



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION



ANNUAL REPORT 20/21

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

NT COGSO is located on Larrakia country.

We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region and pay our respects to Larrakia elders past and present.

We also acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the Northern Territory.

NT COGSO is committed to honouring Australian and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, water and seas, and their rich contribution to society.

We are committed to a positive future for Aboriginal communities.

**“EDUCATION LEADS
TO ENLIGHTENMENT.
ENLIGHTENMENT
OPENS THE WAY TO
EMPATHY. EMPATHY
FORESHADOWS
REFORM.”**

Derrick A. Bell

NT COGSO wishes to thank families, communities and educators in public schools across the Territory for their efforts in instilling the value of lifelong learning in our young people.

Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations

enquiries@ntcogso.org.au

www.ntcogso.org.au

www.facebook.com/NTCOGSO

www.twitter.com/NTCOGSO

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WARNING: This report may contain images and stories of deceased persons.

WITH OVER **34,000**
STUDENTS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY HAS MANY GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
WITH UNIQUE CHALLENGES...

71% OF NT
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
ARE IN REMOTE OR VERY
REMOTE LOCATIONS.

47%
OF STUDENTS IN NT
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ARE
INDIGENOUS, COMPARED TO
5.8% NATIONALLY.

43%
OF ALL NT GOVERNMENT
STUDENTS ARE IN
REMOTE OR VERY
REMOTE LOCATIONS,
COMPARED TO 2.5%
NATIONALLY.

(DATA AS OF OCTOBER 2020)



FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL COMMUNITY



It is with great pride I present to you the Annual Report of the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO) for the year ended 30 June 2021; furnished in accordance with the reporting requirements of our Operational Base Funding Agreement.

In 2021 we recognise and celebrate our 50th year in public education advocacy in the Northern Territory and look forward to hosting a celebration in 2022. **Since 1971 NT COGSO has been the voice representing families, students and school communities across the Northern Territory.**

This Annual Report provides information on our organisation's achievements and plays an important role in fulfilling our commitment of accountability to the department and affiliates.

I am incredibly grateful to our Vice Presidents during 2020 and 2021; Noelene Armstrong and Beverley Ratahi who stood in for me while I took an unexpected leave of absence.

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Our updated Strategic Plan 2021-2024 leads with a vision for 'Students and Families Thriving in Government Schools'. Our Executive and staff are committed to continuing to deliver quality services and respond to emerging issues and requests for support.

School communities provided positive feedback on NTCOGSO's successful efforts to have School Based Policing reintroduced and expanded into new regions including East Arnhem (Nhulunbuy), Barkly (Tennant Creek) and Central (Alice Springs). We continue to advocate for the development of this valuable program.

OUR GOVERNANCE

The 2020 Annual Full Council and Annual General Meeting was held at the Darwin Airport Resort in November with all Executive

positions filled and a total of twenty-one motions passed. I was honoured to be re-elected President. Also elected were Vice President Beverley Ratahi and Richelle Kent re-elected as Treasurer.

OUR SERVICES

NTCOGSO successfully continues to provide support and expertise to our School Representative Bodies through training and mentoring. This is supported by the NTCOGSO Department of Education 'Funding Agreement for Governance Officers' to June 2021 and we are in discussion for a new governance training funding deed for 2021 - 2026.

OUR COLLABORATION

Our collective work is to build capacity for every family to have the ability to participate in partnering with their school to ensure all students are supported to reach their full potential.

We work with stakeholders and each other to achieve the best outcomes for students to learn and thrive.

2020 and 2021 have presented additional challenges including being unable to occupy our office due to indoor air pollution. Our staff have been working remotely without impact to service quality or delivery and are liaising with the Department to secure new premises.

Thank you to the Minister, Chief Executive, department staff, our students, families and school communities for supporting each other as we continue to work in a new environment during this COVID-19 period.

To our Executive members and staff, my heartfelt appreciation to you for actively supporting every child in public education.

Tabby Fudge
President

FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED



Whilst undertaking the role of A/President, our advocacy focus included supporting NT school representative bodies to navigate the evolving requirements to deliver education in a COVID-19 environment.

While the NT fared well compared to other states and territories, the pandemic caused significant uncertainty and angst, in particular for the families, staff and students living in remote communities. I want to say a personal thank you to NT school staff for being so agile, hard working and resilient.

Recognising the impact to well-being for the whole school community, NT COGSO worked with the Department during 2020 on a COVID-19 Wellbeing Initiative.

As the pandemic eased and border control became less stringent, NT COGSO resumed our advocacy with the NT Police Commissioner to reinstate school based police work which has been ongoing under the leadership of President, Tabby Fudge.

Our advocacy for student well-being, students with additional needs and students who experience hearing loss was also ongoing. Hearing and well-being

are foundational for learning and for our young people to thrive.

The Annual Full Council and Annual General Meeting was held at Mercure Darwin Airport Resort Airport in November 2020.

It was the right time for me to resign from the Executive so that I could spend more time with family and other pursuits. All Executive positions were filled and twenty-one motions were passed by Council, highlighting the continued support for NTCOGSO's advocacy role and strong engagement by NT school representative bodies.

Noelene Armstrong
Acting President, Jul 2020 – Nov 2020



It was an honour to undertake the role of A/President since being elected as Vice President at the Annual General Meeting held in November 2020. My role focused on advocating for issues including principal and teacher recruitment, school essential services, funding to NTCOGSO for both operational funding and ongoing governance training and support; school-based police; school counsellors; the school resourcing model; and indigenous engagement programs. Media engagement was undertaken in regard to the school-based police program.

I attended regular meetings with Education Minister Moss and NT Department of Education (DoE) Chief Executive (CE) Karen Weston which focused on presenting and progressing

the motions from the November 2020 Full Council Meeting.

The inaugural 'School Education Advisory Group' (SEAG) quarterly meeting was convened by the DoE CE in February 2021, which comprises the major stakeholders of NTCOGSO, Northern Territory Principals' Association and the Australian Education Union NT. Presentations and discussions occurred on 'One Team Territory Wide'; Engagement and Partnerships 2021; the Quality Assurance Framework for Alternative Education Provision; the Framework for Inclusion; Suspension Guidelines; Mandatory Reporting Online Training; and financial services.

