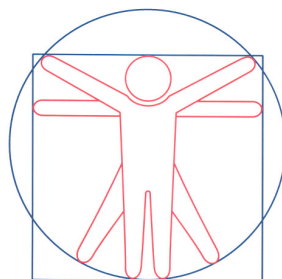


**NORTHERN TERRITORY  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT  
SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2008 – 2009**



**COGSO**

Council of Government  
School Organisations

*COGSO encourages continual improvement in the provision of  
quality educational outcomes for all students in public education*

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## **Foreword**

I am pleased to present the Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations Inc. (COGSO) Program Report for 2008 – 2009.

COGSO is funded by the NT Government under a Community Based Education Organisation (CBEO) annual grant administered by the NT Department of Education and Training (DET), with a paid staff of 1.5 who provide secretariat services to the COGSO Executive.

COGSO has for many years advocated for and sought funding from government, for the establishment of a governance and parental engagement unit situated within the organization. Our research and experience in the field shows a permanent team of 5 staff in both the Northern and Southern Regions, is required to provide a proper support service to all NT Government schools in the Northern Territory.

The Ministerial Council for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs' (MCEETYA) *Melbourne Agreement*, recently defined nine core elements in their Action Plan 2009 – 2012. The establishment of a permanent training and support unit is now even more imperative, given that *'development of stronger partnerships'* is a one of those elements. COGSO believes that to develop stronger partnerships the following criteria must be met:

### **Community Ownership**

The Action Plan of the Action Plan can only be successful if Government, departmental, school and community practices willingly align with the philosophical base.

### **Consultation and Community Engagement**

Program plans designed to implement the core elements of the Action Plan must be aligned to community values and aspirations as opposed to political and/or departmental values and aspirations. To secure such alignment, consultation and engagement must be real and meaningful for all key stakeholders – not, as so often is the case, in name only, with decisions having been made prior to discussions taking place. People feel shortchanged when the feedback they provide is constantly ignored. This destroys any sense of trust or faith the community may have in the political and departmental process.

### **Long term Leadership, Management and Governance Training programs**

School based leadership, management and governance training and support, must be provided to all Principals, School Councils and/or parent advisory bodies if they are to do the job they are

being asked to do under the requirements of the MCEETYA 2009 – 2012 Action Plan, and the NT Education Act .

### **Financial resourcing**

To *develop stronger partnerships*, appropriate levels of financial resourcing must be allocated to support the delivery of comprehensive, long term training and support programs to school communities.

### **Human Resources**

Appropriate numbers of trained education professional, para professional and other related personnel must be placed in schools and communities to support and facilitate the development of stronger partnerships. The Vice Chancellor of Charles Darwin University (May 2009), was recently noted to have said that the delivery of education and training programs, particularly in remote NT communities, could not rely solely upon Information Technology, that it is in the face to face building of relationship that positive learning outcomes are generated.

With each of these criteria in mind, COGSO will continue to advocate for funding to provide long term governance and family engagement training and support to School Councils, individual parents and the broader school community across urban, rural and remote education settings in the Northern Territory.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Executive members and staff of COGSO for a job well done, and commend the 2008 – 2009 Annual Report to you.

**Peter Garrigan**  
**President**

## **Section One: Corporate Overview**

### **Introduction**

A community based, not for profit organization, COGSO provides a representative voice for families of children in NT Government Schools, advocating for the best educational outcomes for children in the Northern Territory.

### **Incorporation**

COGSO was incorporated under the NT Associations Act in 1971, and became an affiliate of the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO), the national peak representative body for parents of children in public education in Australia, in the same year.

### **Funding**

From its inception in 1971, COGSO was provided with operational funding by the Department of Education and Training (DET), on a triennial (until 2000) and then annual basis. DET also provided one full time Executive Officer to the organisation until 2003.

Since 2003 COGSO has been funded by DET under its Community Based Education Organisation's (CBEO) program. The level of funding has not increased since that time. COGSO has consistently advocated for additional funding to run in-service training programs on governance and family engagement in schooling for the past eight years.

### **Staffing**

A full time Executive Officer, and a part time Office Manager, are employed under the CBEO grant to provide secretariat services to Executive.

Contract Project Officers are employed from time to time to undertake special projects when the organization is in receipt of one off program funding.

