

# NT COGSO parent

Newsletter

YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Issue 2, 2018



NT COGSO President, Tabby Fudge with (from left) Marion Guppy, Deputy Chief Executive Department of Education, Kate Vanderlaan Deputy Commissioner NT Police, Michael Gunner Chief Minister & Police Minister and Eva Lawler Education Minister.



NT COGSO staff with Minister for Territory Families Dale Wakefield

Federal Shadow Assistant Minister for Schools Andrew Giles MP with NT COGSO President, Tabby Fudge

NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS  
**STRONG SCHOOLS · STRONG COMMUNITIES**



# President's Message



I hope your children have had a great Term 2 and you have too!

This term NT COGSO have continued to be very busy in lobbying for the return of School Based Police Officers. We have had very productive meetings with key stakeholders, including the Chief Minister Michael Gunner as Minister for Police, Deputy Commissioner NT Police Kate Vanderlaan, Education Minister Eva Lawler and Deputy Chief Executive Department of Education Marion Guppy. We look forward to announcing some very exciting news soon.

I would like to thank so many people for the overwhelming support you have given us in our efforts, particularly our wonderful Principals across the whole of the Northern Territory, Minister for Education Eva Lawler, Chief Executive Department of Education Vicki Baylis, NT Children's Commissioner Colleen Gwynne, Mr Henry Gray, MLA Kezia Purick, President Australian Education Union NT Jarvis Ryan, Shadow Minister for Education Lia Finocchiaro. A special thank you to you, the parents, who have been very clear in your wish to see this invaluable, proactive School Based Police Officer program returned to our schools.

On a less brighter note, sadly, our schools and parents are staring down the barrel of a Turnbull Government funding model that will slash \$150M from government schools over the next decade. In addition, this year's Federal budget sees early childhood funding completely withdrawn after consecutive years of cuts and at the end of next year Federal funding for universal access to pre-school will cease.

NT COGSO will continue to lobby for the reinstatement and expansion of Federal funds for NT children and are meeting with Federal Minister for Education Simon Birmingham to discuss these very serious issues. In the Territory we have some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people and every child, no matter where they live, has a right to a high-quality education and to achieve their full potential.



**AEU President Correna Haythorpe with NT COGSO President, Tabby Fudge**

The Federal Government is failing our children, fortunately the NT Government are picking up the pieces and continue to invest in our children with additional funding for early childhood.

Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students sat NAPLAN tests in May, please keep these tests in perspective. NAPLAN is only a very brief snapshot every two-years and results are not a great indicator of your child's learning. You are far better off talking to your child's teacher when it comes to your child's progress in the classroom. After 10 years of NAPLAN it is timely that it should be reviewed as it is a flawed measurement and limited in its usefulness. We would be far better off with the millions of dollars it costs to roll NAPLAN out across the country, reinvested into our schools.

Have a fun and safe mid-year break with your family and friends and a fabulous term three.

**Tabby Fudge**  
**President**



## FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR MORE



NT Schools losing federal funding over ten years... wonder why the gap between rich sydney private school kids and kids out at Milimimbi is growing? We want the real gonski! #fairfundingnow

**May 4** @TimFrank2

At today's monthly meeting with Minister Eva Lawler MLA: Member for Drysdale we took the opportunity to thank her for honouring the government's annual funding commitments to schools. In addition, Ms Lawler's announcement last week of \$13.18 million in education infrastructure fast-tracked to improve Territory school facilities.

**Apr 17** @NTCOGOSO



Thank you Minister for Education Eva Lawler for the tour of Parliament House. Our team members enjoyed having an opportunity to see and hear about government in the NT. NT COGSO Executive Assistant Kim Hoyle held an impromptu meeting at the Minister's conference table - Kim will always seize an opportunity to keep working!

**Apr 21** @NTCOGOSO



'Growing our own' teachers from rural and remote students is a smarter way forward. We need to ensure, as students, they have access to full resources, quality IT and inspiring teachers.

**Apr 28** @NTCOGOSO



@tanya\_plibersek addressing council, stating a commitment to reverse the government's \$17 billion in education funding cuts.