Beverley Ratahi
Acting President, Nov 2020 – Mar 2021

ABOUT NT COGSO

WHO WE REPRESENT

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations Inc. (NT COGSO) is the peak parent body in public education throughout the Northern Territory. We represent and provide services to Government Schools and their School Representative Bodies at Territory and Federal level. NT COGSO influences the direction of public education for the benefit of our students.

MISSION

We strengthen public education by encouraging continual improvement in the provision of quality education for all students.

VISION

Students and families thriving in government schools.

BASIS FOR AUTHORITY

The NT Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO) is bound by our Constitution in line with the Northern Territory Associations Act. NT COGSO has all of the usual obligations of an incorporated association.

WHO WE ARE

NT COGSO is a large volunteer organisation which includes a representative from each educational region in the Northern Territory. Regional

Representatives attend four Executive meetings each year, where they discuss issues relevant to families and students in public education.

The governing authority of NT COGSO is the NT Full Council comprising of all affiliated schools. An NT Full Council Conference is held annually in Semester 2 where school representatives discuss and determine direction and policies for the organisation.

EXECUTIVE

The management of the Northern Territory Full Council is vested in the Executive, which has power to do all things necessary to achieve the objectives of the Full Council.

The Executive consists of:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Representatives from each region

The Executive may invite an additional three (3) persons who the Executive considers to have special qualifications, knowledge or experience which will be able to assist the Executive in the exercise and performance of its functions by giving of information or advice, to be a member of Executive.

RIGHT: Year 9 Students from various Darwin Middle Schools working towards their Cert I in Manufacturing



LEFT: Students and Teacher at Millner Primary School



**THE BEAUTIFUL THING
ABOUT LEARNING IS
THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE
IT AWAY FROM YOU.**

B.B. King

MANAGEMENT

Our office is situated on Larrakia Country in Darwin and comprises of an Executive Officer, an Executive Coordinator, Project Manager and Governance, Mentoring and Training Officers.

Executive Officer

Our Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation and achievement of NT COGSO's Strategic Plan, managing staff, and the physical and financial assets of the organisation. The Executive Officer also has charge of the overall direction of corporate planning, budget activities and external relations.

Executive Coordinator

The Executive Coordinator is responsible for exercising independent judgment and considerable initiative to provide a wide range of managerial support to the Executive Officer and overall senior administration for the organisation.

Governance and Community Engagement Manager (GCEM)

The GCEM is the central point of contact for all NT government schools and school representative bodies for governance advice, support and training. Their role is responsible for building the governance capacity of school representative bodies through best practice & strategic planning for school improvement.

Governance, Mentoring and Training Officers (GMTO's)

GMTO's deliver flexible, high quality training and mentoring on governance & community engagement throughout the Northern Territory. Their role educates Members and potential Members in the governance requirements under relevant legislation, guidelines & policies.

NT COGSO EXECUTIVE

TABBY FUDGE

President

October 2015 to June 2021

Tabby is committed to improving public education and is a strong advocate to the Northern Territory and Australian Government's on behalf of families.



"A properly resourced 'needs based' public education system would greatly benefit our communities, both socially and economically. For every dollar we invest in public education, we save at least ten dollars in our health and welfare budgets."

At the 2020 November AGM Tabby was re-elected President for a fifth year. Prior, Tabby held the position of Treasurer and Vice Chair of the Palmerston and Rural Regional Council.

With two daughters in senior school, Tabby is a Parent Member of the Taminmin College Board.

In addition, Tabby also sits on the Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS) as the Parent representative from 30/12/17 to present.

RICHELLE KENT

Treasurer

November 2018 to June 2021

Richelle has three children who attend government schools and is a born and bred Territorian. Commencing a School Council journey in 2013 at Driver Primary School as a Parent Member, then holding the position of Treasurer on Karama Primary School Council and Batchelor Area School Council. Richelle is Chair of the Manunda Terrace Primary School Council and Treasurer of Sanderson Middle School Council.



In her third year as NT COGSO Treasurer, Richelle ensures compliance with all financial reporting obligations.

Richelle considers parent and community involvement in schools is critical to achieving better outcomes for students.

*“YOU MUST DO
THE THINGS
YOU THINK YOU
CANNOT DO.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt



BEVERLEY RATAHI

Vice President/Top End Region

November 2020 to June 2021

Beverley has been involved with School Representative Bodies for the past 18 years with her four children all attending government schools. Beverley has been a Member, Chair and Fundraising Coordinator of the Bees Creek Primary School Council; Member and Chair of the Taminmin College Council/Board since 2011; and NT COGSO Palmerston and Rural representative and Executive member from 2011-2014 & 2020-2021.



Beverley's passion for supporting public education results from her belief that schools are the hub to building a strong community and ensuring opportunities for all children to experience success - there is no more important job than investing in the Territory's future.

WAYNE GREEN

Barkly Region

November 2016 to June 2021

Wayne is a Parent Member on both Tennant Creek School Councils. Wayne has served a total of 10 years on Tennant Creek Primary School Council and several years on Tennant Creek High School Council. He has three children across both schools ranging from Year 3 to Year 10.



Wayne is a strong believer in the need for parent and community involvement within schools for better and broader outcomes for students.

He is also a proud advocate for the Barkly region and ensures Barkly voices are heard by those shaping Territory education.

NT COGSO EXECUTIVE

CONTINUED

NATASHA O'KEEFE & NOELA ANDERSON

Big Rivers Region

March 2018 to June 2021

Natasha is a Parent Member on Borroloola School Council and is studying Certificate III in Early Childhood Education at Batchelor College. Working at Borroloola School for several years, Natasha believes education is the key for all children to learn and become independent life-long learners.

Natasha also participates in school events such as sport days, family fun days and all other important events, in addition to being an active Parent Member on the School Council.

Noela is a Parent Member on the Borroloola School Council and comes from two language groups; Garrwa and Yanyuwa and has spent her whole life in and around Borroloola. Having worked for three years at Borroloola School as a Tutor/Assistant Teacher for three years, Noela has now spent sixteen years in her current role of Home Liaison Officer, in addition to being an active participant of the School Council.

Noela loves her role of assisting and supporting more than 300 students, from helping them engage in the classroom to helping plan the schools Weekly Culture days.



“THE
IMPORTANT
THING IS
NOT TO STOP
QUESTIONING.”

- Albert Einstein

”

SHARNI CARSON

Darwin Region

November 2020 to June 2021

Sharni has two children who attend the local middle & senior school. Becoming involved in School Representative Bodies as Treasurer and then Chair, she has been a part of school governance for the last 4 years.

