to your teacher or another staff member - tell them all about what's been happening. If you don't want to do this in public, make an excuse to see the teacher about something else, for example your homework.
- **If you can't talk to someone face-to-face go online at Kids Helpline www.kidshelp.com.au or call a Kids Helpline counsellor on 1800 55 1800.**

Try a few of the strategies that have worked for others. Only try these strategies if you are not in any immediate danger of being physically hurt and you feel confident you can do them.

- Ignore the bullying - turn your back and walk away.
- Act unimpressed or pretend you don't care what they say or do to you. You could say 'okay, whatever' and walk away.
- Use strong, assertive statements, starting with the word 'I'; tell the other person 'I want you to stop that' in a strong confident voice. Practice this with your friends.
- Use 'fogging' which means making a joking or funny comment that makes the other person think you don't care about what they say.
- Ask your friends to speak up for you. And remember to do the same for them!

Try to stay positive. Focus on all the things that you do well, the people who like you and care about you. Write down your thoughts and feelings about the bullying to help you think clearly about what you can do.

Hang around with your friends and be with people who help you feel good about yourself. Good friends respect, encourage and support you. They care for your wellbeing and are fun to be around. You'll make new friends by respecting, encouraging and supporting others.

Try to sort out the problem behind the bullying. If you feel safe to do so, talk with the other people involved and ask them how you might be able to sort out the problem together.

Reproduced with permission from www.bullyingnoway.gov.au (2016, Department of Education and Training, Queensland / Australian Education Authorities).

Opening of the new Distance Education Learning Centre

COGSO President, Tabby Fudge and COGSO Executive Officer, Michelle Parker were honoured to be invited to the grand opening of the new Northern Territory School of Distance Education Centre (formerly known as the Northern Territory Open Education Centre) at Bullocky Point Education Precinct.

The new centre provides state-of-the-art technology and facilities that provides the specialist delivery of teaching and learning to more than 400 senior secondary students across the Territory.

Former Minister for Education Peter Chandler said "The Northern Territory School of Distance Education will enable greater access to senior secondary education for students and their families right across the Territory particularly in remote and very remote locations of the Territory."

NT School of Distance Education Principal Marcia Harvey said "The completion of our new school building at the Bullocky Point Education Precinct is a significant milestone for distance education provision in the Northern Territory.

It is an outstanding facility and will be of great benefit to our students and the entire school community."



(left to right) Glenda Gollon, Christina Lopes, Beia Capaque & Mikayla Chin from the NTSDE

Special Education and Disability Support Services...

Students with a disability in the NT have a right to access a full and inclusive curriculum that meets individual needs.

The Department of Education provides services to all students in NT government schools, and provides assistance in some areas to non-government schools.

If your child has a disability you can access support services including specialist education advisors, specialised equipment and resources.

The range of support services available cover all of the following:

SUPPORT SERVICES

If your child has a disability you can access support services including specialist education advisors, specialised equipment and resources.

The range of support services available cover all of the following:

- autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- counselling
- disability
- early childhood intervention
- hearing
- psychology
- transition from school
- vision

SPECIALIST EDUCATION SETTINGS

Your child may be accommodated in:

- a mainstream school
- a specialist program e.g. hearing units and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) programs
- a specialist centre attached to a mainstream school
- a specialist school

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

Support is available at the school if your child has autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or social communication disorder (SCD).

ASD advisors can assist in developing support strategies for your child to maximise their educational outcomes.

How to get support

Talk to your child's teacher or contact school support services by either:

- phone: (08) 8944 9341
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

Further information: www.autismnt.org.au



COUNSELLING

School counsellors provide the following support to students:

How to get support

Students may access the school counselling service directly by talking to their teacher or may be referred by a member of staff, parent or guardian.

If you have a concern, talk to your child's teacher or contact school support services by either:

- phone: (08) 8944 9322
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

DISABILITY

Support is available at the school if your child has a disability.

Disability advisors (DA) can assist in developing support strategies for your child to promote equitable access and participation in education.

How to get support

Talk to your child's teacher and/or the special education advisor or contact school support services by either:

- phone: (08) 8944 9331
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

Early childhood intervention (ECI) supports the development and learning needs of young children from birth to 6 years who have a disability or developmental delay.

ECI advisors provide planned provision of specialist services to support you and your child to maximise their development and learning.

How to get support

You can refer your child directly to the service, or your child's doctor, teacher, therapists, community health professionals or child care provider can refer your child with your consent.

