



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

MOBILE PHONE BAN WELCOMED

President Tabby Fudge of the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations congratulates the Northern Territory Government on the announcement today by Education Minister, Eva Lawler to ban personal mobile phone use in government schools from Term 1, 2023.

"A mobile phone ban in schools is a further commitment by the Minister towards our children and young adults' mental health and wellbeing."

"The use of mobile phones in schools was raised as an issue over several years by many families, schools, and school bodies. To date, the use of phones has up to individual schools to determine policy. We have continued to advocate for a Territory wide policy and at our September meeting with returning Education Minister Eva Lawler we emphasised our concerns regarding illegal images and filming in schools."

"We all want to see improvement in academic outcomes and a decrease of bullying in schools. We must also limit the ability for students to be involved in filming, distributing, or uploading inappropriate and/or illegal images or videos of students, parents, or staff."

"Evidence from those who have implemented this same policy has clearly shown that a ban on personal mobile phone use in schools leads to better outcomes for our children."

"One research paper suggested that after schools banned mobile phones, test scores of students aged 16 increased by 6.4% of a standard deviation."

"Child psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg has said "that restricting phones in secondary schools is critical to cut distraction, deal with rising cyberbullying and help students catch up academically...."

"Education departments across Australia are implementing and expanding the same bans. New South Wales and South Australian primary students have banned mobile phones. In NSW, the discussion is now on expanding the ban into high schools."

"Since 2020 Western Australia, Victoria and Tasmanian schools have had a mobile phone ban in place."

"There is time to work together on guidelines which provide the details and exceptions to the policy with Victoria completing strong work in this area. Their exemptions are learning related; health and wellbeing related; and risk management of students off-site. Common sense exemptions which we support."

Thank you, Minister.



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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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