Born and raised in Darwin, Shani strongly believes in supporting government schools to provide better outcomes for all students and stronger community connections.



LAUREN WINTER

Central Region

October 2019 to June 2021

Lauren has been involved with various schools in Alice Springs since 1995 when her first child commenced in preschool.

Serving as a Parent Member on School Councils, committees and fundraising bodies, Lauren has held the position of Chair on Centralian Senior College Council and remains a Parent Member on Centralian Middle School Council.

With a large family of 6 children with the two youngest currently at school, Lauren is passionate about public education both Territory and Australia wide.



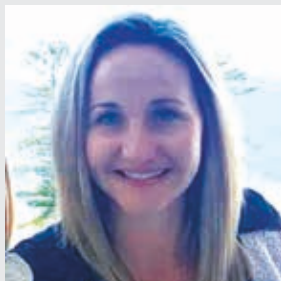
NT COGSO EXECUTIVE

CONTINUED

KARYN LAVERTY East Arnhem Region

October 2019 to June 2021

Karyn is the Chair of Nhulunbuy High School Council, born and raised in Nhulunbuy and has two children attending Nhulunbuy High School.



Karyn believes that young people live and learn in two worlds - home and school. The way the two connect and communicate can make an enormous difference to how children learn to manage in both places.

When schools and families work together, children do better, stay in school longer and are more engaged with their school work.

FRED RICHARDSON Invited Member Public Officer

April 2016 to June 2021

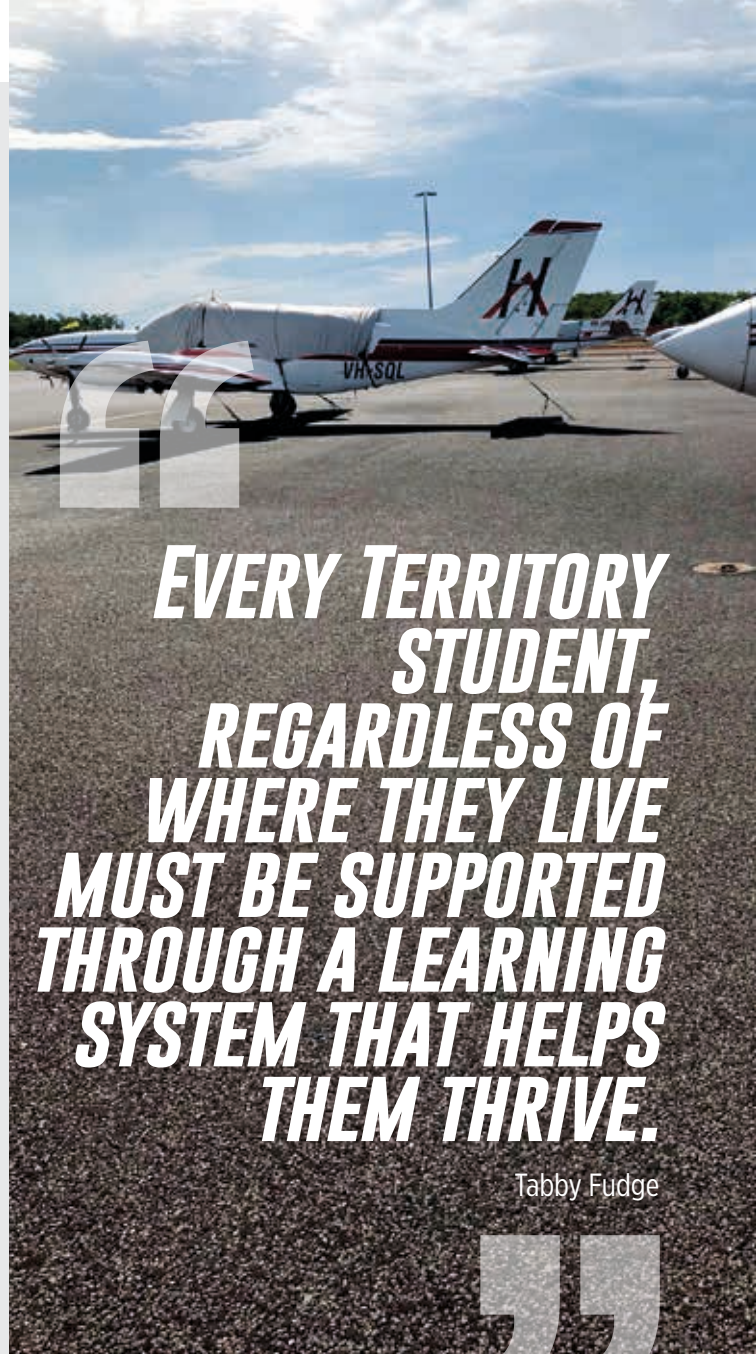
Fred was appointed Southern Regional Representative in 2015 and 2016 with a son at Centralian Senior College.



Since 2017 Fred has served as an Invited Member on the Executive and is valued for his critical thinking and a creative and innovative approach to curriculum improvement.

Fred taught in TAFE/University for over 25 years and maintains a strong interest in the content, delivery and pedagogy of STEAM/STEM subjects in the NT Schools curriculum.

Fred also sits on the Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS) as an Expert member from 30/12/17 to present.



DYLAN ROBINSON Invited Member

April 2019 to February 2021

Dylan is the immediate former East Arnhem Regional Representative and former Parent Member of Nhulunbuy High School Council where his son attended school.



In 2019 the Executive extended Invited Member status to Dylan for the knowledge and experience he brings with extensive experience in the area of youth services across the Territory.

With a Graduate Certificate in Development Trauma, he is passionate about genuine engagement with communities.

Dylan is a strong advocate in the parity of opportunity for remote schooling communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2021 – 2024

VISION

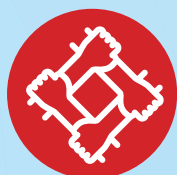
Students and Families Thriving in Government Schools

ORGANISATION VALUES



COURAGE

We are committed, innovative and resilient as a voice for our children.



COLLABORATION

We work with stakeholders and each other to achieve the best outcomes for students to learn and thrive.



EQUITY

We pursue fairness in opportunity, outcomes and rights for school communities to achieve genuine partnerships for families.



RESPECT

We engage professionally with our affiliates and school communities. We believe genuine partnerships are fundamental to achieving positive change.



