







## COGSO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone,  
I hope you and your children have had a great term three and are celebrating your child's achievements and successes during the term.

The Department of Education have been holding consultation sessions, listening to what school communities have to say in order to develop their school and student centred strategic plan. If you missed the scheduled forums, you may still have input by visiting the department's website or our NTCOGSO Facebook page and filling in the survey. <http://survey.nousgroup.com.au/s3/NT-Education-Vision> Your input is valuable!

Through lobbying Federal Senators and cross benches, the combined efforts of NT COGSO, the Honourable Eva Lawler, Minister for Education, the NT Department of Education and the NT Australian Education Union, we have succeeded in gaining "top up" funds of approximately \$78M from the Federal Government. This lobbying was crucial after the Federal Government cut the NT student resource standard from

24% to 20% in Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017.

Whilst we can celebrate this success, it does not provide any certainty going beyond the next couple of years. Rest assured NT COGSO will continue to advocate for our children and request real, needs based funding from the Federal Government, not just rhetoric.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) on school students with disability collects information about students with disability across Australia in a consistent way. It counts the number of school students with disability receiving educational adjustments to allow them to participate in education on the same basis as students without a disability.

The data goes to the national collection Agency and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Some cases will involve the school passing the data directly to the department and in other cases the school will provide the data to the NT government agency or other relevant

body, depending on the school's arrangements. The information will not identify individual students. This data is crucial in determining allocation of Federal funds.

After considerable feedback from school communities NT COGSO are meeting with key stakeholders to ensure our schools resume access to Youth Engagement Police Officers (YEPO). YEPO's are a valuable resource to NT schools and the wider NT community, they provide positive, proactive police resources to school communities. Regular, effective communication will assist crime prevention and behavioural issues through positive interaction between students, parents, school staff and YEPO's.

Have a fun and safe third term break with your family and friends.

**Tabby Fudge  
President**



## Federal Inquiry into Hearing Health and Wellbeing

Proud to stand up for our remote kids through our submission to the Federal Standing Committee. We recommended the Senate Inquiry visit the NT and were very pleased they did.  
June 2017



(from left to right) Arnheim Representative Jeff Cook, COGSO President Tabby Fudge, Executive Officer Michelle Parker & Teacher Chris Blackham-Davison



# BULLETIN BOARD



## Western Australian Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) Annual Conference

Terrific morning with the start of conference. Had an opportunity to thank Hon. Suzanne (Sue) Mary Ellery Minister for Education and Training and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council for her commitment to Safe Schools. President **Kylie Catto** captivated everyone with her speech highlighting WACSSO's extensive achievements.



National Literacy and Numeracy Week is here! Let's celebrate literacy and numeracy in all schools across Australia! <http://bit.ly/1oLYxdc>

 **Sep 3** @Eduspokesperson



Thank you @WACSSO for an inspiring and informative #WACSSOConf17. A big thumbs up from @NTCOGSO and @PandCsQld!

 **Aug 20** @NTCOGSO



Help toddlers develop social and emotional skills by naming the emotions they feel @dfkris <http://owl.li/g3db30ePdOi> #parenting #sel #edchat

 **Aug 31** @MindShiftKQED



Hands up NT kids between 6 to 12 years of age! The Young Voice Competition is an exciting opportunity for young, creative people between 6 – 12 years old to show us what makes them feel healthy and happy! If you like to write, dance, paint or draw – visit our page to learn more and for an opportunity to win one of three prizes...

 **Aug 29** @NTCOGSO



I just uploaded "TALKING DRUGS PARENT WORKSHOP - TESTIMONIAL - Say Palace Than Aung" to #Vimeo:

 **Aug 29** @SDERA\_



MT @SteeleThoughts: ... It's imperative to know the kids. #JoyfulLeaders #LeadupChat

 **Aug 31** @RootsOfAction

It's good to know the content.  
It's great to know the pedagogy.  
It's imperative to know the kids.

@SteeleThoughts

## 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  
08 8999 3255

**COGSO**  
Strong schools • Strong communities

**LOCATION**  
Mercury Darwin Airport  
Resort, Ansett Room,  
1 Sir Norman Brearley Drive,  
Marrara, NT 0812.

Check out our Annual Full Council and AGM event on the back cover of this newsletter!