You will be asked to sign the parent consent authority.

Talk to your child's teacher or childcare provider or contact school support services by either:

- Phone: (08) 8944 994
- Email: support.det@nt.gov.au

Further information: www.carpentariadisabilityservices.org



HEARING

Support is available in the Northern Territory (NT) if your child is diagnosed with a hearing loss or impairment, or is identified as deaf.

Hearing team advisors can assist if your child has a hearing impairment to allow your child access to the curriculum on the same basis as other students.

Support is offered from birth, or as soon as your child is identified as having a hearing impairment and continues through preschool, primary and secondary school.

Hearing team advisors can assist in developing support strategies for your child at school.

Support can be provided face to face and/or through video conferencing technology throughout the NT and to both government and non-government schools.

The level of support your child will receive will depend on the degree and type of hearing loss and the level of need.

How to get support

If your child has a permanent sensorineural and/or conductive hearing loss you can access support from hearing team advisors.

Talk to your child's teacher or contact school support services by either:

- phone: (08) 8944 9332
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

Further information:

www.deafnt.org.au



www.deafchildreinaustralia.org.au

TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL

Support is available for students with a disability when they leave school to go to further education, employment or community access Programs.

The support is provided through your child's school and is tailored to your child's needs.

How to get support

The transition process can begin once your child reaches Year 9 or 14 years of age.

Talk to your child's teacher or you can contact school support services for more information:

- phone: (08) 8944 9335
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

...provided by the Department of Education

PSYCHOLOGY

School psychologists provide support to students and their families across the whole school, to groups and to individuals with severe learning, behavioural, social and emotional needs.

How to get support

To access school psychology services talk to your child's teacher or contact school support services by either:

- phone: (08) 8944 9320
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

Further information:

www.anglicare-nt.org.au

www.beyondblue.org.au

www.catholiccarent.org.au

www.headspace.org.au

www.kidshelpline.com.au

www.kidsmatter.edu.au

www.mindmatters.edu.au

www.parentline.com.au

www.somerville.org.au



VISION

Support is available at the school if your child has a vision loss or impairment.

Vision team advisors can assist if your child has a significant vision impairment to allow your child access to the curriculum on the same basis as other students.

Support is offered from birth, or as soon as your child is identified as having a vision impairment and continues through preschool, primary and secondary school.

The level of support will depend on your child's needs.

The vision resource centre is located at Sanderson Middle School and advisors deliver services across the Territory.

How to get support

Your child is eligible for support from the vision resource centre if they are blind or their corrected distance vision is worse than 6/18 and/or they have a visual field reduction to less than 20 degrees, or their near vision requires significant support for the production of alternate format materials..

Talk to your child's teacher or contact school support services by either:

- phone: (08) 8963 5580
- email: support.det@nt.gov.au

Further information: www.visionaustralia.org



A message from the Chief Executive, Department of Education

In addition to the work and dedication of our teachers and support staff in schools, school councils and boards play an important role in continuing to drive improvement in our system and increase student results. Every parent who is actively involved in their school, particularly those who are part of a school council or board, make an important and valuable contribution to framing the future of education in the Territory. I am very pleased with how school councils and boards, with the support of NT COGSO, are continuing to drive the change agenda to benefit student outcomes.

With this in mind, schools are looking ahead to 2017 with additional government support for school global budgets, and starting to prepare for what is anticipated to be another year of growth and continued improvement.

In August 2016, the preliminary NAPLAN report was released and I was very pleased to see the improvement in the Northern Territory results. They demonstrate significant advances in numeracy and literacy, particularly writing. Compared to the 2015 results, there has been a marked increase in the number of students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who are exceeding the national minimum standards for writing. Year 5 students have made significant gains across the test domains of writing, numeracy, and grammar and punctuation. There have been improvements in 16 of 20 test domains, and I am pleased that a much higher proportion of students

participated in NAPLAN this year. Schools and teachers, in both the government and non-government schooling system, have worked hard to achieve these outcomes with their students, and I applaud their commitment. There is still a long way to go, but I believe we can build on these gains, increasing students' proficiency in skills that are the key to building a successful future. Individual student reports were sent out to parents and guardians in August, and the full NAPLAN report for the Territory will be available in December. The report will allow us to disaggregate results by region, school, and indigeneity.

Early data is indicating an increase in the number of NTCET Year 12 student completions in 2016, as against 2015. This is great news, and the early data also shows that we also have projected increases in the number of Indigenous Year 12 completers. Ensuring every student who is on track to complete, can complete, and does so, is of paramount importance over the coming months. I know all our secondary schools, and schools running secondary programs in remote locations, are working hard in this regard.