INCLUSION

We embrace diversity and respect differences including gender and gender expression, culture, race, religion, age, sexuality, abilities, political beliefs and socioeconomic status.



RECONCILIATION

We support the self-determination and self-management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and proactively support communities in their decision making.



RESPONSIBILITY

We are open, accountable and manage resources and risks to ensure the sustainability of the organisation. We are forward thinking and we value innovation so that our work results in positive outcomes for the school communities that we support.



MISSION

We strengthen public education by encouraging continual improvement in the provision of quality education for all students.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1.

We support students, families and school communities through our services and advocacy.

2.

We build capacity in school communities through our training, leadership mentoring and support.

3.

We create change by engaging with families, school communities, governments and their departments, informed by the motions of the NT Full Council.

4.

We use our governance structures to support School Representative Body decision making and member led priorities.

5.

We ensure sustainable, transparent and accountable practices through our strong governance, management, service delivery and partnerships.

FOCUS GOALS 2019 –21

FOCUS

ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2021

GOAL 1: PARENT VOICE

- Strengthen collaboration with NT Department of Education
- Enable a strong representative parent voice
- Encourage debate within the parent community

- Membership on the newly established School Education Advisory Group (SEAG) in Semester 2, 2020 inclusive of the Chief Executive, NT COGSO, Australian Education Union and the Northern Territory Principals Association. Four (4) quarterly meetings held to date.
- NT COGSO and CE joint meeting with a total of eight (8) meetings held.
 - In addition, a total of eight (8) contributions and responses were made to the department on policy, implementations, reviews and processes as requested by the department.
- Conducted a Territory wide survey with results presented to the department.
 - i. School Road Safety Survey
- Education Minister | NT COGSO joint meeting with a total of four (4) meetings held.
- Held a successful Annual Full Council meeting 7 November 2020 with representation from every region and twenty-one (21) motions passed.
- Supported the six (6) Regional Councils and their Representatives, including mentoring and meeting support.

GOAL 2: MEMBER AFFILIATES

- Publish Full Council policies
- Encourage Review of policies

- Full Council Policy 2009 is published on our website.
 - The Executive Members established a Policy Review Committee on 7 April 2021

FOCUS

ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2021

GOAL 3: LEADERSHIP

- Provision of quality advice to affiliates
- Distribute information
- Deliver Governance Training & Mentoring Support

- Our Services Funding Agreement with the department for the 'Provision of Governance Training To School Representative Bodies' has enabled us to continue delivering high quality, culturally appropriate support to School Representative Bodies.
- We delivered contextualised training and meeting support sessions to 1,111 participants. Delivering to 83 individual school representative bodies (SRB) across the Northern Territory. Totalling 161 individual training and meeting support sessions. In addition, we resolved 272 individual governance queries from school representative body (SRB) members.
- With an ongoing Focus on Quality: Setting high quality standards and striving for continuous improvement; we continued a formal feedback process on the standard of assistance we provide once a query was recorded as resolved.
- Following the evaluation of the information distributed to 1,100 School Representative Body Members, we increased information on grants available by including funding available by national organisations and philanthropic bodies.

GOAL 4: GOVERN AND MANAGE THE ORGANISATION

- Review operational processes
- Review accountability measures
- Be an outstanding employer

- Audit 20-21 Special Purpose Financial Reports (SPFR) conclude that the financial statements of the organisation present fairly its affairs in all material aspects.
- Our staff continue to be our greatest asset. Our organisational policies and practices ensure all staff have an opportunity to develop, contribute, seek guidance and support. We remain committed to ongoing professional development through opportunities for staff to lead and manage on various projects.
- Continued all operations under our Working from Home policy and monitored the Work Health and Safety (WHS) checklist to assist staff to continually assess WHS risks. Staff continue to work from home effectively and are looking forward to new office premises.

ACHIEVEMENTS

NT COGSO continues to deliver against three primary goals: Support, Advocacy and Governance, as outlined across our 2017 – 2020 & 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plans.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION

NT COGSO provides support and information to School Representative Bodies and their school communities in relation to good governance and management in an educational context under relevant Northern Territory Government educational legislations, policies and initiatives.

WEBSITE

The NT COGSO website received a total of 4,429 users with 5,207 sessions between July 2020 to June 2021. Out of the total of website users, 76% were new visitors to the website.

NT COGSO AUDIENCE OVERVIEW

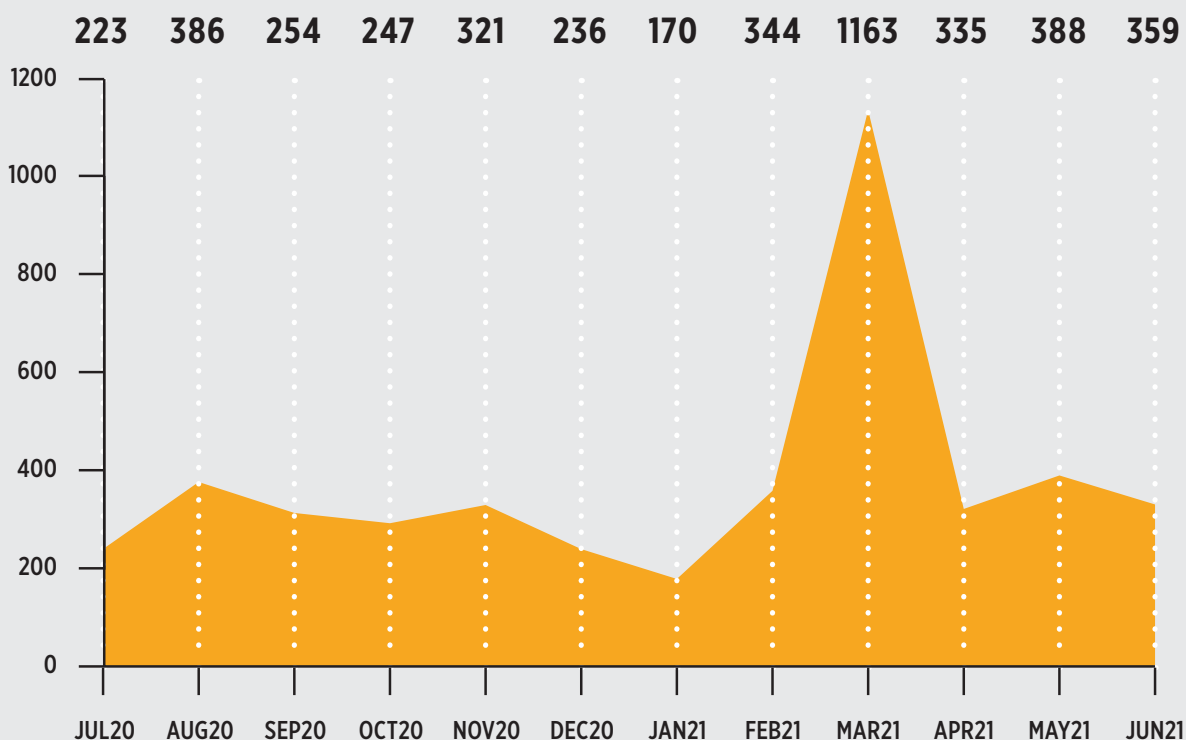
76% new visitors to NT COGSO's website.
An increase of 3% from last year.