**FOLLOW US ON  
OUR SOCIAL  
MEDIA**



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

To: The Children at Manyallaluk School

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your splendid letters.

Although unable to reply to you personally, Her Majesty thought it was so kind of you to write to her and was interested to hear a little bit about yourselves.

I am to thank you, once again, for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did.

*Mary Robinson*

Lady-in-Waiting



## MANYALLALUK STUDENTS GET THE ROYAL TREATMENT



**It was “big smiles and jumping for joy” at Manyallaluk School when students received a letter from Buckingham Palace!**

Manyallaluk School, a remote school 100 km north-east of Katherine, is using the strategy of writing letters as one way to engage students in literacy through creating authentic writing experiences.

Queen Elizabeth and Essendon Football Club megastars have been recipients of letters from junior and senior primary students at Manyallaluk School.

To the delight of students, they have received responses from both Mary Robinson, Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth and the Essendon Football Club.

Minister for Education Eva Lawler was thrilled with the students’ commitment to writing and the responses they received.



Essendon Football Club  
275 Meissner Drive,  
Melbourne Airport, VIC, 3045  
PO Box 17, Essendon 3040  
Telephone: 03 8340 2000  
Facsimile: 03 8340 2001  
essendonfc.com.au  
ABN 22 004 286 373

Hi ARALISE, TANGO, DASTAN, EMMAISHIA,  
SHERURA + TIANHA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS - THE  
PLAYERS REALLY ENJOYED THEM. WE HAVE  
ENCLOSED A BOOK FOR THE TEACHER TO  
READ WITH YOU.

THE BOMBERS!

ESSENDON FOOTBALL CLUB PREMIERSHIPS:  
VFA: 1891 • 1892 • 1893 • 1894 VFL/AFL: 1897 • 1901 • 1911 • 1912 • 1923  
• 1926 • 1942 • 1946 • 1949 • 1950 • 1962 • 1965 • 1984 • 1985 • 1993 • 2000

TRUE VALUE  
SOLAR  
CENTRE EFC



CD-MAJOR PARTNERS





"This is one of those stories that simply brings a smile to your face," Ms Lawler said.

"The students will remember this moment for the rest of their lives and I commend the teachers, staff and students for their great initiative.

"To see such wonderful things happen in our remote schools is fantastic and I can't wait to hear about the future letters they write – and the responses they receive!"

Teaching Principal of Manyallaluk School, Ben Kleinig said that through this activity, students have been gaining confidence in their writing skills.

"We slowly introduced letter writing last term, and then realised its potential," he said.

"The kids chose their favourite football players, and The Queen — someone who is pretty popular with our students.

"Making the writing experience authentic with an audience beyond just the teacher and reaching a global audience gets our students excited about writing.

"Enthusiasm and excitement about writing translates into more effort, self-belief, having-a-go and more time put into writing by the kids.

"Getting a "real-world" reply is its own reward and the kids love it. Imagine big smiles and lots of jumping for joy when one of these replies arrives in the mail!

"One substantial improvement is our students gaining the confidence to move away from relying on the teacher, being brave enough to have a go at sounding-out and then being open to feedback."

In her letter to The Queen, Year 2 student, Alice wrote: 'Dear Queen Elizabeth. Did you have a birthday cake? Old Mary was sitting down

drinking a cup of tea watching the dogs chase a buffalo. But don't worry, she can run fast. From Alice.'



So will this education strategy be continued into the future by the school?

"Yes! The opportunities are limitless and the results so far are very exciting," Mr Kleinig said.





Pictured: Yurriwi School Council attending Governance Training in Nhulunbuy

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



This term, a key focus for our department is ensuring that Territorians have a strong voice in our future strategic direction.

We have commenced consultation, seeking input from students, teachers, school leaders, corporate and regional staff, families and community members on the development of our new strategic plan that is school and student centred.

A renewed strategy, will give us a framework to guide our activities – from strengthening our teacher capability to principal leadership, to how our corporate divisions can enhance support to schools. We aim to build on our existing strengths but also identify areas for additional effort.

