

NTCOGSO Election Ask	CLP Response	Green's Response	Labor Response
WELLBEING AND INCLUSION			
<p>1 Expand School-Based Mental Health Support in the Northern Territory</p> <p>Implement a comprehensive initiative to enhance mental health services in NT schools by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basing full-time school Counsellors and mental health practitioners in schools. - Ensuring wellbeing officers and coordinators are in addition to school-based Counsellors. - Expanding youth health nurses in schools. - Establishing culturally appropriate mental health support services. - Implementing a "grow our own" program to train and retain local NT residents, including Indigenous people, as school-based mental health professionals. - Setting a target ratio of at least 1 school counsellor per 500 students in urban areas and 1 per 200 students in remote areas, acknowledging the unique challenges of the NT's vast geography. - Creating a mobile mental health team to provide regular support to small and remote schools that cannot sustain full-time on-site counsellors. - Fostering partnerships between schools, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, and other local health services to create a comprehensive, culturally sensitive support network. 	<p>We have committed to ensuring that there are qualified school counsellors and mental health practitioners based in schools and that they are properly resourced. School Counsellors and mental health health practitioners play a crucial role in the wellbeing and development of students. They provide essential support to students in areas such as managing stress and addressing mental health issues, which can significantly impact a child's ability to learn and grow. Having access to these services in schools not only supports individual students but also contributes to a positive and supportive school environment, where mental health is prioritised with academic achievement. All students should have access to these resources to help them lead healthier lives.</p>	<p>The Greens support all measures to increase the provision of mental health services in all public schools across the Territory.</p>	<p>Funding under the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement, relate to reforms that focus on 3 national priority areas, which are consistent with the goals of the Mparntwe Education Declaration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Equity and excellence Wellbeing for learning and engagement A strong and sustainable workforce. <p>The actions that are outlined in the Northern Territory Bilateral Agreement (Better Fairer Schools Agreement 2025-2034), demonstrates our commitment to implementing approaches to enhancing services, partnerships and building workforce capacity in and for all Northern Territory schools.</p> <p>Public schools in the Territory are provided a range of services to support student wellbeing and inclusion. The 2024-25 budget allocated for student wellbeing and inclusion services is \$12.33m. The Department of Education has multi-disciplinary teams include school counsellors (qualified social workers or psychologists), positive behaviour implementation coaches, psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists and senior teachers, including hearing and vision inclusion advisors. There are 83 professional positions across the NT directly servicing schools through place-based regional multi-disciplinary teams, with a further 21 positions supporting their professional practice, provide advice, and intake functions to schools.</p> <p>Labor Government is strengthening student wellbeing support in schools and increasing our home-grown School Counsellor workforce, through creating more positions and a new scholarship program. The \$2.8 million program will deliver nine new Student Wellbeing Officers this year, and another five in 2025.</p> <p>A Lawler Government will support schools to meet the unique needs of their context. Our focus will ensure that service needs can be tailored so that individual schools can implement a comprehensive initiative to enhance mental health services that will support their community.</p>
<p>2 School Based Policing Program Expansion</p> <p>Provide adequate resources to maintain and expand the positive School Based Police Program.</p>	<p>We have committed to expanding School Based Policing. Our policy on increasing school attendance includes funding truancy officers, tailored school support by region, and holding parents accountable to get their kids to school. Parental engagement is crucial for success, and the initiative stresses accountability, transparency, and engagement within the system. Additionally, support measures will involve Territory Families, community leaders, and service providers, recognising that success extends beyond education alone.</p>	<p>We provide qualified support for this proposal. The Greens would prioritise funding to the expansion of mental health services, provided by trained counsellors and mental health professionals (as set out in Election Ask 1) prior to allocating funding to the maintenance or expansion of the SBPO program.</p>	<p>Labor recognised the value of the School Based Policing program and reinstated it following its removal by the CLP government. The 2024-25 budget allocated \$3 million to this initiative.</p> <p>Labor supports the Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory. This was developed under the auspices of the NT Children and Families Tripartite Forum.</p> <p>Spanning 2023-2033, this new model and blueprint recognises collaboration between governments, service providers and local communities and builds on the work of the Tripartite Forum. Both the Generational Strategy and the Tripartite Forum were key recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>A Lawler Government will be guided and support decisions made through these key stakeholders and individual schools for funding and resourcing.</p>