### **Legal accountability**

According to its Constitution, the organisation holds a minimum of four Executive meetings per annum. Additional Executive meetings are held on a needs basis, with ongoing discussion taking place between members via a variety of media.

Executive is charged with ensuring it meets all requirements under the current NT Associations Incorporation Act.

The COGSO Business Committee, comprised of four elected Executive members is charged by Executive to act on their behalf when decisions and direction are required during the periods between quarterly meetings.

### **Financial Reporting**

A set of reconciled monthly accounts is submitted for acceptance to each quarterly Executive meeting. The annual Draft Budget is submitted by May of each year for Executive endorsement.

COGSO's accounts are audited annually and submitted to DET, and the NT Department of Business Industry and Regional Development, in keeping with reporting requirements for not-for-profit community based organisations. The Annual Audit completed in July of each year, is also submitted to the Annual Council and AGM for acceptance.

### **COGSO Council and Executive**

COGSO enables advocacy and representation at the local school, NT and Federal Government levels on behalf of families, School Councils and other interested parties on education and related issues in public schooling.

COGSO Council at the Annual Council Meeting and AGM provides direction to the Executive. Executive is charged with meeting that direction through the course of the following year. Secretariat staff carry out that direction on behalf of Executive and Council.

### **Executive Office Bearers and Members**

At the Annual Council and AGM, nominations are called for the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer from across all NT Government School Councils.

Each of the six Regional representatives (Darwin, Barkly, East Arnhem, Katherine, Palmerston and Rural, and Southern), are voted in by COGSO Regional Councils at their Annual General Meeting.

### **Regional representation**

At the rise of each Executive meeting, Regional Representatives communicate outcomes to all School Council COGSO representatives in their region, who in turn, take the information back to their individual School Councils.