On 16 August, I was privileged to hear from students at Yurriwi (Milingimbi), Maningrida and Ramingining Schools. The honesty in their feedback around why school is important to them is something we can all learn from. A great example of this was a discussion I had with Caitlin, a Year 6 student at Ramingining School. When I asked Caitlin why she came to school, she responded saying “It is important to grow up our education better.”

For me, it is the simplicity in the voice of our students like Caitlin that highlights where we need to focus our energy in education. It is our moral imperative as educators and families to ensure that every child can engage, grow and achieve.

I look forward to sharing updates with on this work in the coming months.



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







## TRAINING DELIVERED

**COGSO delivers training across the Northern Territory**

Book your training for Term 4 today!  
Email [alice.gawler@ntcogso.org.au](mailto:alice.gawler@ntcogso.org.au)  
or call 8999 3255

### KATHERINE

Ngukurr School Council invited COGSO to deliver Governance Training in the first week of school holidays. Thanks to Linda Williams (Chairperson) and Lynda Pascoe (Principal) for requesting a visit from COGSO and assisting with arrangements for the session. The training was held in the Ngukurr School Library with a focus on Governance Roles and Responsibilities of Council Members.

The dedication and passion of Ngukurr School Council was great to see with eight (8) members of the council giving up a day of their holidays to attend. Thank you to the Business Manger Julie Branson who was able to join us from Katherine. Thank you to everyone who attended.

### ARNHEM

COGSO had a successful weekend in Nhulunbuy with these terrific participants from nine schools across the Arnhem region.

A special thank you to Regional Business Support Consultant, Jodi-Anne Williamson who had everyone engaged on Global School Budgets.

### DARWIN, PALMERSTON & RURAL

On Tuesday 6 June, twenty (20) School Representative Body Members attended the PARR Finance Training presented by Jodi-Anne Williamson (Regional Business Support Consultant, Department of Education) to gain a greater understanding of Global School Budgets.



A second Finance Session was held on Thursday 8 June for the Darwin region. This was presented by Di Scannell and Narelle Jones (Regional Business Support Consultants, Department of Education) with twenty-one (21) School Representative Body Members.

Thank you to the Regional Business Support Consultants for their ongoing collaboration with NT COGSO.

On Monday 14 August, Governance and Finance Training was held for Jabiru Area School Council with a great turn out and lots of positive discussions.

Monday 4 & Tuesday 5 September was spent delivering Governance and Mentoring support on Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Eylandt.

During our visit training was provided to five (5) members of the Milyakburra School Council on how to run effective meetings and increase community engagement at the school.

An evening session on strengthening Parent – School Partnerships was delivered to Alyangula Area School Council. The visit concluded with mentoring provided to Umbakumba and Angurugu Schools.







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**RSVP with KIM**  
enquiries@ntcogso.com.au  
08 8999 3255

**LOCATION**  
Mercure Darwin Airport Resort, Ansett Room,  
1 Sir Norman Brearley Drive,  
Marrara, NT 0812

**COGSO**  
strong schools • strong communities



## MAKE SURE YOU'RE ON TIME EVERYONE!

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

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

## NTBOS AWARDS

The Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS) holds annual award ceremonies to recognise the achievements of students in government and non-government schools across the Northern Territory (NT)

The awards ceremonies take place in the first two weeks of February each year in Alice Springs and Darwin.

In addition to awards for the Territory's top 20 NT Certificate of Education and Training completers, merit awards for Stage 2 board-accredited subjects and industry-sponsored awards, schools nominate students for the following award categories:

- Administrator's Medal
- School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Vocational Education and Training in Schools Awards
- Karmi Sceney Aboriginal Excellence and Leadership Awards
- Sally Bruyn Senior Primary School Science Award.

The 2017 nomination process is now open and will close on 10 November 2017.

You can find out more about the awards and the nomination process by either:  
phone: (08) 8944 9204  
email: [ntbos@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntbos@nt.gov.au).

## WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

OCTOBER 5TH

**COGSO would like to acknowledge and thank Northern Territory teachers and teacher support staff for their hard work, dedication and for the many ways in which they support and guide our students.**



**Contact COGSO on 8999 3255 or email [enquiries@ntcogso.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ntcogso.org.au)**