**May 04** @TeachersFed



Our public schools welcome all children from all backgrounds and do so much with the resources they get. But they could do so much more with #FairFundingNow

**Apr 26**  
@FairFundingNow

**ALMOST 75% OF STUDENTS WITH  
DISABILITIES ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.  
THEY DESERVE FAIRFUNDINGNOW!  
NOT PUBLIC SCHOOL CUTS.**



Our #FairFundingNow asks to give all children a fair-go:

1. Reverse \$1.9 billion cut from public schools & disability cuts.
2. Fund all schools at 100% of agreed schooling resource standard.
3. Establish a public schools capital fund.
4. Remove 20% public school funding cap.

**Apr 19**  
@FairFundingNow

With thanks to Office of the eSafety Commissioner we can now learn how to help our children have safe & enjoyable online experiences. Check out iParent for all things internet safe!

<http://bit.ly/iParentNT>

**Apr 19** @NTCOGOSO

## BULLETIN BOARD



# NT COGSO working with schools across the NT



Yurrwi School Council Members

"Fantastic night of information. Thank you so much. Very professional."



## Regional Governance Training

### Darwin and Palmerston & Rural Regions

Regional Governance, Industrial Relations and Financial Governance training sessions have rolled out in the Darwin and Palmerston & Rural Regions in Term 2.



Darwin IR participants

School Representative Body Members have attended various sessions to enhance their knowledge and understanding around key Governance areas.

Thank you to the Department of Education and Chamber of Commerce for your ongoing collaboration, support and expertise in supporting our Members in their roles. Training ensures Governance responsibilities are met while maintaining the key message that positive partnerships create the best possible educational outcomes for all students in public education.

## NT COGSO says Thank you

### Regional Training Venues



Regional Training sessions have been held throughout Semester 1 utilising our schools' fabulous facilities.

NT COGSO would like to thank Alawa School Council, Forrest Parade School Council and their school staff for supporting us with venue hire through their Community Use Agreements.

## School Council Governance Training

### Manunda Terrace School Council

Governance Training provided Manunda Terrace School Council Members an opportunity to learn more about their role on Council and how to further enhance their community partnerships.

Culture and Diversity is embraced and celebrated by the Manunda Terrace School Council. Not only is this truly reflected in their own membership but through the implementation of the Connecting Cultures program.

Each Friday in Term 2 students and staff from Manunda Terrace Primary School have the opportunity to engage in quality activities that support cultural diversity.



Manunda Terrace students

Students are participating in Greek cooking, Torres Strait Islander dancing, bush tucker, painting a mural, singing, learning language plus many others. Connecting Cultures is a great program supported by School Council.



Manunda Terrace students

## NT COGSO continues to support AGM's

### Warruwi School Council AGM

NT COGSO had a terrific day supporting Warruwi School in the Arnhem Region with their AGM which was a huge success. Members were elected and the Audited Financials presented by Jodi-Anne Williamson, Regional Business Consultant, Department of Education.

A General Meeting followed where the Office Bearers were elected. Council are reviewing the Constitution to ensure member numbers and composition is reflective of their culture.

Strong programs are being planned to benefit student outcomes and increase whole of community engagement.

### Gapuwiyak School Council Governance

Great things are happening at Gapuwiyak. Strong partnerships between community and schools result in strong achievements for our children. School Council Members, community members and school staff came together in Term 2 to learn more about School Council Governance.



Gapuwiyak School Council Governance Training

It was wonderful to work with such a dedicated group of people who are truly passionate about supporting their children to achieve the best possible outcomes. Great discussions took place on how a strong School Council creates a strong community voice and strong decisions for the future.



Warruwi School Council AGM Elected Members



Warruwi AGM Audit Report

"Your governance support was very much appreciated"

## NT COGSO Strengthens Community Engagement

### Angurugu School Council Governance

NT COGSO was invited back to Angurugu School to support the Annual General Meeting. The AGM was attended by 36 members from the community.

Highlights from the school report included; increased student attendance, positive programs and appreciation for the dedicated school staff.