(GOOGLE ANALYTICS 2021)

**EDUCATION IS
THE PASSPORT
TO THE FUTURE,
FOR TOMORROW
BELONGS TO THOSE
WHO PREPARE FOR
IT TODAY.**

Malcolm X

NT COGSO WEBSITE USERS





AN INCREASE OF 3%
(GOOGLE ANALYTICS 2021)

DALY RIVER RD	
Wooliana Road	72
Naulyu	78
Daly River Crossing	78
Port Keats (PERMIT ONLY)	262
Litchfield National Park T/O	47
4WD ONLY CLOSED	e.

REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS

We develop adaptable and culturally appropriate training presentations to support School Representative Body members in understanding school governance under the NT Education Act (2015) | Part 6, Parent and community involvement in government schools.

NT COGSO has developed a range of resources to assist parents, community, teachers, principals, students and invited members in their governing roles.

I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GUIDANCE AND COMMITMENT IN CONTRIBUTING TO WHAT WE ARE ASPIRING TO ACHIEVE. THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH US TO ADAPT THE GOVERNANCE TEMPLATES TO OUR SCHOOL CONTEXT.



Our templates are designed to assist members to ensure best practice governance procedures are in place for meetings, decision making and records management.

YOUR GUIDANCE AT OUR MEETINGS IS BRILLIANT. IT WOULD BE REALLY USEFUL TO HAVE YOU AT OUR MEETING ABOUT PREPARING OUR GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS.

GREAT RESOURCES AND ACCESSIBLE ENOUGH FOR DIFFERENT LITERACY LEVELS.

Members can register and login to <https://www.ntcogso.org.au> for unlimited access to School Representative Body resources. We support members to contextualise our resources to meet their individual school community needs.



We are committed to supporting schools and their communities to ensure strong decisions are made in the best interests of all students today, tomorrow and into the future.



“

***EDUCATION IS ABOUT
EMPOWERMENT,
ABOUT CULTIVATING A
HUMAN BEING TO THE
HIGHEST POSSIBLE
POTENTIAL – A TOOL
FOR FULFILLING THE
IMMENSITY OF BEING.***

Sadhguru

”

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations Incorporated – Operational Funding

Performance Measures

(1) NT COGSO TO MAINTAIN THE RATIO OF AFFILIATED SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES, BY REGION.

Across the regions, we continue to achieve greater than the required 95% affiliation rate of Northern Territory School Representative Bodies.

REGION	SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES	AFFILIATIONS	MEASURE ACHIEVED
Barkly	3	3	✓
Big Rivers	22	22	✓
Central	13	13	✓
Darwin	27	27	✓
East Arnhem	15	15	✓
Top End	22	22	✓

(2) NT COGSO TO MAKE FORMAL CONTRIBUTIONS OR RESPONSES ON BEHALF OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES IN ALL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND INITIATIVES (this is dependent on opportunity).

- Parent Engagement Charter
- School Resourcing Model: Mid Implementation Review
- School Operating Guidelines for 2021
- Indigenous Education Strategy Evaluation: Stage 1, 2015-2017
- Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for Girls in Schools
- Trespass on School Guidelines
- Priority Enrolment Area Review: Bakewell and Zuccoli Primary Schools
- Codes of Conduct for Education Sites and Workplace Participants

(3) NT COGSO TO MAINTAIN ITS MEMBERSHIP ON NORTHERN TERRITORY REPRESENTATIVE AND ADVOCACY-BASED GROUPS, DESCRIBED BY CATEGORY (this is dependent on opportunity).

- Teacher Representative Board (TRB)
- Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS)
- School Education Advisory Group (SEAG)
- United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) – NT Division
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)

(4) NT COGSO TO MAINTAIN ITS PUBLIC PROMOTION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The NT COGSO Facebook page continues to reach its audience, with page “likes” increasing from 1,958 to 2,133 between July 2020 and June 2021. During the prior year, our messages achieved a total reach of 255,846. There were 165 posts for the year which specifically promoted positive messages on behalf of public education in the Northern Territory.

This page is also a valuable resource to keep parents updated on varied events such as Public Education Forums and upcoming Governance, Finance and Industrial Relations training dates.

PRINT AND RADIO MEDIA

Throughout the year our President spent considerable time with various media. In addition, we published articles and promotion's for:

- World Teachers Day: Karama School Editorial
- World Teachers Day: NT COGSO Celebrates Teacher Members on School Representative Bodies
- NT COGSO Congratulates our 2020 Year 12 Students
- Radio Interviews: Advocating for the return of the School Based Policing Program

(5) NT COGSO TO MAINTAIN ITS PROMOTION OF THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES ARISING FROM NT COGSO AND THE TERRITORY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY.

Noting the information provided in the 'Operational Performance' section we continue to strengthen our collaboration with the Department of Education and promotion of this work to families and schools by the provision of feedback through:

- Annual Report
- Annual Full Council
- Regional Councils
- School Representative Bodies
- Schools

ADVOCACY

We develop and maintain strategic relationships with key decision-makers, affiliates and the broader educational community to contribute significantly to education of the highest quality in all government schools.


