

ELECTION ASK 1:

AUSTRALIAN ACOUSTIC STANDARDS FOR NT SCHOOLS: INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR ACOUSTIC UPGRADES

If elected, will you commit to immediate funding to complete the school Master Plans for:

- **Yuendumu School**
- **Tennant Creek High School**
- **Katherine High School**

In addition, will your party commit to this immediate infrastructure funding to ensure all general learning areas are upgraded to Australian Acoustic Standards for:

- **Yuendumu School**
- **Tennant Creek High School**
- **Katherine High School**

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.10

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 10.6

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

Quality infrastructure is important to meet the needs of students now and into the future.

Every school has areas of need and it is the responsibility of government to balance that need against funding availability.

Tennant Creek High School	Underway Design process is nearing completion	\$2 million Tennant Creek Engagement Centre to support both Clontarf and Stars programs
Katherine High School	Medium term project	STEAM centre, as part of school Master Plan
Yuendumu School	Medium to long term project	New school infrastructure informed by school Master Plan

Twenty-six schools have been able to make upgrades to classroom acoustics or installed Soundfield systems to better support students with hearing difficulties. This includes Tennant Creek High School, which undertook acoustic upgrades to one classroom.

A re-elected Territory Labor Government will continue to focus our cross-government efforts in regards to Hearing Health. This will include Department of Education, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Department of Health and Menzies Research continuing to work together to determine support options for Yuendumu School, Tennant Creek and Katherine High School and to investigate and prioritise appropriate potential sites for acoustic upgrades.

Full response: <https://www.ntcogso.org.au/news-events>

RESPONSES: (CONT)

COUNTRY LIBERALS

Hearing health in childhood has been recognised as a significant factor in a child's future achievement. If we are elected, innovative solutions such as training teachers to recognise hearing difficulties, acoustic upgrades to schools and classrooms, and vaccination strategies to prevent otitis media are all on the table.

A Country Liberal Government will develop a strategy to improve outcomes in the first 100 days of Government, in partnership with Government departments, the Commonwealth, NGOs, Communities and stakeholders.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance has committed to upgrading remote and regional schools to meet acoustics standards to ensure we support students with a hearing loss. The commitment you seek is well within our policy of acoustics upgrades and the education infrastructure fund of \$100million. Please refer to our Education Policy and Aboriginal Prosperity and Rights Policy.

www.territoryalliance.org

Territory Alliance believes the Education Infrastructure Fund adequately provides the capacity to upgrade Yuendumu School, Tennant Creek High and Katherine High to meet acoustics standards for learning areas.



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

ELECTION ASK 2:

SCHOOL BASED POLICING: PROGRAM REINSTATEMENT

If elected, will you *adequately resource* NT Police to reinstate the School Based Police Program and ensure School Based Police return and remain in schools?

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

Our Territory Labor Government worked closely with COGSO to reinstate the School Based Police program after the CLP cut it and we remain committed to it.

Due to operational requirements at the beginning of 2020 and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the requirement to redeploy School Based Police Officers to alternative duties remains. The intention is to return officers to schools and expand the program as soon as the emergency response to the pandemic can allow for this occur. To ensure our police force can remain as strong and supported as possible through this pandemic, the Territory Labor Government recently committed an additional \$20 million for the employment of 131 extra staff, training and resources. If re-elected, our government will continue to invest in programs and services to support Territorians.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We recognise the value of school-based policing. We will support the continuation of school-based policing, and will consider expanding it. All positions for school-based policing roles have been filled from within current Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) capabilities.

Our commitment to continuous recruitment of police will mean that police have the confidence and resources to expand programs. Decisions about the expansion of SBP will be made in conjunction with police in respect of their other operational priorities, and in consultation with the individual schools and school communities involved.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance is committed to reinstating the School Based Police Program and ensuring Police return to our schools. We are committed to rolling recruitment programs for Police to return the force numbers required. This will ensure our schools can have Police back working proactively with our school communities.



ELECTION ASK 3:

SCHOOL BASED POLICE PROGRAM: EXPANSION IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS

If elected, how much additional funding will you provide to NT Police for the expansion of the School Based Policing program for additional School Based Police for all primary and high schools across the NT? This additional funding must maintain School Based Police positions, in schools, 5 days a week.

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

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

If re-elected, our government will continue to work with COGSO to expand and improve the School Based Police Program. Northern Territory agency budgets will be finalised with the budget to be delivered in November.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

Refers reader to their response to Election Ask 2.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

In Government, Territory Alliance would seek advice on the recurrent funding required to support our Police across schools in the NT. We are committed to the proactive and important work undertaken by School Based Police.



