
EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES 1/21

SATURDAY 6 MARCH & SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

NT COGSO operates 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 are committed to a positive future for the Aboriginal community

Acting President formally welcomed members and staff and noted the apology with each Executive Member introducing themselves to the new Members.

MEETING OPENED: 9.07AM

ATTENDEES

Tabby Fudge	President
Beverley Ratahi	Vice President & Top End Regional Representative
Richelle Kent	Treasurer
Wayne Green	Barkly Regional Representative
Natasha O'Keefe	Big Rivers Regional Representative
Noela Anderson	Big Rivers Regional Representative
Lauren Winter	Central Regional Representative
Shani Carson	Darwin Regional Representative
Fred Richardson	Invited Member
Michelle Parker	Executive Officer
Annabel Fletcher	Executive Coordinator

APOLOGIES

Karyn Laverty East Arnhem Regional Representative

1. MINUTES

Motion: That the minutes of the 25 & 25 July 2021 Executive meeting are accepted as true and correct.

Moved: Richelle Kent

Seconded: Fred Richardson

CARRIED

2. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil Business Arising.

3. REPORTS

3.1 ACTING PRESIDENT REPORT

President Tabby Fudge was in attendance having returned on 1st March 2021 from a leave of absence for medical reasons.

Vice President, Beverley Ratahi, was Acting President from 7 November 2020 to 28 February 2021.

Executive noted the Acting President's report.

Moved: Beverley Ratahi

Seconded: Shani Carson

CARRIED

3.2 TREASURER REPORT

3.2.1 BALANCE SHEET – TO 3 MARCH 2021

3.2.2 PROFIT AND LOSS – TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021

3.2.3 BUDGET REPORTING 20/21 – ACTUALS TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Executive noted the Treasurer report.

Moved: Richelle Kent

Seconded: Beverley Ratahi

CARRIED

GUESTS Q&A

GUESTS

Minister for Education, Lauren Moss

Chief Executive, Department of Education, Karen Weston

Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Susan Bowden

1. SCHOOL COUNSELLORS – VACANCIES AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

The A/Deputy CE noted the critical role of School Counsellors in schools. It is a complex situation as there is a shortage of qualified counsellors, however the Department is exploring alternative options to support additional counsellors. This includes working with other organisations such as Danila Dilba to access additional counsellors, especially for remote communities. DoE would fund this and it would not affect existing centrally funded school counsellors. Discussions are also occurring with the CDU partnership group in regard to opportunities.

2. 'ONE TEAM ONE TERRITORY' – PRINCIPAL TO SCHOOL REP BODY

The Vice President noted there is a void in this message getting through to schools. A parent Code of Conduct is needed and questions were raised on social media management and how parents were being controlled.

The A/Deputy CE noted the Charter is important to set the initial tone. A Code of Conduct is being drafted however it is apparent social media has not been amplified enough after recent events and this will now be reviewed.

The Minister noted this has been raised with the Police, and they are doing work to try pull down social media content of students and fights.

The CE noted they want to ensure things are lined up with the Principals first and the Minister needs to develop an engagement strategy and consider how to implement Territory wide.

3. RSAS FUNDING TO 31 DEC 2021 – WHAT HAPPENS?

The Executive Officer asked if there are conversations happening with the Australian Government. The Minister advised she has spoken broadly with the new Australian Minister for Education, Alan Tudge regarding attendance and engagement strategy. The Minister will be travelling to communities to discuss.

4. BARKLY REGION

A) SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Tennant Creek Representative Wayne Green noted Alice Spring, Jabiru and Ti-Tree school bus services are all funded for school transport, however Barkly has to pay out of their school budget. This ties into equity and attendance strategy.

The Minister noted she would speak to the Infrastructure and Transport Minister regarding this, especially as most urban schools receive funding.

B) BARKLY EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

It was raised, Tennant Creek is building a new pre-school and want to drive high attendance, but the Primary School and High School can't hold these numbers in the current state as they transition. Already, students are leaving to other town and interstate schools due to the full capacity. A request into future planning was requested.

The Minister noted providing education to early years is a focus and acknowledges the problem and the importance of gearing up the rest of the education sector to be able to support.

The Minister also noted, there's a lot of work required to ensure the homeland learning centres are supported and regional High Schools being supported needs to be looked at, particularly for ICT infrastructure - as a lot of communities can't link in due to lack of ICT.

The CE noted the importance and focus to encourage students to complete secondary education, and this will be looked at next year.