MEDIA RELEASES

- Education Election_Still Waiting to Hear
- Schools Urgently Need School-Based Police Program Returned



NT COGSO – CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DOE MONTHLY MEETINGS

DATE	DESCRIPTION
15-Jul-20	COVID-19 Update
15-Jul-20	Acoustic Upgrades in Schools
15-Jul-20	School Survey Update
15-Jul-20	Motions from NT COGSO Annual Full Council Meeting held on November 2, 2019
10-Aug-20	NT Public Education Election Q&A
10-Aug-20	Yirrkala School power outages
10-Aug-20	School Resourcing
5-Oct-20	Indigenous Education Strategy (July – Sept quarterly report)
5-Oct-20	Complaints Handling Support Contact Request
5-Oct-20	Support to Parents of Students with Disability Support Contact Request
5-Oct-20	Independent Public School Board Guidelines Feedback
5-Oct-20	Australian Government 'Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) Round 5' Purchase of Portable Sound Field Systems
5-Oct-20	New Governance Structure
5-Oct-20	Principal's Contract Review
5-Oct-20	Parent Engagement Charter
5-Oct-20	School Survey 2020 Parent Survey
5-Oct-20	School Resourcing Model
5-Oct-20	Ethos House Air Quality
2-Nov-20	Feedback on IPS Guidelines
2-Nov-20	Charter for schools, parents, carers and families
2-Nov-20	2019 NT COGSO Annual Full Council Motions and 2020 Annual Full Council Meeting and AGM
2-Nov-20	SRM Action Plan Mid-Implementation Review
2-Nov-20	Power in Gove Peninsula Update
2021	Monthly DoE Meetings changed to Quarterly School Education Advisory Group (SEAG) Meetings, inclusive of the Department of Education, NT COGSO, Australian Education Union and Northern Territory Principals Association
11-Feb-21	One Team Territory Wide
11-Feb-21	Engagement and Partnerships 2021
11-Feb-21	Quality Assurance Framework for Alternative Education Provision
11-Feb-21	Framework for Inclusion
11-Feb-21	Suspension Guidelines
11-Feb-21	Mandatory Reporting Online Training
27-Apr-21	Code of Conduct and Respectful Behaviour in Schools
27-Apr-21	School Based Policing Program
27-Apr-21	Consent in Schools
27-Apr-21	Employment Pathways / Alternative Secondary Education Provision
27-Apr-21	Funding and Support to Schools for Students with Additional Needs (SWAN)
CE/COGSO additional meeting	
4-Jun-21	Education NT Strategy 2021-2025
4-Jun-21	School Based Policing Program
4-Jun-21	Principal Classification
4-Jun-21	Katherine High School



**“LET US
REMEMBER:
ONE BOOK,
ONE PEN, ONE
CHILD, AND
ONE TEACHER
CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD.”**

Malala Yousafzai

GOVERNANCE, MENTORING & TRAINING

We are extremely proud to demonstrate for the ninth year in a row, our strong performance against the Governance Training Milestones for 2020-2021.

MILESTONE 3. GOVERNANCE TRAINING DELIVERED

NT COGSO has once again surpassed the Department of Education requirements for 'the delivery of training to a minimum of 40 School Representative Bodies for the year', delivering to a total of 64 School Councils and School Boards in 2020-21.

Governance, Finance or Industrial Relations training and Meeting Mentoring and Support has been delivered and facilitated to a total of 1,111 individual School Representative Body Members from all educational regions of the Northern Territory.

NT COGSO is pleased to have had the opportunity to empower School Representative Body Members to build meaningful partnerships, strengthening whole school community involvement.

Through increased awareness and comprehension of their roles and responsibilities under the NT Education Act and Regulations members have gained the knowledge to ensure school governance decisions are being made in the best interests of all students today, tomorrow and into the future.

MILESTONE 4. PROVISION OF ADVICE

NT COGSO has responded to enquiries associated with school governance and community engagement by providing tailored advice to individual members.

NT COGSO has enjoyed working with School Representative Bodies to resolve enquiries relating to school governance. We have responded to 272* individual requests for support and advice specifically on Governance, Finance, Industrial Relations and community engagement for School Councils, School Boards and school communities.

* The majority of enquiries are resolved in less than 15 minutes, these are not included in the total

BELOW LEFT: Bradshaw Primary School Students and Teachers

BELOW: Students from Manyallaluk School promoting Healthy Lunchbox Week



MILESTONE 5. RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOPED

NT COGSO actively maintains a positive working relationship with DoE Regional staff through regular communication on training, planning and our travel within the respective regions.

Our Community Engagement and Governance team continue to work collaboratively with DoE staff to support and guide School Communities. We work in close partnership with the Community Engagement Liaison Officer, Community Engagement & Local Decision-Making (CELDM) Unit to provide tailored advice and support to school communities on school governance under the Education Act.

We have attended and hosted meetings with the CELDM Team and continue to provide advice and support in the implementation of Local Engagement and Decision Making (LEaD) Committees where schools have an established School Representative Body.

NT COGSO has developed and maintained positive partnerships with DoE staff in Quality School Systems and Support (QSSS) to ensure open communication between key stakeholders on matters of school governance.

NT COGSO and the DoE School Financial Improvement and Support Team have worked collaboratively with individual schools to improve their financial governance capacity and understanding.

The professional rapport established between NT COGSO and DoE staff assists School Representative Body Members as evidenced by:

- high rates of participation
- growth in governance capacity
- positive feedback on service delivery evaluations

BELOW: Yuendumu School students serving school staff, community members and organisations from the Jinjiwarnu Café through a hands-on program



SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES ENGAGED IN 2020-2021

1. Alawa Primary School
2. Alyangula Area School
3. Alyarrmandumanja Umbakumba School
4. Anula Primary School
5. Bakewell Primary School
6. Baniyala Garrangali School
7. Barunga School
8. Batchelor Area School
9. Bees Creek Primary School
10. Berry Springs Primary School
11. Borroloola School
12. Braitling Primary School
13. Casuarina Senior College
14. Casuarina Street Primary School
15. Clyde Fenton Primary School
16. Darwin High School
17. Darwin Middle School
18. Dripstone Middle School
19. Driver Primary School
20. Durack Primary School
21. Elliott School
22. Gapuwiyak School
23. Girraween Primary School
24. Henbury School
25. Howard Springs Primary School
26. Jabiru Area School
27. Jilkminggan School
28. Jingili Primary School
29. Karama Primary School
30. Katherine High School
31. Katherine South Primary School
32. Kintore Street School
33. Lajamanu School
34. Larrakeyah Primary School
35. Laynhapuy Homelands School
36. Leanyer Primary School
37. MacFarlane Primary School
38. Maningrida School
39. Middle Point School
40. Nakara Primary School
41. Namarluk School
42. Ngukurr School
43. Nhulunbuy High School
44. Nhulunbuy Primary School
45. Nightcliff Middle School
46. Nightcliff Primary School
47. Palmerston College
48. Parap Primary School
49. Pigeon Hole School
50. Pine Creek School
51. Rosebery Primary School
52. Ross Park Primary School
53. Sanderson Middle School
54. Stuart Park Primary School
55. Taminmin College
56. Tennant Creek High School
57. Tennant Creek Primary School
58. Wagaman Primary School
59. Wanguri Primary School
60. Woolianna School
61. Wulagi Primary School
62. Yirrkala School
63. Yuendumu School
64. Zuccoli Primary School

GOVERNANCE, MENTORING & TRAINING

Feedback on your experience in contacting us regarding school governance advice.