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

ELECTION ASK 4:

BARKLY REGION STRATEGIC PLAN

If elected, will you commit to work with all Barkly schools to develop a Strategic Plan for the region that includes, but is not limited to; future needs; infrastructure; and individual school masterplans?

NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.6

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

The Barkly Regional Deal, between the Federal government, Northern Territory Government and the Barkly Regional Council, commits the three levels of government to work together with the broader community to respond to community-identified priorities to improve economic and social outcomes in the region. Under this deal, the Federal Government has committed capital funding for the construction of a 40 bed student boarding accommodation for students in Tennant Creek and outlying communities. The Northern Territory Government will be responsible for the ongoing operations and management of the facility, including intensive case management, wrap-around social support services and the provision of suitable land. Governments will undertake community consultation to inform the design of the student accommodation facility and a broader school attendance strategy to ensure the suite of measures is responsive to the identified needs and service gaps in the Barkly region.

On coming to government, we committed \$2 million to implement programs to improve educational outcomes in the Big Rivers and Barkly regions through an integrated program of sports, arts, social and emotional learning, culture, language and learning for country for remote secondary students at risk of disengaging from school and their communities.

The Healthy Life, Creative Life program is run through the Juno Centre in Tennant Creek and provides alternative pathways for middle and senior year's students who are at risk of disengaging. The Juno Centre integrates existing Aboriginal education strategies and VET programs and connects youth service providers in the region. A total of 546 student visits occurred in Term 1 2020, with students attending from Tennant Creek High School, Ntaria and Alice Springs schools.

The newly constructed preschool and integrated child and family centre at Tennant Creek Primary School has been in operation since late 2019.

A Barkly Attendance Strategy is being developed to coordinate support for students who are not fully engaged in their schooling.

Through the Barkly Regional Coordination Committee, Tennant Creek Interagency Family and Youth Operational Framework, Yangkan and Ngappa Group and Family Safety Framework, the Department of Education maintains close partnerships with other agencies for coordinated services and support, including collaboration and sharing information.

We have invested \$2 million for a new Tennant Creek Engagement Centre to support both Clontarf and Stars programs at the Tennant Creek High School. The design process is nearing completion for this project.

RESPONSES: *(CONT)*

One of our election commitments on coming to government was to ensure that all secondary schools have clear master plans to guide planning and infrastructure development. We'll continue to work with schools to develop these plans.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We believe that local school communities, parents, teachers and principals are the best placed to know what is best for their children. We will commit to working with all our regions, all communities and all schools to help develop plans for the future. It is important that decisions about the future directions of schools and school communities are forward thinking, strategic, and community-led.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance would support a Regional Strategic Plan for schools in the Barkly that addresses infrastructure needs. We support individual school masterplans being developed.

ELECTION ASK 5:

NTG FUNDED STUDENT TRANSPORT FOR: TENNANT CREEK HIGH AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

If elected, will you commit to providing free student public transport to both Tennant Creek Primary and High Schools? Currently funded by Tennant Creek School budgets which have no provision for transport.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION 5.10

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

If re-elected, our Territory Labor Government will work to explore options for transport solutions for Tennant Creek students.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

If more assistance is needed in specific areas such as transport, that is something we are happy to explore with the Department of Education and the schools involved, not just Tennant Creek Schools. We recognise the value of community-led decisions, and want to work with schools to address the most pressing issues of their regions and support the development of solutions.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance in government would seek private and philanthropic partnerships to support a school bus service in Tennant Creek.



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

ELECTION ASK 6:

KATHERINE FLEXIBLE LEARNING EDUCATION CENTRE

If elected, will you commit to providing ongoing funding to Katherine High School for the continued operation of the Katherine Flexible Learning Education Centre (KFLEC), to ensure that this campus and service is a permanent facility supporting students and families in the Katherine Region?

This funding must be **in addition to** and separate to the school's global budget and within separate reporting.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 10.7

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

This funding must be in addition and separate to the school's global budget and within separate reporting.

Our Territory Labor Government established the Katherine Flexible Learning Centre and remains committed to it, because we believe that students with complex and additional needs should be supported to remain engaged in their learning.

On coming to government, we committed \$2 million to implement programs to improve educational outcomes in the Big Rivers and Barkly regions through an integrated program of sports, arts, social and emotional learning, culture, language and learning for country for remote secondary students at risk of disengaging from school and their communities.