<p>3 School Refusal By Students System Support</p> <p>Implement a multi-tiered system of support for students and families in order to capture data and effectively respond to student school refusal/school can't.</p>	<p>We are supportive of the implementation of a multi-tiered support system for students and families.</p>	<p>Support.</p>	<p>Labor has worked to give support to families addressing school-refusal/school can't. Families will continue to be provided with information, advice, internal support from schools, through to community family support services. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Team Around the Learner' initiatives for students who have complex reasons for non-attendance. The team is co-ordinated by the school and can include support from specialists. - Student Engagement Advisors who work with children and families to address the barriers to enrolment and attendance in education through ongoing assessment, planning and review. - Locally-based Dolly's Dream NT Schools Advisor, to help coordinate and facilitate support, education, information and access to Dolly's Dream and Alannah and Madeline resources and programs across NT schools. - support/coaching for schools to implement whole school positive behaviour framework which includes whole school approaches to wellbeing through formal partnership with Be You program. <p>A Lawler Government commits to an on-going working collaborative partnership with NTCOGSO, Tripartite Forum, school leaders and department to ensure policies and programs on school attendance, its impact on learning, and mechanisms to advance evidence-based approaches to addressing non-attendance, including school refusal provides a multi-tiered system of support for students and families.</p>

4	<p>Allied Health: Speech Pathologist Support</p> <p>Commit to increasing the number of Speech Pathologists working in schools, to increase the opportunity for early intervention and better outcomes for Territory children.</p>	<p>We know community safety issues deter healthcare professionals from working in the Territory. The shortage of healthcare professionals across the NT is having a significant impact on our community. Our Plan to attract and retain health professionals in the Territory starts with strengthening our laws, ensuring there are real consequences and pathways out of crime and addressing the root causes of crime. This work is absolutely critical to ensure we have the workforce we need to deliver high quality health services.</p>	<p>Support.</p>	<p>The Lawler Government commits to increase the opportunity for early intervention and better outcomes for Territory children as per the National Reform Directions as outlined in the Heads of Agreement of the BFSA.</p> <p>- Whole-of-system and/or whole-of-school approaches that identify student learning needs early and provide tiered and targeted, intensive supports, in line with evidence-based teaching and a 'multi-tiered systems of support' (MTSS) approach.</p> <p>- A Year 1 phonics check and an early years of schooling numeracy check in all schools, to support teachers and school leaders to identify student learning needs early.</p> <p>Labor will continue to ensure that staff have access to specific professional training available for educators. These include attachment and trauma, dyslexia and significant difficulties in reading, dyspraxia and motor coordination, personalised learning, speech, language and communication needs, students with special needs, understanding and supporting behaviour, understanding ADHD.</p> <p>A Lawler Government commits to supporting schools by providing multidisciplinary teams and onsite school support tailored to the specific needs of each community and workforce capability.</p>
<p>EDUCATION FUNDING</p>				
5	<p>Better and Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA) 2025-2034 NTPS Educator's Enterprise Agreement</p> <p>New funding to cover teacher wage increases: The allocation of new money specifically to fund the difference between the Commonwealth's SRS indexation rate and annual salary increases for educators. This is crucial to ensure that the needs-based funding intended for students is not diverted to cover these significant wage increases.</p> <p>Protecting needs-based funding: The recent \$1 billion partnership to fully fund NT public schools is a positive step. However, it's essential that the student needs-based funding component of the SRS is not used to absorb the costs of teacher wage increases. This funding should remain dedicated to addressing student needs as originally intended.</p> <p>Addressing the School Resourcing Standard (funding) limitations: This election ask aims to ensure that teacher wage increases (12.9 % over the next three years) which are above the Commonwealth wage indexation, are funded separately from the needs-based component of school funding.