

Student Wellbeing & Inclusion Programs & Services (SWIPS) bimonthly NT COGSO meeting

Location: Mitchell Centre, Level 5, Natalie's Room A – meeting room.

Time: 10.00am -11.00am

Date: 29 August 2025

Attendees: Libby Doney, ED IES; Amanda Hubber, SD SWIPS; Ruth Mirams, NTCOGSO President; Jessica Nowak, D CS; Annette Williams, AD OPSP; Jenni Carey, Stakeholder Strategy Officer

Overview:

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between NT COGSO and SWIPS, with Libby and Ruth sharing valuable insights on inclusive leadership and student-centred values.

Discussions included a review of efforts to improve school counselling services and plans to pilot a School-Based Police initiative, with a strong emphasis on cultural sensitivity and consistent student support. The team also provided updates on disability standards and healthcare procedures in schools.

Items raised by NT COGSO regarding First Aid and Lanyards were briefly discussed; however, as these do not fall within the scope of SWIPS, Amanda will redirect the discussion to the appropriate area and follow up accordingly.

Business Arising

Meeting Opening: Libby Doney opened the meeting with introductions and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land. The purpose and agenda were reviewed, with a reminder of the Q&A session at the end.

Action Register: No discussion held

SWIPS Election Commitments

School counsellors

The department has established a new school counselling team who sit separately from the Client Services multidisciplinary regional teams. The team will be phased in between 2025 to 2028 commencing in Term 4 and will include a Director, an Assistant Director and up to 4 Team Leaders to lead a team of school counsellor staff.

This is a new program and will be centrally managed by SWIPS. Schools and staff will be guided by the School Counselling Handbook which has been developed and will be available for schools from Term 4.

The school counsellor will be able to provide social and emotional wellbeing supports by facilitating whole-school wellbeing, small group sessions and supporting individual students as required. The school counsellor will be an integral member of the school's wellbeing team.

School Based Police

Expanding school-based policing:

The Northern Territory (NT) Government made a commitment in 2024 to expand school based police.

The department and NT Police are working together to develop a program around Police Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) working in regional and remote schools which will commence in a small number of pilot schools in T4 2025. ALOs will deliver individual, place-based and culturally responsive approaches to school and community issues and will act as role models to promote personal responsibilities for personal and community safety.

Students with Disability – Strategy Development Update

The department's disability reform will provide an up-to-date and aligned departmental direction, responsive to both national priorities and local needs, while offering a clear operational policy and guidance to guide decision-making, prioritise initiatives, monitor progress, and support consistent, high-quality delivery across all disability-related programs. Consultation will occur with stakeholders throughout the development of the reform, policy and resources.

Health care procedures in schools

SWIPS are working with stakeholders from the department, Department of Health and schools to draft Health care procedures in school's guidelines. We have obtained feedback on draft guidelines and are now working through options to best address the feedback and associated risks.

We expect to update all our stakeholders on the outcome of the consultations and the way forward within the next month.

Health of Student Policy

Participants noted the plans to begin a review of the Health of Students Policy and the various resources that sit within it and to take into consideration feedback provided by stakeholders and schools and ensure alignments with the Health Care Procedures in Schools currently being developed.

SWIPS/NTCOGSO Collaborative Actions

NT COGSO advised they have an AGM on 18/10/2025 and would like to schedule the next meeting after this date.

Period Pain and Endometriosis – Consideration for future meeting item NT COGSO to share information regarding Health Policy Development.

Questions and Comments

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 31 October at 10.00am

Meeting Closed: 11.00am