# HOW COGSO WORKS

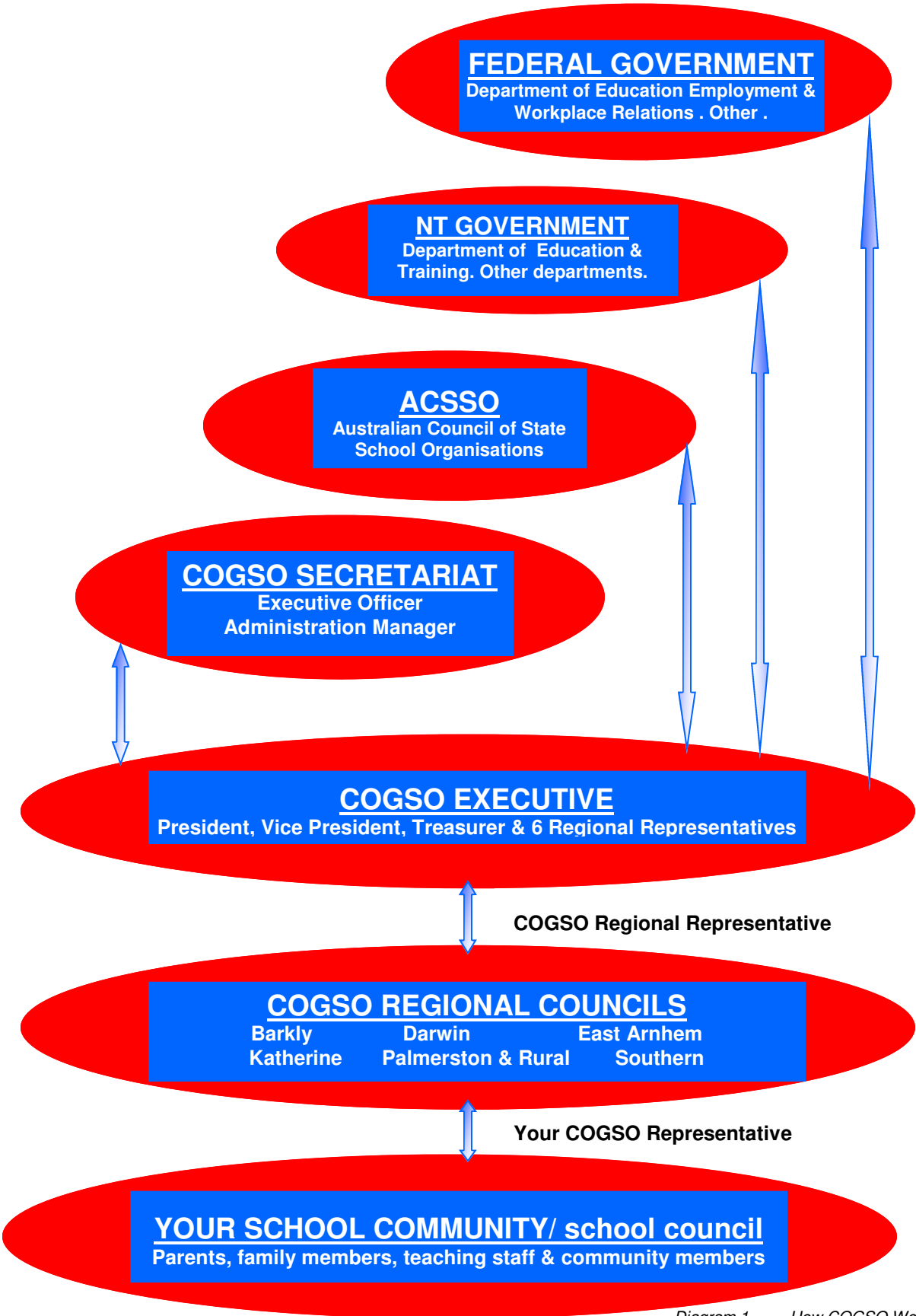


Diagram 1. How COGSO Works

## **Section Two: Corporate Operations**

### **Constitution**

Since the inception of an outcomes based performance reporting agreement between DET and COGSO in 2003-04, the organization has undergone a growth and development period in the implementing, monitoring and assessment of its performance. The COGSO Constitution ([www.ntcogso.org.au](http://www.ntcogso.org.au)), provides the foundation from which all of COGSO's operational activity takes place.

### **Program Plan**

In conjunction with DET in 2002/03 a Program Plan was developed in line with the current COGSO Mission Statement and Constitution. The Program Plan Objectives guide the development of the program's Components, Activity and Performance Indicators. To fulfill its Mission Statement and in keeping with the Constitution, COGSO aims to be:

- Working in partnership with all NT Government School Councils and their communities to Establish formal and consistent COGSO communication networks across all NT Government School Councils and their communities
- Working in partnership with Government, DET and other education related service providers in support of NT Government School Councils and their communities, to resource, support and advise NT Government School Councils and their communities, on education management and best practice
- Working in partnership with other Government School, private and/or independent education representative bodies to provide high level representation and advocacy on behalf of all parents of NT Government School children in relation to children's rights to full participation in an equitable and just public education system.

### **Program Components, Activity and Performance Indicators**

The Program Plan gives rise to components, activity and performance indicators used to measure that activity. (See Section Three: Performance Indicator Reporting) The COGSO Performance Indicator database compiles data against agreed upon indicators to provide an annual activity report.

### **Additional program reports**

Please see [www.ntcogso.org.au](http://www.ntcogso.org.au) for copies of COGSO's governance and parental engagement project work in remote NT Indigenous community school settings:

- *Parents and Teachers Working Together*
- *Strong Schools Strong Communities*
- *Atitjere Parent Teacher Transition to School Kit*
- *Urban and Remote Parent Teacher Mentor Program*

## Section Three: Performance Indicator Reporting

In developing a new set of Performance Indicators at the review of the COGSO 2007 – 2008 report, the 2008 – 2009 report provides baseline data for comparison in future years. The table below notes COGSO activity against agreed upon Performance Indicators for the 2008 – 2009 period.

<b>1 Resource Support and Advise</b>	<b>1.1 Electronic data base</b>  <u>Comments:</u> An efficient data base is developed and maintained	<b>1.1.a Data base entries are updated quarterly</b>	
	<b>1.2 Email</b>  <u>Comments:</u> Resources, support and advice are distributed as requested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information is appropriately received noted and disbursed</li> </ul>	<b>1.2.1 By region</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Section Total: 329</b></div>	<b>1.2.1.a Number of schools who request and receive advice, support, training and resourcing.</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"><b>328</b></div>
			<b>1.2.1.b Number of NT Government schools contributing information to COGSO.</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"><b>38</b></div>
		<b>1.2.2 By organization:</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Section Total:</b></div>	<b>1.2.2.a Number of emails received by category</b> <u>Note:</u> To be revised in database
	<b>1.3 Web Comment</b> Graph page 11	<b>1.3.1 Number of website hits for a twelve month period</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Section Total 209,569</b></div>	