NT COGSO has responded to enquiries associated with school Governance, Financial Governance, Industrial Relations, Local Decision Making and Community Engagement by providing tailored advice to individual members.

NT COGSO resolved 272* individual enquiries relating to school governance.

NT COGSO provided via telephone, email and face to face, 90 hours and 45 minutes of support and expertise to Parents, Teachers, Principals, Business Managers and school community members on a wide range of enquiries encompassing Governance, Parent and Community Engagement, Finance and Industrial Relations.

BELOW: Woolianna School Community



NT COGSO has enjoyed working with School Representative Bodies to resolve enquiries relating to school governance.

* The majority of enquiries are resolved in less than 15 minutes, **these are not included in totals**

BELOW: Baniyala Garrangali School Council

BOTTOM: Middle Point School Council



Big shout out to NT COGSO - helping us transform our council and always so professional, knowing when to offer advice and how.

I don't know where we'd be without NT COGSO. Your support, advice and guidance keep us on the right track, navigating some challenging situations. Thank you for your unwavering support.

NT COGSO has been absolutely brilliant at Parap - we could not be happier!

Absolutely brilliant having NT COGSO at our AGM the board would've destroyed the teachers otherwise

NT COGSO is very knowledgeable and has answered any questions I or others have posed - gave different scenarios and explained it very clearly and in concrete terms

NT COGSO is professional, knowledgeable and provides a very high level of communication and support.

Always willing to assist. Nothing is a problem. Support is wonderful.

Excellent in every way.

Very efficient and responsive to our needs.

As a first time Chair of a School Board, I reached out seeking advice and mentorship on my position. I was provided comprehensive governance advice and had access to templates, documentation, and related legislation. All my queries were handled in a timely manner and with further details included which I appreciated.

NT COGSO was excellent, generous in time and an expert in support around our school council's need. Nothing but good things to say!

NT COGSO have been nothing short of brilliant. They have gone out of their way to ensure the best possible outcomes are in place for our school. Thank you

Proactive, timely, excellent.

2020-21 STATISTICS: GOVERNANCE TRAINING EVALUATION

Analysis of feedback from School Representative Body participants on training delivered

Q1. How would you rate your satisfaction with the quality of the content delivered?

TOTAL FY 20/21

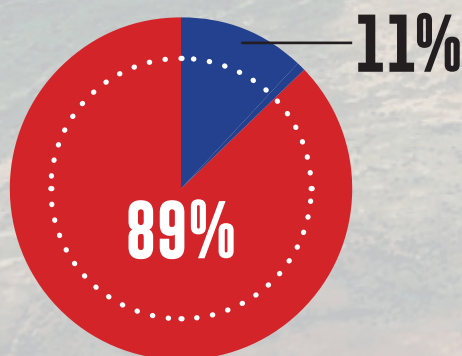
- Very satisfied
- Moderately satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Moderately dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied



Q2. How would you rate your satisfaction with the quality of the resources?

TOTAL FY 20/21

- Very satisfied
- Moderately satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Moderately dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied



Q3. How knowledgeable was the trainer?

- Very knowledgeable
- Moderately knowledgeable
- Slightly knowledgeable
- Not at all knowledgeable

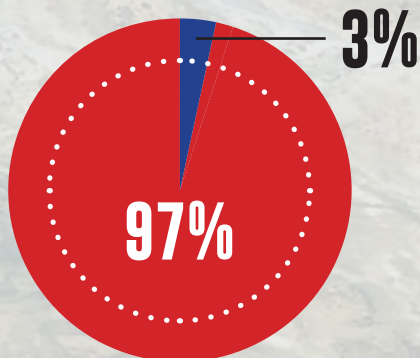
TOTAL FY 20/21



Q4. How would you rate the timeliness of the advice received?

- Very timely
- Moderately timely
- Not timely

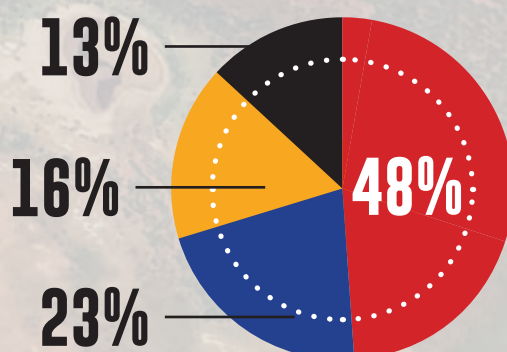
TOTAL FY 20/21



Q5. How often did you seek advice from NT COGSO?