</p> <p>By allocating new money specifically for wage increases that are above the announced indexation rate on 12 August 2024 (currently 3%), the NT government can maintain the integrity of the needs-based funding model, ensuring that resources intended for student needs and school improvements are not redirected to cover significant salary increases.</p>	<p>We share your concerns that the student needs-based funding component of the SRS should not be used to absorb the costs of teacher wage increases. We also want to get teachers off short term contracts and onto permanent contracts so they can have the confidence to put down roots in the Territory.</p>	<p>Support.</p>	<p>Territory Labor has worked with the Federal Labor Government to deliver an agreement to achieve record levels of education funding and fully fund Territory schools for the first time in our history. This historic agreement will deliver an increase of over \$1 billion in funding over 5 years. This means more teachers, more learning resources and new equipment for schools across the Territory.</p> <p>On average, every NT student in our public schools will be \$33,764 better off and every non-government school student \$7,596 better off over the lifetime of the agreement.</p> <p>The Labor Government commits to protecting and maintaining the integrity of the needs-based funding model, ensuring that resources intended for student needs and school improvements are honoured.</p>
6	<p>NTG Employee Leave Entitlements</p> <p>Commit to NTG employee personal leave to be funded from central based funding, rather than individual school budgets.</p>	<p>If given the opportunity, we look forward to discussing further with NT Schools.</p>	<p>Support.</p>	<p>Labor understands that this is an important issue for NTCOGSO that warrants further exploration. Labor is committed to reviewing this proposal in detail and will work in consultation with relevant stakeholders to assess its potential impact and feasibility. It is essential to protect and maintain the funding model for student needs and school improvements.</p>

7	<p>Recruitment In Remote Schools Prioritise recruitment in remote schools, improve emergency redeployment policies for schools experiencing staffing stress, and increase incentives for remote teaching in the Northern Territory.</p>	<p>We are committed to increasing teacher numbers across the Territory, with a priority on remote schools. That is why we will give teachers financial certainty by moving them off short term contracts into permanent places so they can have the confidence to put down roots in the Territory.</p>	Support.	<p>The Labor Government is continuing to invest in getting Territory students work ready by securing a wages agreement with Territory public school teachers. In early August, Labor made an in-principle agreement with the Australian Education Union NT that will deliver a salary increase of about 13% over the next three years, with all classroom teachers moving up an increment point. This invests in Territory teachers so they can continue their work to get Territory students ready to enter the workforce. It will also address issues of turnover to attract and secure more experienced teachers in the Territory for the long term.</p> <p>To support remote schools, we will implement a 'Hard to Fill School' payment scheme which will allow the CEO of the Department to make special payments or allowances to attract and retain employees in hard to fill schools.</p> <p>Teachers in the Katherine and Alice Springs regions will also be provided an additional attraction allowance of \$1 000 per annum, to increase the current \$3 500 per annum payment to \$4 500 per annum to further assist in attraction and retention into these regions.</p> <p>The Territory Labor Government committed \$2 million to the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education (RATE) program. RATE builds capacity of existing Aboriginal educators in remote and very remote education settings at every step of their education careers and creates opportunities for Aboriginal educators who aspire to become qualified teachers. The RATE has expanded to include vocational education and training and readiness programs which will increase tailored pathway options.</p> <p>Other key work contributing to talent, attraction and retention includes partnering with Teach for Australia; collaborating with CDU on the Teaching Schools Partnership Agreement; enhancing the orientation program; and rewarding Highly Accomplished and Lead Teacher certifications.</p> <p>A Lawler Government will continue to improve support for schools experiencing staffing stress and increase incentives for teaching in the Northern Territory.</p>
8	<p>Middle School Funding Disparity End the funding disparity between Middle and Senior schools from the school level weighting that creates a differential in funding between middle and senior students.</p>	<p>We are supportive of equitable funding but guided by a review.</p>	Support.	<p>A key recommendation of the review was that middle and senior schools should transition to a comprehensive secondary school model. A sole secondary school model will increase support, reduce barriers around the middle school grades, improve attendance and boost the number of students completing year 12.</p>
