



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

SUPPORT AND INCLUSION FOR ALL STUDENTS

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO). President, Tabby Fudge urges government to stay the course on protective and inclusive practices and guidelines in education.

“It is vitally important that as adults we take seriously the responsibility of ensuring safe and inclusive environments for all children. This includes our education and care settings.”

“NTCOGSO supports the Northern Territory government and the Department of Education in their current work which has a focus on inclusion and in ensuring all children are safe and comfortable in going to school.”

“As the peak parent body and a key stakeholder, we have been consulted by the department on the development of inclusive guidelines since their work commenced in 2021. We are deeply disappointed that this work is being publicly debated while it is a work in progress.

“These guidelines, currently being developed, are a focus on creating an inclusive environment, free of discrimination which enables students to feel physically and emotionally safe. This approach supports the academic achievement and wellbeing of all students.”

“When research demonstrates to us that a disproportionate number of our LGBTIQ+ students experience poorer mental health outcomes and have a higher risk of suicidal behaviours than their peers, we must act.”

“When that same research tells us that we lack language and practices of inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status it is imperative for education to lead the way. We have an opportunity to be leaders in inclusion practices and acceptance of all students.”

“Let the data on the 2021 ‘SNAPSHOT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION - STATISTICS FOR LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE’ inform this conversation.”

“Compared to the general population, LGBTIQ+ people are more likely to attempt suicide, specifically:

- LGBTQA+ young people aged 16 to 17 were almost three times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months.
- LGBTQA+ young people aged 16 to 17 were almost five times more likely to have attempted suicide in their lifetime.
- Transgender people aged 14-25 are fifteen times more likely to have attempted suicide.



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“Our children deserve better from their communities of adults than a public debate through media and from those with public influence, where uninformed words and actions inflame and hurt.”

“Schools that nurture academic achievement, provide physical and emotional safety and welcome all students must be the common goal for all governments, educators, families and communities.”

“What strikes me most is we have a lot to learn from our own children. The majority of who embody tolerance and acceptance. Perhaps we need to let the students lead the way.”

“We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the department and government on this important work.”

Tabby Fudge
President

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations represents every NT government school with over 19,000 families, their 34,000 children and the school communities that support them.

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