- 2-3 times
- Once
- 4-5 times
- 5 or more times

TOTAL FY 20/21

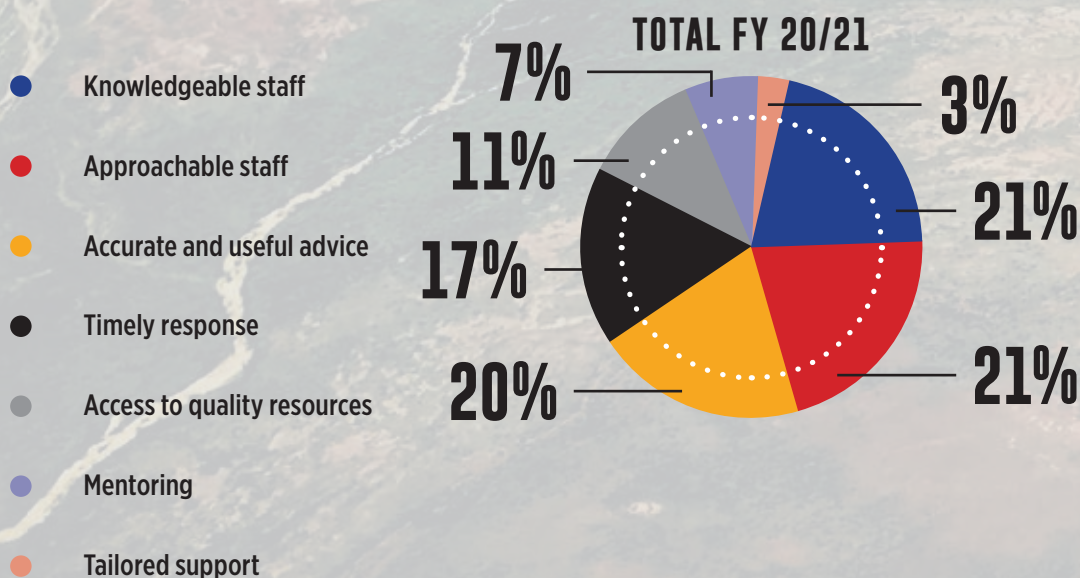


2020-21 STATISTICS: GOVERNANCE TRAINING EVALUATION

Q6. Would you recommend School Representative Body members contact NT COGSO for School Governance advice in the future?



Q7. When engaging NT COGSO services, what have you valued most from the experience?
Please select all that apply.



Q?. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

On behalf of our School Council a big “THANK YOU” for all that NT COGSO did for us. It was a wonderful learning experience for our team, including the Principal. I know we will be a stronger team as a result.

Thank you to NT COGSO for the presentation and opportunity to raise specific questions and discussions regarding our functions and roles.

The NT COGSO presentation gave us better insight into the School Council role and responsibilities. It was very helpful and appreciated.

I would really like to acknowledge NT COGSO’s guidance and commitment in contributing to what we are aspiring to achieve.

A brilliant session - most valuable, and very much looking forward to our training.

NT COGSO was very skilled in allowing members to raise situations and discuss maintaining a level of discretion and integrity. We were provided with great examples to help understand the various functions and accountabilities of school councils. The resources provided after the training were greatly appreciated to improve the operation and management of council meetings.

Perfect session thank you. Precise, relatable, good examples to support understanding, great to recognise our areas of achievement and areas in need of improvement or updates.

The training exceeded my expectations. Clear, concise and personable. Thank you!

”

ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/2021

NT BOARD OF STUDIES AWARDS

These awards are given alongside the Northern Territory Board of Studies Student Awards to publicly recognise the achievements of the year's outstanding students.

Chief Minister's Most Outstanding Student of 2020 Award Recipient:

LAURA CHAPMAN - DARWIN HIGH SCHOOL

Chief Minister's Most Outstanding Aboriginal Student of 2020 Award Recipient:

GEORGIA KYRANIS - DARWIN HIGH SCHOOL

Chief Minister's Most Outstanding Distance Education Student Award Recipient:

HAYLEY VAN LOENHOUT
- NORTHERN TERRITORY
SCHOOL OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION



Administrator's Medal Award Primary Years Recipient:

HANNAH BACZYNSKI -
MANUNDA TERRACE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



Administrator's Medal Award Middle Years Recipient:

AERICH TUGANO -
SANDERSON MIDDLE
SCHOOL

TOP: Minister for Education
Lauren Moss with Laura
Chapman

BOTTOM: Administrator of
the Northern Territory, the
Honourable Vicki O'Halloran
AO, with Hannah Baczynski and
Aerich Tugano.

“ **DON'T LET
WHAT YOU
CANNOT DO
INTERFERE
WITH WHAT
YOU CAN DO.**

John Wooden.



FRED HOLLOWS HUMANITY AWARD REGION: DARWIN

Recipient:

ZOE FRANCES FROM NAKARA PRIMARY
SCHOOL

The Award recognises Year 6 students who show compassion, integrity and kindness in their everyday lives, just as Fred Hollows did.

The Fred Hollows Humanity Award highlights inspirational students making a positive difference in their communities.



TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

Tournament of Minds is a problem-solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. Tournament's aim is to enhance the potential of our youth by developing diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment.

The categories and winning schools are listed below:

Primary ARTS:

NAKARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Secondary ARTS:

PALMERSTON COLLEGE

Primary Language Literature:

NAKARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Secondary Language Literature:

DRIPSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Primary STEM:

NAKARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Secondary STEM:

TAMINMIN COLLEGE

Primary Social Sciences:

NAKARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Secondary Social Sciences:

DRIPSTONE MIDDLE SCHOOL



COUNTRY TO CANBERRA LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

REGION: EAST ARNHEM

Recipient:

KEALEY GIBSON FROM NHULUNBUY HIGH SCHOOL

A prestigious annual competition, Kealey joined an exciting group of young female rural leaders, who submitted passionate videos and stories about "Lifting us up" – How women and girls can empower each other and their communities in times of uncertainty and change.

SCHOOL BIRTHDAY MILESTONES 2021

SCHOOL	REGION	BIRTHDAY
Alice Springs School of the Air	Central	70
Darwin High School	Darwin	65
Driver Primary School	Top End	35
Jingili Primary School	Darwin	50
Katherine School of the Air	Big Rivers	55
Katherine South Primary School	Big Rivers	45
Malak Primary School	Darwin	40
Nemarluk School	Darwin	35

**BEFORE ANYTHING
ELSE, PREPARATION IS
THE KEY TO SUCCESS.**

Alexander Graham Bell



ABOVE:
Students from
Malak Primary
School

Nhulunbuy High School	East Arnhem	40
Nightcliff Primary School	Darwin	60
Palmerston College	Top End	35
Ross Park Primary School	Central	60
Sanderson Middle School	Darwin	45
Stuart Park Primary School	Darwin	55
Tennant Creek High School	Barkly	35
Wanguri Primary School	Darwin	45
Woodroffe Primary School	Top End	25



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**



naidoc.org.au

NAIDOC WEEK

8-15 NOV 2020

#NAIDOC2020
#AlwaysWasAlwaysWillBe

Artwork: Stages of Land by Lynette Williams

The Rainbow Serpent came out of the Dreamtime to create this land. It is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected on to the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country - since the dawn of time - always was, and always will be Aboriginal land.

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