The Katherine Flexible Learning Centre continues to provide early intervention support for disengaged youth in the region and around 26 students are currently enrolled, with capacity for more students.

On coming to government, our government reviewed Global School Budgets and made sure schools were fairly and transparently resourced. Our Labor Government needed to fund an extra \$20 million every year straight into school budgets to replace the teachers and programs cut by the CLP. Our government supports schools having the autonomy to make the decisions necessary to meet the needs of their school communities.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We understand a review has been undertaken of the centre that is complete but not yet released. We will make a decision based on the review.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance will provide ongoing funding support to Katherine High School to support the continued operation of the Katherine Flexible Learning Centre.



ELECTION ASK 7:

EQUAL FUNDING FOR HIGH NEEDS STUDENTS WITH NO ACCESS TO A SPECIALIST SCHOOL

If elected, will you commit to equitable levels of funding for students with a disability who have to be in a mainstream school as they have no access to a special school?

As they have to attend a mainstream school, they do not receive the same level of funding as students who attend a specialist school.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION 5.4

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

Last year, the Territory Labor Government launched the Framework for Inclusion to provide high quality, inclusive education for children with additional needs and to help build the capacity of teachers and support staff in inclusive education practices across mainstream schools. Since that time, the Territory Labor Government has invested \$73.4 million to deliver targeted support for students with additional needs in mainstream schools and an additional \$20.3 million to employ advisors, school counsellors, speech therapists and other staff to support student learning.

Under this framework, we have introduced the Building Collaborative Capacity Program, which aims to build capacity and capability in inclusive practices across mainstream schools. A trial has been established with three groups of schools (20 schools in total) to work together in building the understanding and practices of educators to support all students, including students with additional needs in their learning and continual improvements to differentiated learning practices. Each group receives \$300 000 per year for three years to develop strong, place-based inclusive practices that meet the needs of their students.

In 2020, the Territory Labor Government has invested an additional \$4.3 million ongoing in direct school funding to support students with additional needs. This includes:

- \$1.5 million in 2020 to support the introduction of a needs-based funding model that reduces the administrative burden for schools by using data already collected in schools through the National Consistent Collection of Data for Students with Disability (NCCD), which is based on the professional judgment of teachers, and
- A further \$2.8 million in ongoing funding to provide schools with greater capacity in deciding how to use their funding to make the necessary adjustments to meet the specific learning needs of all students. These funds can be used to deliver programs, buy special equipment, and employ additional staff or to provide release time for teachers to attend professional development.

Through the *Building for Inclusion* program, the Territory Labor Government has recognised the importance of ensuring our Territory schools are well equipped with contemporary infrastructure to best support and improve the social and academic development of all students.

RESPONSES: *(CONT)*

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We support student needs-based funding of all Government schools, and targeted funding for students with additional needs such as a disability.

We are aware of NDIS packages that can include therapies delivered during school time, self-care support, specialist transport, equipment and specialised training of teachers and other staff for the specific support needs of a student with a disability in mainstream schools.

We will work with the Commonwealth to make sure students with a disability are able to navigate and access their entire packages under the NDIS, and consider additional targeted funding for students with a disability in mainstream schools.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance has a genuine commitment to provide students with special needs additional assistance with an investment in additional teacher aids across our schools. This policy initiative is contained within our Education Policy.

In addition, we will address the need to better access allied health services for assessment of their needs.

ELECTION ASK 8:

FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

If elected, will you commit to funding government schools for every student with additional needs based on enrolment and not attendance.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.9

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

On coming to government, we undertook to audit and assess the global school budgeting funding to ensure schools would have a funding model that meets student need and provides schools with flexibility, budget certainty and improved support.

An independent review of the global school budget funding model was undertaken, informed by extensive consultation with schools and other stakeholders, including the NT Principals' Association, COGSO, the Australian Education Union and the Community and Public Sector Union. This review found that funding for government education had been cut by around 10% by the CLP, despite student numbers remaining steady over that same period. All recommendations of this review were accepted, with implementation over three years through the 'School Resourcing Model -Action Plan for the Future'.

The Action Plan will deliver projects under four key themes of better support for schools through targeted investment, improving budget certainty for schools, better budget management, and targeted funding to student need. Through this process, our Territory Labor Government introduced a new weighting system to provide more per student funding for those students who have English as a Second Language and students with a disability.

