



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNMENT MUST FIND NEW FUNDS FOR TEACHERS EBA

President of the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations, Tabby Fudge is calling on the Northern Territory Government to fund all wage increases for teachers and school staff.

1. “No school should have to find money from current school budgets to fund future wage increases.

“Current school budgets are under enough pressure under the appalling attendance funding model, and this is on top of a lack of investment to truly meet student needs.”

“In 2022 we lost funds from our school budgets to assist government to fund the Admin staff EBA”.

“Then in November, our school rep bodies, (Councils and Boards), were asked to put aside 2% of their 2023 school budget to assist government to fund an EBA with teachers.”

“It is being called a ‘contingency fund’ which is code for ‘assist us to fund the EBA’.

“There are no ‘contingencies’ in planning a school budget. Every dollar is allocated by the principal and the school rep body for staffing, programs, equipment, power and water and running a school.”

“A shrinking budget for programs and support staff as power and water prices rise.”

“A shrinking budget from funding a percentage of the Administration employees EBA. Now government wants to shrink our school budgets even further by forcing schools to fund part of their teachers EBA”.

“I urge the Fyles government, don’t come after the easy target of school budgets. Find the money to fund your negotiated offer for your NTG employees.”

2. “Many of our schools have also been hit with a 2023 ‘contribution calculation’.”

“It seems incredible, but it is true. On top of the ‘2% contingency’ money to be taken out of school budgets for an EBA, a further whack is a ‘contribution’ from many schools to the departments central fund.

MEDIA RELEASE

P: 08 8999 3255 | enquiries@ntcogso.org.au | www.ntcogso.org.au | PO Box 40520 Casurina NT 0811

NT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS

ABN 76 529 588 572



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“In planning the 2023 school budget, school rep bodies were provided with a calculation of an amount they must contribute back to the department as well as 2% towards the EBA.”

“We have schools who have money aside in the bank for projects in future plans. Other school rep bodies are not even aware of their financial position due to principal movement and a business manager shortage. We know of many school rep bodies who have had no financial reports from the department all year.”

“The department’s own policy, tabled with NTCOGSO, stated they would work with schools and the school rep body for 12 months to provide financial information to enable funds to be set aside for projects planned.”

“This has not happened, and our students will pay from having desperately needed funds returned to the department.”

“The department established a new financial reporting system in 2022, which resulted in no reports available to schools for the first half of the year, with many still not receiving reports and we’re at the end of the school financial year.”

“How can a school and a school rep body plan to spend their funds on their students, when they have no idea of their financial position?”

“We urge the Northern Territory government to action the following as a matter of urgency:

- **Fund all negotiated wage increases for NTG staff with new money and not from current school budgets**
- **Honour the agreement to provide all schools with accurate, monthly financial reports with expert advice on their financial position.**
- **Cease and return all ‘contributions to the department’ forced on schools.**
- **Fund our schools on enrolment not attendance. Northern Territory children are the only students in the country penalised by this cruel funding model.**

Tabby Fudge President

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Enclosed: Any attachments. If no attachments remove this full line of text.

The Council of Government School Organisations represents almost 19,000 Northern Territory families, their 33,500 children and the school communities that support them, in 153 government schools.

CONTACTS

President: TABBY FUDGE

Tel: 0417 844 251

Media Enquiries:

Executive Officer: MICHELLE PARKER

042 888 5353

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For further information on NT COGSO visit www.ntcogso.org.au

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