



strong schools • strong communities

parent

One Voice for Territory Public Education

Issue 4, 2017



Nightcliff Primary School



Lajamanu School



Sanderson Middle School



Berry Springs Primary School

NORTHERN TERRITORY  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS  
(COGSO)



# COGSO President's Message



Hello,  
I hope your children have had a wonderful year at school and are excited about all of the exciting learning and festivities still to come.

Congratulations to all who are undertaking their year 12 exams. I wish you all the best for a bright and happy future. Many students will be thrilled with their final exam results, I think most (if not all) will be relieved when it's over. It is important to keep academic results in perspective. Your life will not be defined by a page of academic results. There are always other pathways to the same destination, at every stage of your life.

As NT COGSO President I aim to be a strong voice for all our students. COGSO will continue to work collaboratively to improve student pathways/outcomes and strengthen school communities. Together we will ensure that the diverse needs of our children are recognised, adequately met and responded to by Government at both local and Federal levels.

A core part of COGSO work is to provide Governance and Finance Training to School Representative Bodies. I strongly encourage all schools to begin planning for next year and book Governance and Finance training with the COGSO office.

Up to 20 October COGSO has conducted 48 training sessions throughout the NT.

In 2017 COGSO lodged a submission to the Federal Government Inquiry into Hearing Health and Wellbeing of Australia. We were then invited by the Senate Inquiry members to respond to COGSO's submission. We have also formed a Hearing in Education Learning Program (HELP) working group between COGSO, NT Departments of Health, Education and AMSANT.



Nhulunbuy High School

Congratulations to all our fabulous Northern Territory Teachers, you are nothing short of amazing. It was wonderful to attend the Honourable Minister for Education Eva Lawler's World Teacher's Day Award Ceremony at Parliament House on 31 October and celebrate the fantastic achievements of Teachers, Teacher Aides, Support Staff and our schools, right across the Territory. Every day you change lives and shape our future societies and communities, my most sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all.

Have a fun and safe Christmas break with your family and friends. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

**Tabby Fudge**  
**President**



## FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE

 @NTCOGSO

 @NTCOGSO

Our NT COGSO road trip has come to an end. Tomorrow Ngukurr and Wednesday & Thursday Borroloola. Cannot wait to see these amazing...

 Oct 20 @NTCOGSO



#AliceSprings Youth Action Group kicking off the YAM Fest. Youth Arts & live music at the Aquatic Centre @AliceSpringsTC

 Aug 29 @SDERA\_



Great news!

Childcare will be available for families attending the COGSO Annual Full Council Meeting & AGM. Come and join us and be part of helping to shape the direction of NT public education for the coming year!

 Oct 20 @NTCOGSO



WANT TO ATTEND THE AGM?  
NO-ONE TO LOOK AFTER THE KIDS?  
WHY DON'T YOU BRING THEM ALONG?

**Childcare  
Services  
Available!**

Book a place today!

COGSO President Tabby Fudge and Chief Executive Department of Education, Vicki Baylis met at our monthly meeting to discuss public education...

 Oct 20 @NTCOGSO



1 in 4 Australian kids have tooth decay. Free sugars consumed in juice & soft drink major risk factor #ChooseWater

 Aug 31 @RootsOfAction

Would you like to know how to talk with your children about alcohol and other drugs? Read these handy tips:

<http://bit.ly/2wXAvZq>

 Oct 09 @SDERA\_

Term 4 and Governance, Finance and Industrial Relations training sessions continue to roll out across the Northern Territory...

 Oct 20 @NTCOGSO



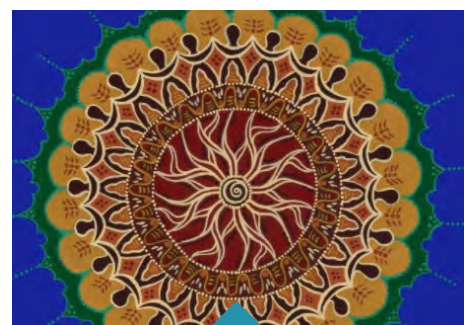
Thank you Yulara school community for a wonderful turnout of school council members, parents, staff and interested community members. Regional Director Trevor Read provided information on the outstanding educational achievements this school continues to reach.

 Oct 20 @NTCOGSO



A new path forward for Indigenous #mentalhealth reforms and social/emotional wellbeing. View the Framework: <http://bit.ly/2xxNywi>

 Oct 19 @\_PHAA\_



## BULLETIN BOARD



# Training Delivered

Governance roadshow to Palmerston and Rural, Katherine, Barkly and Alice Springs. COGSO were on the road from Darwin to Alice Springs and nine schools in between.