Ken Davies
Chief Executive
Department of Education



Access to Public Dental Services

Oral Health Services NT encourages all Territorians to take the first step on the road to good oral health by following the five key oral health messages of "stay, play, brush, eat and drink well". These messages focus on encouraging regular dental check-ups, wearing mouth guards when playing contact sports, twice daily brushing, eating healthy food and drinking lots of water.



All Territorian families can access dental services by either contacting their private dentist or for eligible clients, the public dental service at Oral Health Services NT. Children of families receiving the Family Tax Benefit are also eligible to access the \$1000 of dental treatment available through the Child Dental Benefit Scheme. This can be done either through the family's private dentist or through the Public Dental service.

In the Northern Territory, families with children from birth to 18 years who attend secondary school, can access public dental services by phoning 8922 6466 (Top End) and 8951 6713 (Central Australia).

New Territory government - education commitments

COGSO Q&A 13 August 2016

Will your party commit to immediate action on a true student needs based model and funding required for all NT students in public education?

"We think there needs to be more work done on the model of global school budgets particularly looking at the loading around the formulas so that will be something that we will be having a look at because we believe it needs to be looked at and a good responsible government should look at that." (Nicole Manison, previous Shadow Minister Education - current NT Treasurer)

The new government has **promised to re-invest in education** to ensure the best possible future for our children.

- In 2016 **every school will get \$300,000** for repairs, upgrades and infrastructure
- **An additional \$124 million** over 4 years
 - 1 January 2017 - \$20m of the \$124m will go directly into School Budgets
 - 1 January 2017 - \$8m of the \$124m to support students with a disability and/or challenging needs
 - 1 January 2017 - \$1m for Business Managers
- Ongoing funding will be based on attendance + 10%




WHITES RURAL Community Grants 2ND ANNUAL

HELPING KIDS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Grants of up to \$4,000 are now available to give kids from the bush a chance to do something great in their local community

Our kids are the future of the bush. Whites Rural Community Grants are designed to make a difference to kids in regional, rural, and remote areas.

We are committed to regional Australia and the communities that make it great.

Tell us how a grant could help kids in your local community through art, music, sport, sustainability, or social well-being.

There are a minimum of 10 grants available nationally, each worth up to \$4,000 - so apply now.

For more information or to apply go to www.wrccommunity.com.au or visit us on Facebook & Twitter

Have your say & get your community involved! One grant recipient will be decided by public vote.

WHITES RURAL How will you help kids in your local community?

Applications to be submitted online at www.wrccommunity.com.au and can be supported by video and photos. Entries close 31 October 2016.

STOCKPOST the mark of a good post

COGSO Executive

The annual general meeting (AGM) elects the COGSO Executive each year.

Welcome to your elected representatives:

Tabby Fudge	President
Robin Lawrence	Vice President
Tooba Awais	Treasurer
Noelene Armstrong	Darwin Region
James Beattie	Palmerston and Rural Region
Jeff Cook	East Arnhem Region
Fred Richardson	Southern Region
Vacant	Katherine Region
Vacant	Barkly Region

All representatives attend the COGSO Executive meetings where they bring to the table achievements and issues affecting schools in their regions.

JOIN OUR TEAM

If you are on a school council and are interested in representing the Barkly or Katherine region, please contact COGSO Executive Officer, Michelle Parker on 8999 3255

Training Schedule

Would you like COGSO to deliver Governance Training Sessions to your School Council? Training dates for Terms 3 & 4 of 2016 are now available for all public schools across the NT.

In addition to **Governance Training** we also co-ordinate Finance and Industrial Relations Training with your Regional Business Consultant and the Chamber of Commerce.

Contact us now to make a booking: 8999 3255 or enquiries@ntcogso.org.au

Term 3	Term 4
Finance	Finance
Industrial Relations	Industrial Relations
Governance	Governance
Regional Meetings	Regional Meetings

TRAINING IS FREE WITH AFFILIATION.



Tell us what's happening in your Community - anywhere within the Northern Territory, we would love to hear from you!

Join COGSO online for education information, issues and events, parenting resources and to keep up to date. Check us out at:

www.facebook.com/NT-COGSO

www.ntcogso.org.au

P. 08 8999 3255
E. enquiries@ntcogso.org.au
W. www.ntcogso.org.au

Follow Us On