There's always more to be done, but we're committed to doing it. A re-elected Territory Labor Government will undertake a mid-implementation review of the School Resourcing Model to explore opportunities for improvements and more efficient allocation of resources.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We support an equitable, needs-based model of funding for all Government schools. We want to ensure that students with disability are provided with education services and support appropriate to their needs.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

The Territory Alliance Education policy provides for additional investment in teacher aids which we believe could adequately cover this request.



ELECTION ASK 9:

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND PRIORITY CHANGE

If elected, will you commit to changing the priorities of Community Benefit Funding from Infrastructure to addressing the mental health and wellbeing of Territorians?

This would recognise that Community Benefit Funding is generated through a 10% levy applied to electronic gaming machine losses, which have significant negative social consequences as a direct result of problem gambling.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.6

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

The Community Benefit Fund grant program has been running successfully since 2008 and was most recently reviewed in 2018.

Through the Community Benefit Fund grants, funding is available for a range of projects and programs, including through the Gambling Amelioration grants which provide funding to support the promotion of community awareness and education in respect of problem gambling, including counselling, rehabilitation and support services for problem gamblers and their families.

Funding is available through the minor and major community grants for those projects that seek to improve the capacity of not-for-profit organisations to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities to Territorians. Infrastructure projects put back into the community through job creation, facility and equipment upgrades for not-for profits, and provide activities that families can enjoy together.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

The Community Benefit Fund is currently aimed at improving the capacity of not-for-profit organisations to provide services, leisure activities and opportunities to Territorians in the wider community.

Consideration of addressing mental health and wellbeing through additional funding will be looked at as separate funding. We will not be changing the priorities of the Community Benefit Fund, which has seen many successful projects.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance will review the Community Benefit Fund. In addition, we will work with the Commonwealth to realise greater funding opportunities to address mental health and wellbeing needs through an increase in programs.



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

ELECTION ASK 10:

TRAINED COUNSELLORS – FULL TIME ACCESS FOR ALL SCHOOLS

Will your party commit to providing all schools with *adequate* access to a trained counsellor/psychologist on a full-time basis to assist teachers to work with students who are facing adversity or are demonstrating mental health challenges?

NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.3

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

On coming to government, we committed to undertake a study to determine the right number and placement of school counsellors to meet the needs of students identified in the *Gone Too Soon* Parliamentary enquiry. During this term of government we've reviewed and made more effective allocations to the school counsellor program, through the *School Counselling Action Plan 2019-2023*. We currently have 25 school counsellors with 2 senior school counsellors. In addition, 6 schools utilise part of their Global School Budget to employ school counsellors.

Student support services were deeply impacted by the former CLP Government's cuts to education. The former CLP government undertook two substantial rounds of cuts to the Student Services division, including a round of cuts in 2012-13 which cut \$280 000 from a grant program for schools to purchase specialist equipment and run programs for students with additional needs, and \$106 000 from a grant program to assist schools with the management of individual students exhibiting behavioural issues. Therefore, it is acknowledged that this is an area in which we need to continue to invest and make improvements and a re-elected Territory Labor Government will continue to do so.

One of the positives to come out of the national COVID response has been the increased ease of accessing telehealth services through Medicare. This is an option of which our Territory Labor Government remains supportive and will seek to see ongoing improvements to accessibility in this regard.

We remain committed to School Counsellors in our schools. A re-elected Territory Labor Government will commit to review the School Counselling Action Plan in conjunction with the draft Mental Health Productivity Commission report recommendations. This review should also consider if the current model of staffing supports the school population and need.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

In October 2019 the Productivity Commission released a draft report regarding mental health. It made a number of draft recommendations regarding social and emotional learning programs in the education system. We will look at the recommendations of the final report which look at ways to address this issue.

While a counsellor in every school may not be feasible or appropriate due to historical challenges of recruiting qualified professionals, a Country Liberal Government will be exploring strategies for attraction/retention, and additional positions and services to support the shortage of school counsellors, and to enhance the important role they play in our schools.

RESPONSES: *(CONT)*

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Increased support from Commonwealth funded programs for Territory schools will be a genuine priority. We recognise much more must be done to assist teachers who work with students who face adversity and mental health challenges.

We will seek a report on the status of the existing supports and work with the Commonwealth to increase our capacity to provide far greater support.

ELECTION ASK 11:

FUNDING FOR FULL TIME COUNSELLORS IN REMOTE SCHOOLS

If elected, will you commit to the provision of full-time counsellors to meet all remote student's mental health needs?

NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.12

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

Refers reader to their response to Election Ask 10

COUNTRY LIBERALS

Refers reader to their response to Election Ask 10

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Refers reader to their response to Election Ask 10 as “this would include remote schools”.

