

Our Kids. Our Schools. Our Future.

The Northern Territory's peak body representing the parents of public school children is holding a Q&A-style forum to debate education funding.

Panel members will include Education Minister Peter Chandler and Opposition Education spokesperson Nicole Manison.

Tabby Fudge, President of the NT Council of Government School Organisations, said increased funding for public schools was at the top of most parents' election wish list.

"The forum will be a perfect opportunity to discuss one of the most important issues facing the Northern Territory," she said.

"It's open to all and I would urge anybody with an interest in public education – whether they be teaching professionals or concerned parents – to come along.

"The Territory's teachers are doing a fantastic job but their work is made far more difficult by funding cuts."

Ms Fudge said over 200 teachers and school staff had been cut since the CLP came to power in 2012.

"The Government says it has a student needs-based funding model – spending money where it's needed. That's simply not true."

"The architect of the NT education funding model, Professor Stephen Lamb was issued a clear directive by this government advising him that the funding model had to be 'cost neutral'."

"For Mums and Dad's this means that despite Professor Lamb identifying that our students needed to be funded 5-10 times more than they are, government would not spend one more dollar on our children.

"This government called it a 'student needs funding model' in name only. The model does not have the dollars attached to meet our children's education needs"

Ms Fudge said Labor's promise to spend an extra \$124 million over four years on public education was welcome.

"But it's not enough. Nowhere near enough."

The public forum will be held at the Darwin Airport Novotel Hotel from 2-4pm on Saturday, August 13. Everyone is welcome.



CONTACTS

For further information on COGSO, please visit ntcogso.org.au

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