



THE VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

Thursday 28 May 2026

Public Education Day: NT families recognise schools as the heart of our communities

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations recognises Public Education Day as an important opportunity to acknowledge the role of government schools in every Territory community.

Public education is a commitment that every child, regardless of where they live, their family income, background or circumstances, must have access to learning, opportunity and belonging.

In the Northern Territory, that commitment carries particular weight. Our government schools serve families across urban, regional and remote communities, including some of the most geographically isolated school communities in the country.

NTCOGSO President Dr Ruth Mirams said Public Education Day was a time to recognise the people who make public education possible.

“Today we acknowledge the teachers, principals, support staff, school body members, families and communities who contribute to public education across the Northern Territory,” Dr Mirams said.

“Our government schools do much more than deliver curriculum. They are places of connection, care, culture, learning and community identity.”

NTCOGSO also recognises the significant pressure being carried by schools.

“Families see the dedication of school staff every day. We also see the strain caused by workforce shortages, complex student needs, ageing infrastructure, housing pressures, safety concerns and the increasing expectation that schools respond to issues that extend well beyond the classroom,” Dr Mirams said.

“Public Education Day should be a celebration, but it should also be a reminder that public education must always be properly supported.”



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NTCOGSO continues to advocate for practical investment in the conditions that help students learn and help schools operate effectively. This includes safe and suitable infrastructure, adequate staffing, support for students with disability and additional needs, wellbeing services, strong school governance and genuine engagement with families.

“As the peak parent body for Northern Territory government schools, NTCOGSO’s position is clear. Public education is strongest when families, school bodies, educators and government work together,” Dr Mirams said.

“Parents and carers are not bystanders in public education. They are partners in their children’s learning and in the life of their school communities.”

On Public Education Day, NTCOGSO thanks all those who contribute to government schooling across the Territory and calls for continued investment that reflects the real needs of Northern Territory students, families and school communities.

Dr Ruth Mirams
President
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ABOUT NTCOGSO

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO) is the peak 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.