



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

# NTCOGSO Key Asks

## NT ELECTION 2024

## ELECTION ASK 1:

### WELLBEING and INCLUSION

## Expand School-Based Mental Health Support in the Northern Territory

Implement a comprehensive initiative to enhance mental health services in NT schools by:

- Basing full-time school Counsellors and mental health practitioners in schools.
- Ensuring wellbeing officers and coordinators are in addition to school-based Counsellors.
- Expanding school-based health nurses in schools.
- Establishing culturally appropriate mental health support services.
- Implementing a “grow our own” program to train and retain local NT residents, including Indigenous people, as school-based mental health professionals.
- Setting a target ratio of at least 1 school counsellor per 500 students in urban areas and 1 per 200 students in remote areas, acknowledging the unique challenges of the NT’s vast geography.
- Creating a mobile mental health team to provide regular support to small and remote schools that cannot sustain full-time on-site counsellors.
- Fostering partnerships between schools, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, and other local health services to create a comprehensive, culturally sensitive support network.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2021 MOTION 1.3*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2020 MOTION 1.7*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2020 MOTION 2.19*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.3*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.12*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION 5.2*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2016 MOTION 1.3*

## **ELECTION ASK 2:**

### **WELLBEING and INCLUSION**

#### **School Based Policing | Program Expansion**

Provide adequate resources to maintain and expand the positive School Based Police Program.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.5  
NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.13  
NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.4  
NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.7  
NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.11*

## **ELECTION ASK 3:**

### **WELLBEING and INCLUSION**

#### **School Refusal By Students | System Support**

Implement a multi-tiered system of support for students and families in order to capture data and effectively respond to student school refusal/school can't.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2023 MOTION 4.3*

## **ELECTION ASK 4:**

### **WELLBEING and INCLUSION**

#### **Allied Health: Speech Pathologist Support**

Commit to increasing the number of Speech Pathologists working in schools, to increase the opportunity for early intervention and better outcomes for Territory children.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 10.10*

## ELECTION ASK 5:

### EDUCATION FUNDING:

#### Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA) 2025-2029

#### NTPS Educator's Enterprise Agreement 2024-2027

New funding to cover teacher wage increases: The allocation of new money specifically to fund the difference between the Commonwealth's SRS indexation rate and annual salary increases for educators. This is crucial to ensure that the needs-based funding intended for students is not diverted to cover these significant wage increases.

Protecting needs-based funding: The recent \$1 billion partnership to fully fund NT public schools is a positive step. However, it's essential that the student needs-based funding component of the SRS is not used to absorb the costs of teacher wage increases. This funding should remain dedicated to addressing student needs as originally intended.

Addressing the School Resourcing Standard (funding) limitations: This election ask aims to ensure that teacher wage increases (12.9% over the next three years) which are above the Commonwealth wage indexation, are funded separately from the needs-based component of school funding.

By allocating new money specifically for wage increases that are above the announced indexation rate on 12 August 2024 (currently 3%), the NT government can maintain the integrity of the needs-based funding model, ensuring that resources intended for student needs and school improvements are not redirected to cover significant salary increases.

\*NTCOGSO fully supports our educators and believes that adequately funding their wage increases is vital for maintaining a high standard of education without compromising the resources meant for student needs.

## ELECTION ASK 6:

### EDUCATION FUNDING

#### NTG Employee Leave Entitlements

Commit to NTG employee personal leave to be funded from central based funding, rather than individual school budgets.

*NT FULL COUNCIL MOTION 2023 4.1*

## **ELECTION ASK 7:**

### **EDUCATION FUNDING:**

#### **Recruitment In Remote Schools**

Prioritise recruitment in remote schools, improve emergency redeployment policies for schools experiencing staffing stress, and increase incentives for remote teaching in the Northern Territory.

*NT FULL COUNCIL MOTION 2023 4.2*

## **ELECTION ASK 8:**

### **EDUCATION FUNDING:**

#### **Middle School Funding Disparity**

End the funding disparity between Middle and Senior schools from the school level weighting that creates a differential in funding between middle and senior students.