The A/Deputy CE shared key student number increases for completing the NTCET, and noted the increase can be attributed to a large effort into a case student tracking system. Started in 2019, 2020 had the most visibility of every student and at-risk students could be identified. Principals and teachers were able to know where to focus their attention.

5. 2020 MOTIONS

A) SCHOOL BASED POLICING PROGRAM

The Minister noted there has been recent discussion regarding the new model being a mix of Constables and Axillary Officers. This model will be rolled out in Term 2 (2021) and schools are getting their Officers back. The Minister stated "We know it's a priority, it's priority for us too" and stressed the importance of NT COGSO being involved in this.

The CE noted the need for flexibility to include Axillary Officers. The Police Commissioner spoke at the NT COGSO Full Council Meeting and explained he's been working for months and is close to announcing what they can provide.

The Minister re-iterated that the lead person of the School Based Police Program, from the NT Police must consult with NT COGSO.

ACOUSTIC INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

The CE noted the technology is getting better and she's spoken to Amanda Leach from Menzies. FAFT is a great program to incorporate hearing health.

The Executive Officer shares with the Minister and CE, NTCOGSO had previously met with Minister Fyles regarding the removal of HIMSS system which enabled Health to be able to give immediate information on students with hearing loss and strategies to support them in the classroom. Immediate information to teachers on students. Minister Fyles advised at the time that the system replacing HIMSS would provide the same functionality. NTCOGSO advised the Education Minister at this meeting our understanding is that it does not.

It was also noted that the Department of Education data system requires significant investment for a replacement system to allow real time reporting.

The Minister noted they're focused on Student Engagement with a Youth Hub in Alice Springs including seven (7) Engagement Officers, a part of this program and significant work has been done on this.

3.3 CORPORATE REPORT

3.3.1 STAFFING: ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Annabel Fletcher commenced on 18 September 2020 as the permanent part time Executive Coordinator. In 2019, Annabel was contracted through Hays temps, prior to her maternity break. Her new role, is predominately home based.

3.3.2 OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Department is obtaining alternative temporary accommodation due to the air quality results at Ethos House and have been advised staff will not be returning to this office location. A DoE officer is in contact with NT COGSO to progress the matter.

3.3.3 INVITED MEMBERS

Fred Richardson and Dylan Robinson were extended a formal invitation to return as Invited Members to the Executive for 2021. Fred Richardson has accepted the invitation. Unfortunately, Dylan Robinson has declined due to his relocation to a NT remote town.

3.3.4 EXECUTIVE MEMBER FORMS

A) CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

Executive Members were provided with a Confidentiality Agreement, which was signed and returned on the day. East Arnhem Regional Rep who was an apology on the day, has also provided a signed copy prior to the meeting.

B) CODE OF CONDUCT

A copy of the draft Code of Conduct was re-circulated to the Executive Members via email during the meeting on Saturday 6th March 2021. Members were requested to provide any feedback on the draft document.

ACTION: RE-SEND THE CODE OF CONDUCT TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS.

3.3.5 NT COGSO WEBSITE REGISTRATION

Executive Members were encouraged to register on the NT COGSO website under School Representative Bodies. This will allow them to access valuable resources for supporting schools in their region.

3.3.6 FULL COUNCIL 2020 FEEDBACK

Members noted the survey feedback from attendees of the Full Council 2020. A 2021 key focus for improvement is based on feedback regarding the Motions process.

ACTION: NT COGSO TO REVIEW MOTIONS GUIDE, REVIEW AND CIRCULATE TO AFFILIATES PRIOR TO 2021 FULL COUNCIL MEETING.

ACTION: A SUBCOMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING CURRENT DOCUMENTS AND PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE. COMMITTEE

MEMBERS ARE RICHELLE KENT, SHANI CARSON AND FRED RICHARDSON, WITH ALL MEMBERS WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE. EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR TO PROVIDE SECRETARIAT SUPPORT.

ACTION: REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO PLACE MOTION PREPERATION ON THEIR NEXT REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA.

3.3.7 SERVICES FUNDING AGREEMENT

- GOVERNANCE TRAINING REPORT SEMESTER 2, 2020
- GOVERNANCE TRAINING SCHEDULE SEMESTER 1, 2021

MOTION: EXECUTIVE TO EXTEND ITS APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO NT COGSO TRAINING AND ADMIN STAFF FOR THE CONTINUING HIGH-QUALITY DELIVERY AND REPORTING.

Moved: Beverley Ratahi

Seconded: Richelle Kent

CARRIED

ACTION: EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EMAIL EXECUTIVE A CORRECTED COPY OF TRAINING REPORT. AMENDEMENT TO PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: QUALITY OF RESOURCES, REPLACE 96% WITH 86% (ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR).