9	<p>Relief Teachers Reinstated as NTG Employees Reinstate Relief Teachers as employees of the Department, thereby ensuring all costs (and industrial relations) associated with their employment are borne and managed by the Department and not School Representative Bodies (Councils & Boards).</p>	<p>We understand that some relief teachers are set up under their own ABN. If given the opportunity, we will investigate further through guided consultations.</p>	Support.	<p>Labor understands the importance of a strong and reliable relief teacher pool and is committed to supporting schools and teachers. Labor commits to consultation with key stakeholders prior to any further policy decisions.</p>
10	<p>Equitable Support for High-Needs Students in Mainstream Schools Commit to providing equitable funding for students with disabilities attending mainstream schools, ensuring they receive the same level of support as they would in a specialist school. Current funding for a students in a mainstream school is \$20k, whereas funding for those in a specialist school is \$50k.</p>	<p>We agree that more support is needed for children with special needs. We are supportive of equitable funding for students with disabilities attending mainstream schools to ensure they receive the same level of support as they would have in a specialist school.</p>	Support.	<p>The unprecedented investment in schools, secured by Labor, alongside the changes recommended in the school reviews and the Disability Royal Commission, will drive changes to the school funding model, and address any legacy funding disparities.</p>
INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING				
11	<p>Australian Acoustic Standards For NT Schools Commit to immediate and ongoing infrastructure funding to audit and upgrade all NT general learning areas to Australian Acoustic Standards.</p>	<p>We will consider conducting consultations to identify schools with the greatest need</p>	Support.	<p>Labor has a record of delivering record investment in infrastructure, and will continue this if re-elected.</p>
12	<p>Student Boarding Facility Tennant Creek Expedite the construction of a purpose built residential boarding facility in Tennant Creek to open commencement of school year 2026.</p>	<p>We are supportive of the student boarding facility in Tennant Creek and if given the opportunity, we will investigate further.</p>	Support.	<p>Labor has a record of delivering record investment in infrastructure, and will continue prioritising infrastructure projects as appropriate.</p> <p>The design brief and site services assessment and costings for the Tennant Creek Boarding Facility have been completed for a combined \$19m Australian Government and NT Government investment. The original funding provided from the Australian Government under the Barkly Regional Deal was \$9.7m for construction of the facility.</p> <p>The Australian Government committed a further \$6.3m towards construction of the facility in its 2022-23 budget. Under the Barkly Regional Deal, the Lawler Government will contribute \$3m over 2 years from 2024-25 towards operational funding (and the purchase of furniture, fittings and equipment).</p>
13	<p>Special Education Centre Palmerston College As a matter of priority, allocate capital major works funding for the urgent construction of a fit for purpose, Special Education Centres (SEC) for students in years 7-12 at Palmerston College.</p>	<p>We are on record as supporting a new Special Education Centre for middle and senior years in Palmerston</p>	Support.	<p>The Labor Government has already allocated \$2 million in Budget 2024 to undertake concept planning for a new special education school in Palmerston.</p>
14	<p>Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts And Mathematics Centre Palmerston College As a matter of priority, allocate capital major works funding for the construction of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Centre at Palmerston College. Prioritise capital major works funding for schools to ensure all NT secondary students have access to a purpose-built STEAM Centre of Excellence.</p>	<p>If given the opportunity, we will consider the construction of a STEM centre at Palmerston College.</p>	Support.	<p>The Labor Government continues to invest and deliver educational programs in world class Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics STEAM centres. This Labor Government has delivered four STEAM centres since 2017. Further, construction has commenced for a fifth; the \$16.7 million Katherine High School science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics STEAM centre. Labor will continue to invest in STEAM in priority locations as deemed through consultation and concept planning projects.</p>

15	Larrakeyah Preschool Stage 1 Commit to funding the Larrakeyah Master Plan - Preschool Stage 1, ensuring all children in the school catchment area can attend their local preschool.	If given the opportunity, we look forward to discussing and working with Larrakeyah Primary School	Support.	Labor can commit to investigating funding to support all children in the school catchment area of Larrakeyah as part of the the implementation plan for the Presechool review recommendations that the Lawler Government have accepted.