	<b>1.4 Training and advice</b> <u>Comments:</u> Where they are qualified and able to, COGSO representatives provide governance training sessions to School Councils, schools and parent groups or individuals.	<b>1.4.1 By region</b>  <b>Section Total: 96</b>	<b>1.4.1.a Number of training sessions requested</b>  <b>7</b>
			<b>1.4.1.b Number of training sessions provided.</b>  <b>18</b>
			<b>1.4.1.c Number of Telephone Queries</b>  <b>71</b>
	<b>1.5 Written</b> <u>Comments:</u> Number of letters initiated and received by COGSO	<b>1.5.a Correspondence sent by COGSO</b>  <b>Section Total: 21</b>	<b>1.5.a.1 Ministerial</b>  <b>2</b>
			<b>1.5.a.2 Departmental</b>  <b>9</b>
			<b>1.5.a.3 NT Government Schools; School Councils and parents</b> <u>Note:</u> Mail out to all NT Schools (152)  <b>10</b>
		<b>1.5.b Correspondence received by COGSO</b>  <b>Section Total 100</b>	<b>1.5.b.1 Ministerial</b>  <b>20</b>
			<b>1.5.b.2 Departmental</b>  <b>35</b>
			<b>1.5.b.3 NT Government Schools</b>  <b>70</b>
			<b>1.5.b.4 School Councils and parents</b>  <b>10</b>
	<b>1.6 Publications</b> <u>Comments:</u> 4 issues of COGSO	<b>1.6.a 4 issues of parent are distributed each year</b>	<b>1.6.b – Discussion Papers</b>

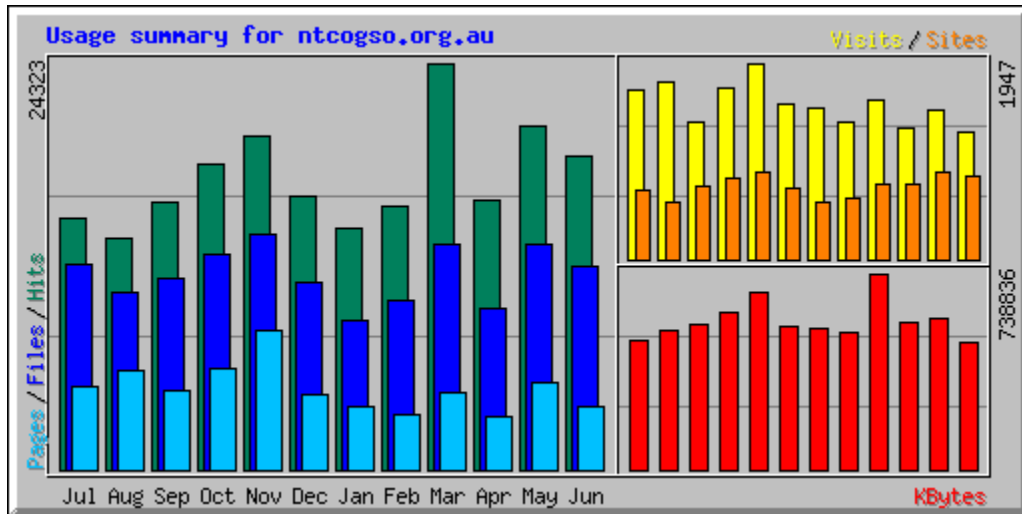
	<p>newsletter, parent are published and distributed annually to each parent of a child in public education, and other interested members of the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion papers are commissioned as budget constraints permit</li> </ul>	<p><u>Note:</u> 4 issues @ 23,000 copies mailed out</p> <p><b>Section Total: 92,000</b></p>	
	<p><b>1.7 Resources</b></p> <p><u>Comments:</u> COGSO publishes and distributes up to date resources for School Councils including You're on a School Council...Now What?, and office bearer handbooks on Roles and Responsibilities.</p>	<p><b>1.7.a COGSO resources are bi annually reviewed and updated</b></p> <p><u>Note:</u> School Council Hand books updated and reprinted in January 2009.</p> <p>4 books mailed out to al NT Public Schools</p> <p><b>Section Total: 608</b></p>	