ELECTION ASK 12:

CENTRAL FUNDING AND PROVISION OF ONSITE PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

If elected, will you commit to providing centrally funded school counsellors onsite at all primary schools to enable early support to students, families and staff in developing positive mental health through trauma informed approaches/practices?

NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION 5.2

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

On coming to government, we committed to undertake a study to determine the right number and placement of school counsellors to meet the needs of students identified in the *Gone Too Soon* Parliamentary enquiry. During this term of government we've reviewed and made more effective allocations to the school counsellor program, through the *School Counselling Action Plan 2019-2023*. We currently have 25 school counsellors with 2 senior school counsellors. In addition, 6 schools utilise part of their Global School Budget to employ school counsellors.

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We remain committed to School Counsellors in our schools. A re-elected Territory Labor Government will commit to review the School Counselling Action Plan in conjunction with the draft Mental Health Productivity Commission report recommendations. This review should also consider if the current model of staffing supports the school population and need.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

Refers reader to their response to Election Ask 10.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance will do a needs assessment of school-based counsellors and seek National Partnership funding opportunities with the Commonwealth



ELECTION ASK 13:

DISCRIMINATION WITHIN FAITH-BASED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

If elected, will you commit to opposing exemptions in Territory and Commonwealth legislation which allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers or staff on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION 11.8

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

Everyone should feel welcome and be safe at school.

The **NT** *Anti-Discrimination Act* needs updating and a re-elected Territory Labor Government is committed to modernising this legislation. A review was commenced of the *Anti-Discrimination Act*, but ultimately this review is awaiting the outcome of the review being undertaken by the Federal Government.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

Please refer to our response to the 2017 Discussion Paper entitled Modernisation of the Anti-Discrimination Act, on which we undertook wide consultation with schools and stakeholders. No other state or territory in the whole of Australia has removed the exemption for religious educational institutions from its anti-discrimination legislation, which may be an expensive burden on schools, contradictory to Commonwealth Law and may violate some United Nations conventions.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance does not have a position on this as we have not consulted with faith-based schools and have formed our Education Policy on addressing the public school system. We are opposed to discrimination.

ELECTION ASK 14:

ALLIED HEALTH: SPEECH PATHOLOGIST SUPPORT

If elected, will you 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

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

When we came to government, we found that the CLP had cut more than 500 teachers and support staff. That was 302 teachers, 71 school admin staff and 135 non-school based staff, including from regional offices and student support services.

Through our *Framework for Inclusion*, we invested \$20.3 million in 2019 to employ advisors, school counsellors, speech therapists and other staff to support student learning.

We have delivered an additional \$8 million every year in support for students with additional needs. This included the establishment of a multi-disciplinary team to support early intervention approaches for students with a disability and the expansion of the Autism Spectrum Disorder program. Through the *Building for Inclusion* program, \$440 000 has been invested to establish annexes to support students with autism at twelve schools.

Over 50 Territory teachers have received a “Supporting Students with Additional Needs” teaching scholarship to improve the way we are supporting and identifying students who need extra support in mainstream classes.

Access to high quality, inclusive education is key to creating a bright future for all children and students and is the foundation of a thriving community and a strong economy in the Northern Territory. If re-elected, a Territory Labor Government will continue to work to improve access to these important services.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We will review existing programs that support school wellbeing initiatives, and establish whether funding could be better directed, and whether this means the employment of additional school staff where there is need, or if it means a more coordinated effort with the Department of Health to ensure that allied health professionals are more accessible for early intervention.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance is committed to increasing access to allied health professionals for our students, including speech pathologists.



YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

ELECTION ASK 15:

CASE MANAGEMENT: FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENTS AT RISK

If elected, will you commit to the development of a collaborative framework for the Departments of Education, Families, Health and NT Police, supported by detailed service guidelines, to enable effective case management of at-risk students and their families?

NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.9

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

Placing the best interest of children at the heart of our decision making has been a guiding principle of our Territory Labor Government. To focus this approach, the Territory Labor Government established a Cabinet sub-committee on Children, through which the Ministers for Children, Education, Territory Families, Health and Police, the Chief Executives of the Departments of Education, Territory Families, Health and the Commissioner for Police work to take an holistic approach to a child's wellbeing and family engagement. If re-elected, we will continue this established protocol.

