

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NTCOGSO Calls for Adherence to Guidelines to Ensure School Safety in the NT

As the peak body representing parents, NTCOGSO recognises the critical importance of ensuring schools remain safe learning environments for students and staff.

The Northern Territory government is introducing legislation to expand police powers, enabling the use of hand-held scanning devices (wands) in schools.

While NTCOGSO understands the intent, we expect the use of scanning wands to strictly align with the Department of Education's 2023 *Weapons in Schools Guidelines*, ensuring a consistent, transparent approach to safety.

Currently, manual searches are conducted based on reasonable suspicion, and while wand searches offer a non-invasive alternative, NTCOGSO does not support random wand searches in schools. We will work closely with schools, parents, and the Department to ensure any new measures reflect these principles, focusing on minimal disruption to students' learning experiences.

Noel Carpenter

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ABOUT NTCOGSO:

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO) is a parent representative body that advocates for the interests of government students and schools across the Northern Territory. NTCOGSO works collaboratively with education stakeholders to support the delivery of high-quality education and ensure the well-being and success of NT students.

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