

Issue 4, 2019

# NT COGSO parent

Newsletter

YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION



## NT SCHOOLS COME TOGETHER

2019 Annual Full Council Meeting



**Dripstone Middle School**  
**Growing Young Achievers**

**Ramingining School Council:**  
**Recognise the key to success**

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

# President's Message



*2019 Annual Full Council & AGM early morning attendees looking forward to a busy day ahead!*

As always, the NTCOGSO Annual Full Council and Annual General Meeting held on 2nd November was very productive with all regions of the Northern Territory represented. The Annual Full Council Meeting is an annual event which allows School Councils and School Boards from NT Government Schools to come together and table motions for consideration of the Full Council to guide NTCOGSO's work for the following year.

This year a record 27 motions were passed by our affiliated schools. Notably, on the back of the huge success of the reintroduction of the School Based Police Officer Program, were several motions requesting an expansion of the program particularly into Primary Schools. A full list of the motions including live recordings of the guest presentations are on our website; [www.ntcogso.org.au/news-events/annual-general-meeting-full-council-2019/2019](http://www.ntcogso.org.au/news-events/annual-general-meeting-full-council-2019/2019).

**Congratulations to all students who completed year 12 this year, I wish you a bright and happy future.** Many students will be happy with their final exam results, others may be disappointed. It is important to keep 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.

**Congratulations to all of our fabulous Northern Territory Education staff, you are nothing short of amazing. Every day you change lives and shape our future societies and communities, my most sincere and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.**

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas break with your family and friends.

Best wishes to you and yours for a happy and healthy 2020.



**Tabby Fudge  
President  
NT COGSO**



# Chief Executive Officer's Message



As we come to the end of the year, it's a good time to reflect on what we've achieved over the past 12 months and look forward to our goals for 2020.

We all know that educating young children and providing them with the support to engage, grow and achieve in their learning, is a team effort.

Having passionate and engaged families supporting our schools and the department to deliver the very best education for children in the Northern Territory, is something that I am truly grateful for.

It is your engagement, your feedback and your support that has enabled us to successfully develop and deliver on our Education NT Strategy thus far.

This year we've focused on implementing our community-led schools initiative, developed the NTCET student tracking system, launched our 'Accelerate' digital education strategy and brought in a ten year Framework for Inclusion to provide additional support for learners.

Next year we will be making more progress with the rollout of the Local Engagement and Decision Making Advisory Groups for an additional 30 schools, increasing support for schools and their digital capacity, and updating materials for the school-based police program, which was designed in collaboration with the Department of Education, NTCOGSO and NT Police.

Strong schools don't exist without strong school communities. It is vital we recognise the valued work of so many parents who go the extra mile to have a say in their children's educations through NTCOSGO, school representative bodies and many other ways.

I know that many of you with school leavers will be going the extra mile in the next few weeks as students complete their exams for their NTCET. To those parents and students, good luck! I wish you well.

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



*Good luck to our senior students in their exams*





# Annual NT Full Council Meeting

2nd November 2019

MERCURE DARWIN RESORT



*“Katherine’s Flexible Learning Education Centre - ongoing & permanent funding”*

*“School Budgeting - School Representative Bodies to receive monthly budget reports”*

*“Student Transitional Support - ‘primary to middle school’ for vulnerable students”*

**“NTCOGSO continues to oppose the NT governments Principal Wage Freeze.”**

**“We urgently request the return of the \$4 million dollars removed from school budgets for 2020.”**

**“INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FULL ACOUSTIC UPGRADES FOR: Yuendumu School, Tennant Creek High and Katherine High Schools - Hearing & Attendance trial.”**

*“Increase the number of Speech Pathologists”*

*“Urgent Safety Upgrades for Yuendumu School”*

*“School Based Police Program expansion in primary and high schools”*

*“Change the priority for the Community Benefit Funding to mental health & wellbeing”*

*“End the exemptions for Faith-Based Educational Institutions to discriminate against students and teachers”*

*“Expedite the Tennant Creek Residential Boarding Facility”*

*“Barkly Education Plan Development: to collaborate with all Barkly schools”*

Full list of motions passed can be downloaded on our website [www.ntcogso.org.au](http://www.ntcogso.org.au) > News & Events.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

*Supporting school communities*



**Ramingining School Council** and community members continue to build their **school governance** capacity by accessing free **governance training** to help members better understand their roles and responsibilities when it comes to decision making under the *Education Act 2015 (NT)*.

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Ramingining School Council are involved in considered local **decision-making**. Through governance training School Council Members were able to learn more about their role as the **employer** of School Council **employees**. This is an important governing **function** to understand as the employer of 35 staff. Local community members including prior students work across various roles as assistant teachers, tutor's, office administration, cleaners and in the kitchen.

**Ramingining School Council Members support the Principal and teachers by contributing to important strategic focus areas of the curriculum which brings Yolngu culture to life in and out of the classroom.**

**Ramingining School Council provides input into the schools' strategic vision by supporting increased learning through technology which has been embedded across the school through the use of robotics, coding, 3D printing and audio-visual techniques.**





# DRIPSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## GROWING YOUNG ACHIEVERS

Students experience change in schooling constantly, whether they are shifting from school to school, from one-year level to the next, from teacher to teacher, or moving from one stage of schooling to the next. Dripstone Middle School recognises the concerns and complexities that students and parents may have about moving to middle school, and over the past few years has implemented a number of programs to ensure that their child is well supported in the transition process.

The **'Young Achievers Day'** Program is designed to provide Year 6 students with positive learning experiences which allows them to build connections and develop positive relationships with teachers and staff, in preparation to join our: **'Community of Learners'**.

Identified students from each feeder primary school attend Dripstone Middle School for one full day each term and work in collaborative teams to build strong connections with others before starting at Dripstone Middle School. They are given a special 'Young Achievers' Dripstone uniform, providing them with an identity to feel a strong sense of belonging to the school.

**Dedicated Dripstone teachers** work with the teams across the year building positive relationships with the students to make sure they are well-supported.



*Each and every Dripstone Middle School student is cared and catered for, with a particular emphasis on their social and emotional wellbeing.*

The Wellbeing Team at Dripstone Middle School ensures early identification of students who require additional support to ease the transition process. The team is made up of the Special Education Teacher, Year Level Coordinators, Aboriginal Education Officer, Home Liaison Officer, School Police Officer, School Nurse, School Councillor, Clontarf and STARS staff and the Assistant Principal.

**Robyn Thorpe, Principal**  
**Dripstone Middle School**

# **STUDENT REPORTS PARENT SURVEY**

# **YOUR OPINION MATTERS**

**The Department of Education and NT COGSO invite all parents to complete an anonymous survey on Student Reports.**

Results will be provided to the National and Systemic Assessment Team.

This is an important opportunity to provide your valuable feedback on your child's school reports.

**START SURVEY NOW**

The survey closes on  
**FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2019.**