<b>2 Representation and Advocacy</b>	<b>2.1 Identification of COGSO membership on representative and advocacy based groups by Category.</b>	<b>2.1.a Northern Territory representation and advocacy</b>  <b>Section Total 33</b>	
		<b>2.1.b National representation and advocacy</b>  <b>Section Total 18</b>	
		<b>2.1.c Media based representation and advocacy</b>  <b>Section Total 54</b>	
		<b>2.1.d Number of Meetings Attended</b>  <b>Section Total 90</b>	
	<b>2.2 Number of Northern Territory Government schools by region represented at Annual Council Meeting</b>	Darwin 9 Palmerston/Rural 5 Katherine 2 Southern 1 <b>Section Total 17</b>	
	<b>2.3 COGSO Projects</b> <u>Comments:</u> Management of COGSO Projects	<b>2.3.1 Management Activity</b>  <b>Section Total 53</b>	

# Usage Statistics for ntcogso.org.au

Summary Period: Last 12 Months

Generated 29-Jun-2009 16:28 EST



## Summary by Month

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
<a href="#">Jun 2009</a>	647	418	130	43	832	480938	1252	3795	12140	18785
<a href="#">May 2009</a>	664	434	168	47	865	572332	1486	5221	13470	20598
<a href="#">Apr 2009</a>	535	322	105	43	749	553101	1307	3157	9678	16064
<a href="#">Mar 2009</a>	784	436	149	50	748	738836	1571	4638	13522	24323
<a href="#">Feb 2009</a>	563	360	117	48	609	513123	1359	3278	10088	15767
<a href="#">Jan 2009</a>	465	289	120	48	573	531170	1498	3721	8975	14443
<a href="#">Dec 2008</a>	528	360	145	49	711	540900	1541	4500	11166	16387
<a href="#">Nov 2008</a>	664	467	276	64	873	664752	1947	8305	14027	19946
<a href="#">Oct 2008</a>	589	413	194	54	806	592814	1696	6028	12826	18260
<a href="#">Sep 2008</a>	534	380	156	45	724	544856	1357	4705	11409	16037
<a href="#">Aug 2008</a>	447	341	192	56	561	523178	1751	5959	10581	13874
<a href="#">Jul 2008</a>	486	396	158	54	691	485014	1684	4913	12294	15085
<b>Totals</b>						<b>6741014</b>	<b>18449</b>	<b>58220</b>	<b>140176</b>	<b>209569</b>



## MINUTES

# ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of the Northern Territory Council of Government  
School Organisations Inc. Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008 Mirambeena Travelodge Darwin NT

The meeting opened at 8.42.am.

### Welcome

The President welcomed members and delegates to the Annual Council and AGM.

### Present & Apologies

Attachment 1

9.00a.m.

### GUEST SPEAKER

#### Northern Territory Certificate of Education: Future Completion Requirements

Ms Susan Barton Johnston  
Assistant General Manager Teaching, Learning and Standards  
Department of Employment, Education and Training  
(Council Response to Discussion Paper - Attachment 2 )

### Item 1

1.1

### MINUTES

#### Unconfirmed Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at the Mirambeena Travelodge on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

The Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held at Mirambeena Travelodge on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007, with amendments, were accepted as a true and correct record.

Michael Duffy/Bill Russell  
CARRIED

Amendments:

Attachment 1: Correct spelling of Ketterisch is Ketteritzsch.  
Nightcliff Middle School enrolment noted as 150

### Item 2

### BUSINESS ARISING

The President gave a briefing on action taken in response to direction from Council 2007, and on issues canvassed with the Minister for Education and the Department of Employment, Education and Training during the 2007 – 2008 period. (Attachment 3)

### Item 3

3.1

### REPORTS

#### Corporate Report

3.2

#### Treasurer's Report

3.3

#### Barkly Region Report

**3.4 Darwin Region Report**  
Council noted the Darwin Region Report.  
**Amendment:**  
Misspelling in the report – *Manunda Terrace*.

**3.5 East Arnhem Region Report**

**3.6 Katherine Region Report**

**3.7 Palmerston and Rural Region Report**

**3.8 Southern Region Report**

**3.9 ACSSO Report**

***Note to Reports 3.2 to 3.9:***

*A record of verbal reports and discussion on items 3.2 to 3.9, are provided at Attachment 5.*

It was moved that reports 3.1 to 3.9 be accepted.

Lisa Rothwell/Christine Milne  
CARRIED  
Unanimous

**Item 4**

**4.1**

**MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Draft Middle Years of Schooling Policy (Approved Policy at Attachment 6)**

Moved:

That the draft Middle Years of Schooling Policy be accepted by Council.

