

## Save 'Hands On' Science for our Students

COGSO President, Gerard Reid, said the cuts to the Northern Territory CSIRO Education Centre have shown that all aspects of education are affected by continuous budget cuts and we wonder when it will end.

"We are deeply concerned to learn this morning that the CSIRO NT Education Centre will no longer be offering science to our students", Mr Reid said.

"Although science is a part of the school curriculum, the NT Education Centre has been providing expert, hands on science for 25 years in the Northern Territory" Mr Reid went on to say.

"The Northern Territory government ceased funding for the center previously and now with the Federal Government budget cuts, our students lose their CSIRO program which reaches 8,000 students across the Territory every year.

"In May the Federal Government's announced of a \$115 million funding cut to Australia's premier scientific organisation The Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). This was a harsh budget blow which now directly impacts our students", Mr Reid emphasised.

"COGSO urges both governments to support the CSIRO NT science program to be able to continue;

- complementing the teaching of science in the classrooms
- providing students with access to equipment not available in schools
- allowing students more time on science activities

Mr Reid is adamant, "The offer of national modules out of capital cities to replace the program is not good enough".

"NT parents believe that 'hands on science' has enlightened and provided inspiration for our children in Science. It is disappointing that our Territory and Federal governments have apparently overlooked the value and importance in Science learning. We urge our respective governments to reverse these cuts and reinstate the CSIRO Education Centre's funding immediately, Mr Reid concluded.

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**MEDIA RELEASE**