

NORTHERN TERRITORY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INCORPORATED

School-Based Health Promoting Nurses

Council recognises the critical role of school-based nurses in promoting the health and wellbeing of students. School-based nurses play a vital part in providing preventive care, health education, and immediate medical support to ensure the overall health and safety of students within the school setting.

Council believes government should maintain an evidence-based health promotion model that constantly strengthens its capacity to support healthy living and learning. In addition, government should ensure an evidence-based health application to capture, analyse, process and act on data generated.

The position of Council is for every student to have access to a school nurse.

The position of Council is that school nurses are permanently based and maintained within an individual school. School-based nurses have the advantage of building trusting relationships with students, parents, and staff, enabling them to address health concerns and promote healthy behaviours effectively. They provide support in managing chronic conditions, administering medication, responding to emergencies, and promoting general health and wellbeing.

School-based nurses should collaborate with other health providers and educators to ensure a coordinated approach.

Council supports the provision of alternative support services for remote schools where having a dedicated school-based nurse may not be feasible due to geographical challenges. These may include, but must not be limited to, regular visits from healthcare professionals, telehealth services, and access to community health clinics to ensure that students in remote areas receive appropriate healthcare support. The alternative support services must only be provided following community approval through local decision making.

Council believes every Northern Territory school must be a health promoting school, one that constantly strengthens its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working.

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A health promoting school:

- Fosters health and learning with all the measures at its disposal.
- Engages health and education officials, teachers, teachers' unions, students, parents, health providers and community leaders in efforts to make the school a healthy place.
- Strives to provide a healthy environment, school health education, and school health services along with school/community projects and outreach, health promotion programs for staff, nutrition and food safety programs, opportunities for physical education and recreation, and programs for counselling, social support and mental health promotion.
- Implements policies and practices that respect an individual's wellbeing and dignity, provide multiple opportunities for success, and acknowledge good efforts and intentions as well as personal achievements.
- Strives to improve the health of school personnel, families and community members as well as students; and works with community leaders to help them understand how the community contributes to, or undermines, health and education.