16	Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) School Government Employee Housing (GEH) Prioritise capital works funding to provide more than one (1) government employee house for a school principal and teacher/s.	If given the opportunity, we will investigate further.	Support.	Labor can commit to investigating government housing for a school principal and teachers at Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole) School.
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)				
17	Equity & Access Ensure every student has access to ICT, regardless of their location or school budget limitations. Remote schools must have capacity to provide devices at a minimum ratio of 1 device for every 2 enrolled students.	It is concerning that not all remote schools are equipped with the tools they need to learn. If given the opportunity, we will look into this important issue further.	Support.	All Northern Territory schools will be fully and fairly funded by the Australian and Territory Governments following a historic bilateral agreement signed on 31 July 2024 by the Lawler Government. This provides schools with further ability to buy the devices they need to meet the needs of their students.
HEALTH				
18	Student Health and Nutrition Healthy School Canteens NT Forum Commit to funding territory wide 'NT Healthy School Canteens' forums to determine interest in establishing a Northern Territory Schools Canteen Association.	We are supportive of establishing a NT Schools Canteen Association. If given the opportunity, we will work with NT Health.	Support.	Labor commits to ensuring that government schools are supported with policies and guidelines that align with the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Labor is supportive of working with NTCOGSO, and other stakeholders, to explore the benefits of hosting Healthy School Canteen forums.
19	Nicotine Use By Students Targeted Health Funding Resource and implement the strategies, programs, materials, and services listed below to combat rapidly rising youth nicotine addiction rates. Targeted funding from the departments of Education and Health should be provided, ensuring no impact on school budgets. - Health Education on nicotine - Intensive Year 6 student program to prepare for secondary schooling - Allocate Resourcing to Schools - Teacher Training - School-Based Police Officer Support - Counselling Services - Policy Development - Awareness Campaigns - Data Collection and Evaluation	If given the opportunity, we will work with NT Health on this.	Support.	A Lawler Government is committed to protecting our young people from the harmful effects of nicotine addiction. Labor have taken decisive action by collaborating with the Australian Government, NT schools, and health agencies to implement evidence-based strategies. This includes updating policies, providing comprehensive teacher training, and launching public awareness campaigns to educate our community about the risks of vaping. Through ongoing partnerships and support, Labor will continue to create a healthier future for our youth.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE				
20	Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools Will you commit to allocating dedicated funding for integrating AI into the educational system, ensuring equitable access to AI tools and resources for both urban and remote schools, accompanied by clear policies and guidelines to guarantee effective and responsible implementation?	If given the opportunity, we will look into AI in schools further.	We will commit to investigating the necessity of providing dedicated funding for integrating AI into the educational system and, if shown to be necessary, to advocate for the allocation of appropriate funding.	Labor commits to ensuring that government schools are supported with policies and guidelines to guarantee effective and responsible implementation of AI tools and resources for urban and remote schools. NT Board of Studies will recommend best approaches for the use of AI in schools to ensure NT students do not become disadvantaged in comparison to students in other jurisdictions. The guidelines will be consistent with the national framework approved by Education Ministers.
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:				
21	School Council and Board Recognition Scheme Will you pledge to create a School Council and Board Recognition Scheme to formally acknowledge and support the invaluable contributions of volunteers on school councils and boards, recognising their essential role in enhancing educational outcomes.	If given the opprtunity, we will consult with school boards and councils.	Support.	Labor commits to ensuring that government schools are supported with policies and guidelines for volunteers on school councils and boards. The Labor Government is also keen to see about a day of recognition for volunteers in either Term 3 or Term 4 so that schools formally acknowledge their invaluable contributions.