

# TOP END REGIONAL COUNCIL

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Drysdale Electorate Office, Gateway Shopping Centre, Palmerston

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Quorum: 3 Affiliated schools

1. **Meeting Opened:** 5:34pm  
Regional Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **Attendees**

Tanya	McKenna	Parent Member	Taminmin College
Cloe	Pattemore	Parent Member	Gray Primary School
Matt	Kerle	Parent Member	Rosebery Primary School
Bianca	Stevens	Parent Member/ Secretary	Middle Point Primary School

**Apologies:**

Nikki	Elliott	Chair	Palmerston College
Beverley	Ratahi	Chair	Taminmin College
Jackie	Roberts	Principal	Bakewell Primary School
Donna	Mitchell	Parent Member	Humpty Doo Primary School
Christina	Wright	Parent Member	Driver Primary School
Christopher	Saetta	Chair	Durack Primary School

3. **Conflict of Interest Declarations:**

Tanya McKenna – Declared that she works for Power & Water Corporate (PWC).

Cloe Pattemore – Declared that she works in nursing and midwifery for the NT Government.

Matt Kerle – Declared he works as a contractor in I.T for the NT Government.

4. **Minutes previous General Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**Moved:** Tanya McKenna

**Seconded:** Bianca Stevens

5. **Business Arising :** Nil

6. **Correspondence In:**

6.1 A Special Update from NT COGSO | e-Cigarettes Information for Families – 1 March 2023

6.1.1 WA Health. The facts about vaping for young people

6.1.2 Health-Ministers-meeting-communique-24-February-2023

6.2 Preliminary Budgets and EBA Backpay – 17 March 2023 7.2.1 Preliminary and Final School Budgets - Dates

– Discussion held around the confusion in where exactly the money will be put back into the school's budgets.

7. **Correspondence Out:** Nil
8. **Business Arising from Correspondence:** Nil
10. **Regional Representative Report:** Tanya McKenna

**Executive Meeting held Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 March 2023.**

Motions from NTCOGSO were brought forward for discussion regarding their progress.

**School Health Service - 'Health Promoting School Nurse (SHS-HPSN) review' - Survey**

The Department of Health is currently reviewing the school nurse program.

The online survey is “designed to identify how and what health education is currently provided to students in public middle, senior and specialist schools, and how it can be provided more effectively to improve the health and wellbeing of children and adolescents.”

NTCOGSO Executive strongly encourages schools and School Councils & Boards to circulate this survey to families for student feedback on the School Nurses Program to ensure schools continue to receive this service.

Past students (adults) who have attended schools with the School Nurse Program also have an opportunity to complete the 'Past Student Survey'.

[https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/health-promoting-school-nurses?tool=survey\\_tool#tool\\_tab](https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/health-promoting-school-nurses?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab)

*Top End Regional Council discussed the lack of communication to schools individually on this topic as it has not been discussed at school council meetings. If access is available to schools to receive dentist and nurse check up's if their school does not have these nurses on school grounds - where do parents find this information?*

**Youth Sextortion Online – ABC Darwin Radio Interview**

NTCOGSO Executive encourages families and staff to listen to the ABC Darwin Radio interview on 'Youth Sextortion' which is an important discussion for families and schools to have with students.

<https://www.abc.net.au/darwin/programs/drive/sextortion/102035704>

**Power & Water Corporation (PWC) 'That's My Water' Program**

NTCOGSO Executive encourages schools and School Councils & Boards to consider the three programs available to schools, including remote schools, through the 'That's my Water – Bush Schools' program. (Brochure included in Meeting Papers)

**11. General Business:**

**11.1 The issue of increasing disruption in Australian school classrooms (For noting)**

On 28 November 2022, the Senate referred “The issue of increasing disruption in Australian school classrooms” to the Education and Employment Reference Committee for inquiry and report by the first sitting day in July 2023.

Submissions requested by **31 March 2023**.

[The issue of increasing disruption in Australian school classrooms – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au/The-issue-of-increasing-disruption-in-Australian-school-classrooms-Parliament-of-Australia)

- *Discussions held around the usage of mobile phones in schools would have had an impact on this topic.*
- *Smiling Minds is an in-school program for children who cannot regulate their emotions and would disrupt the classroom. Suggestions to those present of the possibility of starting this program in their school.*
- *Access to out of school safe spaces for those children was also a topic of conversation. Where could parents find this information?*

## **11.2 Casuarina Square Ban on Students**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> March Casuarina Square Management implemented a month-long ban on Casuarina Senior College and Sanderson Middle School students in response to the actions of a few. Neither school representative body supports the decision for a blanket ban. Discussions have commenced between the respective Principal's, Chair's, representatives from the department and Centre Management. Both schools are seeking a collaborative approach in future and the avoidance of punishing every student.

NTCOGSO President spoke with ABC Radio Darwin to confirm our support for the school rep bodies position for no further blanket student bans, in addition to calling on governments to provide free recreational activities for youth after school (audio file available on request).

- *Discussions held around how centre management would be implementing this ban and how they would monitor the difference in children being at the centre that are with those affiliated schools in comparison to tourists, children from other schools with their friends and family, etc.*

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023, 5:30pm – 6:30pm, Goyder Electorate Community Meeting Room.

**Meeting Closed:** 6:33pm