We know that the early years are the most important years and this has been a key focus of our Territory Labor Government over the last 4 years. If re-elected, we'll strengthen this focus with early intervention in the early years by providing wrap around support for Year 1 students. No Year 1 student should be in a situation where they need to be suspended. Where a Year 1 student is presenting with challenging behaviours, an immediate response of support services will be triggered will ensure students remain engaged during the early years.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

A strong collaboration between all departments and school communities is important for ensuring the health and safety of students, especially when it comes to issues such as hearing loss and at-risk behaviour. We will commit to a collaborative framework between departments to better case manage at-risk students, which will include accurate record-keeping, follow-up, and measurable outcomes.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Yes. Please refer to our Safe Children and Stronger Families policy at www.territoryalliance.org



ELECTION ASK 16:

REMOTE ABORIGINAL TEACHER EDUCATION (RATE)

If elected, will you commit to reinstating and retaining from Term 1 2021, the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education (RATE) program and if yes, how will you fund it to ensure adequate, on the ground support for those participating?

What steps would be taken to consult regarding design and implementation of a re-established RATE program?

QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR (Q&A 25 JULY 2020)

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

A re-elected Territory Labor Government will re-establish a new RATE program.

The RATE program operated in the 1980s and 1990s in many remote communities across the Territory. RATE students from that era continue to work in their community schools as Assistant Teachers and fully qualified and registered teachers.

Many went on to become Senior Teachers and School Principals in communities such as Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Yirrkala, Yirrkala Homelands, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Gunbalanya, Pigeon Hole, Alekerenge, Areyonga and Yuendumu.

The CLP Government cut \$225 000 from teacher training programs when they discontinued the Remote Indigenous Training Education (RITE) Program in 2012.

The re-established RATE program will enable existing and aspiring Aboriginal educators to progress their learning and careers while working in remote NT schools. For those wishing to become fully qualified teachers, this program will provide a supported head start to their teaching journey.

The Department of Education leads a RATE Steering Committee comprising the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, the Department of the Chief Minister, the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute and the Teacher Registration Board to develop the pilot program, which will launch in 2021 and be informed by research, trials and consultation with relevant stakeholder groups.

The RATE program aligns with the Territory Labor Government's Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy, which includes our commitment to employ 500 more Aboriginal police, nurses and teachers by 2026.

In addition to the RATE program, a re-elected Territory Labor Government will introduce a partnership program specifically targeting Aboriginal secondary students, their parents, schools and the business community. This will initially focus on five key employment areas: Teaching; Engineering; Defence; Space and Cyber Security; Financial Services and Health Services.

RESPONSES: *(CONT)*

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We will support the introduction of the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education (RATE) to increase and support Aboriginal teaching staff in some form, in consultation with school communities and providers. Our goal for the program would be to see teachers trained in a way that does not take them away from communities and that gives them access to the qualifications they want and input into the way schools are run.

We will be reviewing the outcomes following the first year, including consultation with relevant stakeholders, and evaluating how we can provide better support for participants.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Territory Alliance has a strong commitment to Growing Our Own in delivering education across remote and regional schools. We have committed to working with Aboriginal education experts to meet the needs of Aboriginal students, teachers and school communities. We would seek expert advice on RATE.

ELECTION ASK 17:

MOBILE PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS

Several Australian states, and democratically governed countries, have concluded from peer reviewed research that banning Mobile Phones in classrooms from first bell until last bell conveys academic, social and psychological advantages to the students. Further, such bans have been shown to reduce both the psychosocial and academic workloads of teachers.

If elected will you commit to commissioning an independent, professional survey of DoE staff, parents and students as to whether they would support a ban on mobile phones in classrooms from first bell until last bell. If there is consensus for a ban, would you legislate or mandate for this?

QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR (Q&A 25 JULY 2020)

RESPONSES:

TERRITORY LABOR

The Territory Labor Government has a zero tolerance approach to bullying, including cyber-bullying.

Territory schools are required to put in place policies and procedures governing the use of electronic devices in the classroom, including mobile phones, and schools should retain this autonomy.

An outright ban on mobile phones fails to take into account the many ways in which they can enhance learning. Responsible use of technology, such as mobile phones, is an important life skill for young people.

Cyber safety and tackling cyber bullying is a key focus in NT schools, and is being addressed with a number of local programs, including the Dolly's Dream eSmart program, developed by the parents of young bullying victim Dolly Everett.

COUNTRY LIBERALS

We will support schools to make this decision based on their individual operational needs.

TERRITORY ALLIANCE

Yes, we would undertake the survey. We recognise this is currently a serious topic under consideration. We would commit to respecting the outcome of the survey and consider the wisest approach to implementing any recommendations.