*NT FULL COUNCIL MOTION 2021 1.1  
NT FULL COUNCIL MOTION 2020 2.2*

## **ELECTION ASK 9:**

### **EDUCATION FUNDING:**

#### **Relief Teachers | Reinstated as NTG Employees**

Reinstate Relief Teachers as employees of the Department, thereby ensuring all costs (and industrial relations) associated with their employment are borne and managed by the Department and not School Representative Bodies (Councils & Boards).

*NT FULL COUNCIL MOTION 2023 5.2*

## **ELECTION ASK 10:**

### **EDUCATION FUNDING:**

#### **Equitable Support for High-Needs Students in Mainstream Schools**

Commit to providing equitable funding for students with disabilities attending mainstream schools, ensuring they receive the same level of support as they would in a specialist school.

Current funding for a students in a mainstream school is \$20k, whereas funding for those in a specialist school is \$50k.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION 5.4*

## **ELECTION ASK 11:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

#### **Australian Acoustic Standards For NT Schools**

Commit to immediate and ongoing infrastructure funding to audit and upgrade all NT general learning areas to Australian Acoustic Standards.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.10*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 10.6*

## **ELECTION ASK 12:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

#### **Student Boarding Facility | Tennant Creek**

Expedite the construction of a purpose built residential boarding facility in Tennant Creek to open no later than commencement of school year 2026.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.12*

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.5*

## **ELECTION ASK 13:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

#### **Special Education Centre | Palmerston College**

As a matter of priority, allocate capital works funding for the urgent construction of a fit for purpose, Special Education Centres (SEC) for students in years 7-12 at Palmerston College.

***NT FULL COUNCIL 2023 MOTION 4.4***

## **ELECTION ASK 14:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

#### **(STEAM) Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts And Mathematics Centre | Palmerston College**

As a matter of priority, allocate capital works funding for the construction of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Centre at Palmerston College.

***NT FULL COUNCIL 2023 MOTION 4.5***

Prioritise capital major works funding for schools to ensure all NT secondary students have access to a purpose-built STEAM Centre of Excellence.

## **ELECTION ASK 15:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

#### **Larrakeyah Preschool Stage 1**

Commit to funding the Larrakeyah Master Plan - Preschool Stage 1, ensuring all children in the school catchment area can attend their local preschool.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2022 MOTION 1.1*

## **ELECTION ASK 16:**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING:**

#### **Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) School | Government Employee Housing (GEH)**

Prioritise capital works funding to provide more than one (1) government employee house for a school principal and teacher/s.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2020 MOTION 2.18*

## **ELECTION ASK 17:**

### **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT):**

#### **Equity & Access**

Ensure every student has access to ICT, regardless of their location or school budget limitations. Remote schools must have capacity to provide devices at a minimum ratio of 1 device for every 2 enrolled students.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2023 MOTION 5.6*



## ELECTION ASK 18:

### HEALTH:

## Student Health and Nutrition | Healthy School Canteens | NT Forum

Commit to funding territory wide 'NT Healthy School Canteens' forums to determine interest in establishing a Northern Territory Schools Canteen Association.

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2023 MOTION 5.4*

## ELECTION ASK 19:

### HEALTH:

## Nicotine Use By Students | Targeted Health Funding

Resource and implement the strategies, programs, materials, and services listed below to combat rapidly rising youth nicotine addiction rates. Targeted funding from the departments of Education and Health should be provided, ensuring no impact on school budgets..

- Health Education on nicotine
- **Intensive Year 6 student program to prepare for secondary schooling**
- Allocate Resourcing to Schools
- Teacher Training
- School-Based Police Officer Support
- Counselling Services
- Policy Development
- Awareness Campaigns
- Data Collection and Evaluation

*NT FULL COUNCIL 2023 MOTION 4.6*

## **ELECTION ASK 20:**

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:**

#### **AI in Schools**

Will you commit to allocating dedicated funding for integrating AI into the educational system, ensuring equitable access to AI tools and resources for both urban and remote schools, accompanied by clear policies and guidelines to guarantee effective and responsible implementation?

*NTCOGSO DRAFT AI POLICY*

## **ELECTION ASK 21:**

### **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:**

#### **School Council and Board Recognition Scheme**

Will you pledge to create a School Council and Board Recognition Scheme to formally acknowledge and support the invaluable contributions of volunteers on school councils and boards, recognising their essential role in enhancing educational outcomes.