*"I was really impressed with the willingness of the presenter to listen to concerns and be supportive in those situations"*



**Day one** was spent with the Batchelor Area School Council Office Bearers and Principal. This school does parent engagement and governance perfectly. It has been a pleasure to work with them over the years and to continue to do so.



**Day two** of our road trip was spent with Pine Creek school in the morning. Talking all things community engagement and ongoing support from COGSO in working with families. See you again soon Pine Creek.



The afternoon was spent with the delightful and welcoming community of Manyallaluk. We arrived at the community park to children running towards us and jumping in our arms.

Students cooked a welcome bbq and families were waiting to sit and talk with us about options for family and school partnerships.

**Day three** saw us welcomed at Wugularr school and we particularly enjoyed our school tour. This community works well in school and family partnerships and is establishing a School Council. Proposed School Council Chair Kathleen and Office Bearer Lorraine, were keen to know more about good governance practices.

We also visited Barunga School and ended the day with an afternoon/evening meeting with Mataranka Area school. Families came together for a school council meeting, election of new Treasurer and Secretary and we shared a beautiful meal and conversations.



**Day four** and we arrive in the Barkly region for an evening governance training session with Tennant Creek Primary and High School Councils.

Thank you everyone for a great session!



"6 out of 5 for  
Trainer Knowledge.  
Thank you"



**Day five** and the morning was spent with Tennant Creek Primary Principal and School Council Chair who have a major capital project on and is in consultations with community on draft two of the pre-school plans. Great to see community taking considered time to consult and achieve the best possible build for their school.

**Day six** saw our week come to an end in Alice Springs with 15 School Representative Body Members from 7 schools from the Southern region for Governance and Finance training. Thank you to Regional Business Consultant Nick Kuhn who delivered Financial governance for School Representative Bodies.

## DARWIN REGION

### Finance

Finance training was held for the Darwin Region presented by Regional Business Consultant Narelle Jones. Thank you to the 12 School Representative body members who attended Financial Governance.

"Positive,  
encouraging,  
uplifting  
experience.  
Valuable insights."



## NGUKURR

### Governance and Finance

Ngukurr Council spent a day on Governance and Finance training. Thank you all for your commitment to a brighter future for kids.

A special thank you to Di Scannell, Katherine Regional Business Consultant for yet another engaging session.

"Excellent Training  
Session. I became  
Treasurer at the beginning  
of the year and after this  
training I feel so much  
more confident in this  
position. Great Work!!  
Thank you!"



## Term 4 Regional Training Dates

	Governance	Finance	Industrial Relations
Arnhem	18/11/2017	18/11/2017	18/11/2017
Darwin	24/10/2017	21/11/2017	7/11/2017
Katherine	25/11/2017	25/11/2017	25/11/2017
Palmerston and Rural	25/10/2017	15/11/2017	8/11/2017
Southern	11/11/2017	11/11/2017	11/11/2017

"Well delivered and  
very responsive to  
all questions from  
the floor"

# A Message from the Chief Executive, Department of Education

**+ Following on from the consultation undertaken throughout Term 3, 2017 around the department's strategic direction, I am pleased to announce that we have developed the Education NT Strategy.**

The strategy, will be the centrepiece of the new Department of Education Strategic Framework for 2018-22. It reframes the focus of the department so that the needs of schools drive our business. It will accelerate school improvement by ensuring that our actions are focused and that the system supports what schools need to improve performance.

Education NT's goals are student engagement, growth and achievement.

There are five focus areas:

- School leadership – leaders lift performance
- Quality teaching – students learn to their potential
- Differentiated support – tailored, evidence-based strategies to support schools and students
- Community engagement – strong partnerships with students, parents, the community and industry inform our decisions
- Data and Accountability – systems inform and improve our performance

An action plan for the department will align with the focus areas in the Education NT Strategy. The actions will synthesise ideas heard in the consultation with research about what works and data analysis.

Five key principles will drive the design of our actions. The actions will be designed with a sharp and narrow focus – we only do what makes a difference, we stick with it, and we do it well.

Annual school planning priorities will be set, linked to the strategy's goals of student engagement, growth and achievement. Schools will use a minimum of two of the priorities in their Annual School Improvement Plans, and have the option of adding one additional priority of their choice.

I am looking forward to sharing the full Education NT Strategy and Action Plan 2018-22 in November 2017, as part of the new Department of Education NT Strategic Framework.

Finally, I would like to wish all of the Year 12 students and their families the very best as exams commence. Ensuring that every student who is on track to complete, can complete and does complete, is a key focus for all schools running secondary programs. I look forward to celebrating the achievements of all students at the end of Term 4.