"Thank you for the great support you provided to the School Council this week. Your work is really appreciated."

Strengthening the School Council at Angurugu is helping to create positive partnerships with two-way conversations, transparency and collaborative decision making.



# A Message from the Chief Executive, Department of Education



**We are coming towards the end of another extremely busy and productive first semester.**

The focus of the new Education NT Strategy is to place schools at the heart of our organisation. To achieve this, the department is undergoing an organisational realignment. The objective of the realignment is to position the department to work collaboratively and effectively to focus on the needs of schools and school improvement.

The following five systemic priorities have been identified for 2018. Schools have been asked to select two out of the five priorities for 2018, with the option of identifying an additional two or three priority areas that have been negotiated with School Councils or Boards. Priority areas include:

- Increase the participation of children enrolled in FaFT
- Increase the number of students attending more than 80%
- Increase the retention of students in years 10-12
- Improve students two-year gains in NAPLAN writing in years 5, 7 and 9
- Increase the number of year 12 completions.



Community engagement is one of the key focus areas in the new strategy. As part of the realignment, an Engagement and Partnership unit has been established to deliver on strong partnerships with children, students, families, the community and industry. This provides an opportunity for us to strengthen our engagement with the community and our partnership with NT COGSO.

We are committed to empowering communities to be more involved in the education of their children. The Community Engagement team will work with a number of remote communities to support the creation of Local Engagement and Decision Making (LEaD) committees. Community Led Schools and Local Decision Making teams will work collaboratively with a smaller number of communities to identify a possible path towards becoming a Community Led School.



School Counselling Services provide specialist practice that complements the work of educators in schools. The independent review of the School Counselling Services conducted by Dr Chris Barrett has informed the development of an Action Plan to address the recommendations in supporting student wellbeing to improve learning.

I am looking forward to next semester and continuing to work collaboratively with school communities to improve student outcomes.

Have a safe mid-year break with your family and friends.

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





NT COGSO's Strong Programs - Strong Children Workshop

# 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:

- Co-ordinated and held a public workshop in Alice Springs 'Strong Programs - Strong Children' (24 & 25 March)
- NT COGSO / MINISTER monthly meetings
  - 26 March
  - 16 April
  - 14 May
- Met with Victorian University Review Team - Students with Additional Needs Review (26 March)
- NT COGSO / CE monthly meetings (26 March, 23 April & 21 May) and discussed the following:
  - Funding for children with additional needs – with no access to Special Schools
  - Students with additional needs funding model
  - School Counsellors onsite at all primary schools
  - Students with Additional Needs - NDIS
  - Student Enrolment Data
  - NTRAI Project Transition Stage 1 to Stage 2
  - Travel Approvals - Reducing Red Tape
  - Priority Enrolment and Overcrowding in Public Schools
  - Social and Emotional Learning and Restorative Reflective Practice
  - Security Audits of School Facilities
  - Funding of Student Transport – Tennant Creek
  - School Counselling Services Review
- Held discussions on the Review of the Teacher Registration Board (TRB) NT Act & Regulations (6 April)
- Met with Colleen Gwynne, NT Children's Commissioner (13 April)
- Attended Safe, Thriving and Connected: Generational Change for Children and Families Implementation Plan with Minister for Territory Families, Dale Wakefield (20 April)
- Met with Australian Education Union NT (AEUNT) President, Jarvis Ryan (26 April)
- Met with previous MLA and School Based Constable, Peter Styles, regarding School Based Police Officers (26 April)
- Met with Federal Shadow Assistant Minister for Schools, Andrew Giles MP (2 May)
- Teleconference with Strong Kids Strong Centre and Anglicare NT to discuss scoping for the State of the Children Report Project Alice Springs (3 May)
- Guest Speaker at the AEUNT Conference (5 May)
- NT COGSO / DoE Community Engagement Team collaboration meetings (10 April, 9 May & 29 May)
- Met with Michael Gunner Chief Minister & Police Minister, Eva Lawler Education Minister, Kate Vanderlaan Deputy Commissioner NT Police and Marion Guppy Deputy Chief Executive Department of Education on School Based Police Officers (14 May)
- Submissions finalised:
  - Review of Policy and Practice for Students with Additional Needs (SwAN)
  - Allocation of Government School Education (26 Semesters) guidelines
  - Nominated a representative for the Teacher Registration Board