3.3.8 SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE| CURRENT ISSUES

Executive noted the verbal update on schools currently being assisted.

3.3.9 SCHOOLS FEEDBACK ON EXECUTIVE QUESTIONS:

HEALTH | HEARING | BBS GRANT | HYGIENE

Executive noted the feedback from schools and confirmed the current topics be retained for conversations with remote schools.

ACTION: PRESIDENT TO WRITE TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION REQUESTING AN UPDATE ON THE ROLL-OUT OF THE BUILDING BETTER SCHOOLS (BBS) GRANT.

3.3.10 FULL COUNCIL 2020 MOTIONS – ACTIONS TO DATE

Executive noted the actions to date, and discussed ongoing actions on the Full Council 2020 motions.

ACTION: EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO FORMALLY EXTEND EXECUTIVE’S APPRECIATION TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE AT TODAY’S MEETING.

Executive noted the Corporate report.

Moved: Beverley Ratahi

Seconded: Richelle Kent

CARRIED

3.4 CORRESPONDENCE WORTH NOTING

Correspondence noted by Executive.

Moved: Tabby Fudge

Seconded: Natasha O’Keefe

CARRIED

3.5 REGIONAL REPORTS

3.5.1 BARKLY

Executive noted the Barkly Regional report.

ACTION: EXECUTIVE TO DISCUSS WITH THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, NOTIFYING THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND CHAIRS WHEN TRAVELLING TO REGIONS.

3.5.2 BIG RIVERS

Executive noted the Big Rivers Regional report.

3.5.3 CENTRAL

Executive noted the Central Regional report.

3.5.4 DARWIN

Executive noted the Darwin Regional report.

3.5.5 EAST ARNHEM

Executive noted the East Arnhem Regional report.

3.5.6 TOP END

Executive noted the Top End Regional report.

All reports were moved in one motion.

Moved: Wayne Green

Seconded: Lauren Winter

CARRIED

3.6 TEACHER REGISTRATION BOARD REPORT

3.6.1 NT TEACHER REGISTRATION BOARD REPORT – TERM 3, 2020

Executive noted the Northern Territory Teacher Registration Board Report.

3.7 NT BOARD OF STUDIES REPORT

3.7.1 NTBOS MEETING DATES 2021

Executive noted the Northern Territory Board of Studies meeting dates for 2021.

ACTION: FRED RICHARDSON TO EMAIL NTBOS EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND REQUEST THE PROCESS FOR PARENT FEEDBACK ON CURRICULUM.

3.8 NT COGSO/DOE REPORT

Executive noted the CE/COGSO Minutes of meetings;

7 September 2020

5 October 2020

2 November 2020

30 November 2020

Executive noted the inaugural School Education Advisory Group (SEAG) meeting information 11 February 2021.

The School Education Advisory Group (SEAG) includes the CE, NT COGSO, AEU and NTPA.

3.9 NT COGSO/MINISTER REPORT

Executive noted the NT COGSO/Minister meeting items of meetings:

23 November 2020

25 January 2021

NEXT MEETING: Monday 17 March 2021

MEETING CLOSED: 3:52PM

ATTENDEES

Beverley Ratahi	Vice President & Top End Regional Representative
Richelle Kent	Treasurer
Wayne Green	Barkly Regional Representative
Natasha O'Keefe	Big Rivers Regional Representative
Noela Anderson	Big Rivers Regional Representative
Lauren Winter	Central Regional Representative
Fred Richardson	Invited Member
Michelle Parker	Executive Officer

APOLOGIES

Tabby Fudge	President
Shani Carson	Darwin Regional Representative

MEETING OPENED: 9.00AM

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 – 2023

A draft was provided for consideration. Executive finalised the Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024 overview.

4.2 SCHOOL BASED POLICING PROGRAM

This item was discussed under the Acting President report.

4.3 ONGOING EXECUTIVE WORK ON FULL COUNCIL 2020 MOTIONS

Executive noted that requests for responses to the Full Council 2020 Motions continue at each meeting with the Minister and meetings with the Chief Executive.

4.4 QUESTIONS FOR THE CE FULL COUNCIL 2020 – CE RESPONSES

Agenda item listed for noting only.

4.5 CONSENT EDUCATION

Members were asked to familiarise themselves with current conversations in other jurisdictions around consent education for further discussion.

All General Business were noted.

MEETING CLOSED: 1:55PM