**Vicki Baylis**  
Chief Executive,  
Department of  
Education







## NT COGSO have been busy

Along with our regular monthly meetings with the Chief Executive, Vicki Baylis and Minister for Education, Eva Lawler our President and Executive Officer have also attending the following meetings:

- Assistant Secretary, Health Branch of Indigenous Affairs Group Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss Indigenous Hearing Loss in the NT
- Stakeholder Consultations with the Department of Education for the Early Childhood Education review
- Program Coordinator Safe Schools Coalition, Principals Australian Institute (PAI) to continue discussions on the Safe Schools Program
- Acil Allen Consulting for evaluation of the Indigenous Education Strategy (IES)
- NT Police Assistant Commissioner, Commander and Superintendent from Northern Operations to discuss the role of Youth Engagement Police Officers
- AEUNT to discuss NAPLAN and the proposed RoboMarking

- NT Principals Association (NTPA) collaborative meeting of respective Presidents

- Northern Territory Isolated Children's Parents' Association (NTICPA) to discuss the important issues their members face

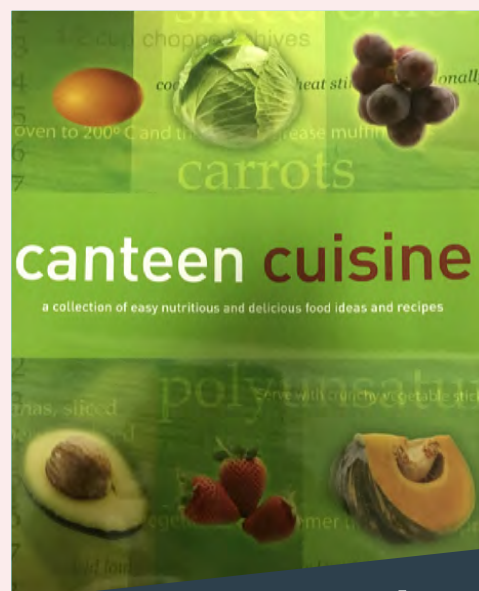
### NTICPA MEET WITH NTCOGSO

The Northern Territory Isolated Children's Parents' Association (NTICPA) are meeting with NT COGSO in November to share each other's stories, ensuring optimum outcomes for the future of NT rural and remote children, through continued equity of access to quality education.

You may recognise Tiani Cook (pictured above) from her 'Horses for Courses' Ride for Bush Kids raising awareness for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia. Well Tiani and the NTICPA team are heading to Darwin once again, in the car this time, to meet with dignitaries to discuss the important issues their members face.

*"Living and raising a family in rural and remote NT should not mean children's education need be adversely affected"* – Tiani Cook, NTICPA President

## LATEST UPDATES



### Books to give away

We have 17 books to give away to school canteens, please get in touch 8999 3255. A collection of easy nutritious and delicious food ideas and recipes.



Friday 8th  
December at  
the Darwin  
Convention  
Centre

## Henbury Corporate Luncheon Event

# ALL WELCOME!

[View the online invitation here](#)

## INVITATION

NT School Councils & Boards are invited to attend your Annual Full Council Meeting & Annual General Meeting

### SAT 18 NOV 2017 ANNUAL FULL COUNCIL MEETING AND AGM

**8:30AM REGISTRATIONS**

**9:00AM START**

**3:30PM FINISH**

COGSO encourages you to attend as we strive for improvements for all students in our public schools

*Some travel funds available or proxy votes can be provided to your Regional Representative*

**RSVP with KIM**

[enquiries@ntcogso.com.au](mailto:enquiries@ntcogso.com.au)  
08 8999 3255



**LOCATION**

Mercure Darwin Airport  
Resort, Ansett Room,

1 Sir Norman Brearley Drive,  
Marrara, NT 0812



**Make sure  
you're on time  
everyone!**



Hon. Eva Lawler, Minister for Education will be delivering the Opening Address at 9am sharp.

Q&A Session with Vicki Baylis, Chief Executive, Department of Education.



## DAYS EVENTS

8:30am	Registration
8:50am	Welcome to Country
9:00am	Official Opening Address Hon. Eva Lawler, Minister for Education
9:45am	Community and Youth Engagement Northern Territory Police
10:30am	Morning Tea
10:45am	Q&A Session Vicki Baylis, Chief Executive Department for Education
11:30am	AGM Open
12:00pm	AGM Close
12:00pm	Full Council Business
12:30pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Full Council Business
3:30pm	Full Council Close
3:30pm	Post Council Executive

## Childcare Services Available



Want to attend the AGM but have no one to look after your kids? No worries!

Bring your children along.

Book a place today!

## Register today!

You can find out more, register your attendance & book a childcare place by either:

Phone: [8999 3255](tel:89993255)

Email: [enquiries@ntcogso.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ntcogso.org.au)

Some travel funds available.  
Proxy votes can be provided to your  
Regional Representative.