# School Profile: Palmerston College

*'Inspiring, motivating and challenging students for successful futures'*

Palmerston College, located in Palmerston, provides secondary schooling for 1190 students from Years 7 to 12. The college commenced in January 2018 following the amalgamation of Rosebery Middle School and Palmerston Senior College. The college consists of two campuses, a Year 7 to 9 Campus located in Rosebery and a Year 10-12 Campus located in Driver. Palmerston College is the only multi-campus government secondary school in the Northern Territory.

The college's mission statement clearly states its purpose – **'Two campuses, one leadership, one college to create the secondary college of choice in Palmerston.'** Over the past 18 months, much work occurred behind the scenes involving students, parents, staff and the wider community, leading up to the college's inauguration at the beginning of 2018. It has been a mighty and inspiring effort by so many and all are to be congratulated on what has been achieved so far.

Palmerston College is a member of the Palmerston City Schools team and **support received from the eight primary school members –**

**Bakewell, Driver, Durack, Forrest Parade, Gray, Moulden Park, Rosebery and Woodroffe – also needs to be commended.**



Palmerston College

One of the biggest challenges in developing the dual campus college was creating the organisational culture and motivation required to support it. Amalgamating the two schools was not merely a 'change of name' at two sites. It has involved developing **a culture of one college with two campuses and one leadership team with a firm focus on guaranteed and viable curriculum.** Embedding this culture will be a focus for next 3 to 5 years.

The 2018 academic school year started strongly and is continuing in the same way. Underpinning the ongoing development of Palmerston College, is a school improvement modelled based on the research paper *Schools that achieve extraordinary success: how some disadvantaged Victorian schools 'punch over their weight'* (2009) by Vic Zbar, Ross Kimber and Graham Marshall.

Initial focus has been on creating the four pre-conditions required for school improvement, including: leading as one, high expectations and teacher efficacy, an orderly learning environment and focusing on those things that matter most. This focus is reflected in the college's strategic priorities for 2018:

- **growing a culture of collaboration through the ongoing development of professional learning teams**
- **implementing an explicit instructional model**
- **implementing a school-wide positive behaviour support framework**
- **implementing a reading comprehension program**

As the college continues to develop, one thing is definite, it will always proudly serve the community of Palmerston. **Palmerston proud – always!**

**Sue Healy,**  
**College Principal**



Palmerston College

## New Research on Childhood Anxiety and Wellbeing

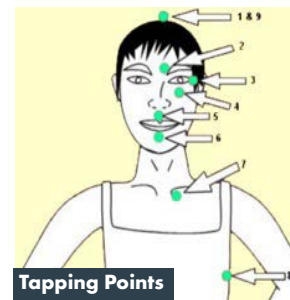


Tap under nose

Four schools across the Darwin, Palmerston and rural districts are participating in a research study called The Tapping Project. The study is being undertaken by a local psychologist Margaret Lambert as part of a PhD study through Charles Darwin University.

The Tapping Project will investigate whether the use of Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), or Tapping, is an effective intervention for reducing anxiety and improving wellbeing in Year 6 students.

It is concerning that anxiety is being experienced by young people at rising rates of prevalence. The Tapping Project has been proposed to help find ways to support student wellbeing through teaching them some simple techniques that can be used in and outside of the classroom. EFT involves students tapping gently on points on the body whilst saying a statement of affirmation. It is a very simple and quick technique to apply.



Tapping Points

Previous research conducted in EFT has shown positive results for reducing anxiety in students (and adults) and improving performance, and it may be a useful technique that teachers can use in the classroom for supporting student wellbeing.

The Tapping Project is being undertaken in terms 2 and 3. Results of the research will include student and teacher perceptions about their experiences of using tapping.



**Margaret Lambert**

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