Michael Duffy/Lisa Rothwell  
CARRIED  
Unanimous

Council moved into Committee for 5 minutes to discuss amendments to the draft policy.

Julie Donohue/Bill Russell  
CARRIED  
Unanimous

Moved:

That the amendments to the draft Middle Years of Schooling Policy be accepted.

Bill Russell/Marilyn Galt  
For 39  
Against 7

Moved:

That the Middle Years of Schooling Policy as amended, be approved by Council.

Michael Duffy/Julie Donohue  
CARRIED  
Unanimous

**4.2 Draft Indigenous Education Policy (Approved Policy at Attachment 7)**

Moved:

That the draft Indigenous Education Policy be accepted by Council.

Bill Russell/Ros Ther

CARRIED

Unanimous

Council moved into committee for 5 minutes to discuss amendments to the draft policy.

Michael Duffy/Matt Skoss

CARRIED

Unanimous

Moved:

That the amendments to the draft policy be accepted.

Michael Duffy/Kim Hawthorne

CARRIED

Unanimous

Moved:

That the draft Indigenous Education Policy be accepted by Council.

Michael Duffy/Christine Milne

CARRIED

Unanimous

**Item 5 LATE MOTIONS**  
**Nil**

**Item 6 GENERAL BUSINESS**  
**Nil**

**Item 7 MEETING CLOSE**

The President thanked all delegates for attending and entering into spirited debate on a long weekend. The Annual Council Meeting closed at 2.30 p.m.

**Number of School Councils represented: 17**

**Number of Students represented: 8,146 (approx 25% of enrolled school population)**

All attachments as below are available from the COGSO Website at AGM/Council meetings, or alternatively by contacting the COGSO Secretariat on 89993255 or emailing: [enquiries@ntcogso.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ntcogso.org.au)

**Attachment 2** Council Response to NTCE Future Completion Requirements Discussion Paper  
*Discussion Paper on NTCE Completion Requirements is available on request: enquiries@ntcogso.org.au)*

**Attachment 3** Report on Council Directed Action Items 2007

**Attachment 4** President's Address to Council and AGM

**Attachment 5** Record of verbal reports and discussion, Items 3.2 to 3.9

**Attachment 6**

Approved Middle Years of Schooling Policy  
COGSO Annual Council & AGM, Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008  
Mirambeena Travelodge, Darwin NT

**Attachment 7**

Approved Indigenous Education Policy

# **MINUTES**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Northern Territory Council of Government School  
Organisations, held at the Mirambeena Holiday Inn, Darwin NT, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008

The President opened the meeting at 11.20 a.m. welcomed those present, noted the apologies and recognised those carrying proxies.

**Present and Apologies:** Attachment 1 as per Annual Council meeting.

**1. MINUTES**

**1.1 Minutes of the 2007 Annual General meeting**

The unconfirmed Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting held at the Mirambeena Travelodge on Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, as amended, were confirmed as a true and correct record.

**Amendments**

Kirsten Cridland's name is to be noted as included in delegates present.

The correct spelling is *Ketteritzsch*

The correct spelling is "Wugular" School.

Michael Duffy/Lisa  
Rothwell  
CARRIED

**2. RETURNING OFFICER**

**2.1** Mr Steve Carter was nominated and elected unopposed for the position of Returning Officer.

Julie Donohue/Lisa Rothwell  
CARRIED

**3. REPORTS**

**3.1 President's Report**

The President noted the Annual Report provides an overview of organisational activity, and that a further address would be provided to the Council Meeting at the close of the AGM.

Julie Donohue/Christine Milne  
CARRIED

**3.2 Treasurer's Report**

**3.2.1 Treasurer's Report**

Council *received* the Treasurer's Report and *noted* the advice in relation to the report.

Julie Donohue/Bronwyn McCrostie  
CARRIED

**3.2.2 Auditor's Report 2007 - 2008**

Council *received* the Unqualified Audit Report for 2007 – 2008.

COGSO has accepted the recommendations made by the Auditor as at the report of August 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Julie Donohue/Bronwyn McCrostie  
CARRIED

**4. 2008 OFFICE BEARERS**

**4.1 Election of President**

Nominee Peter Garrigan (Elected unopposed)

**4.2 Election of Vice President**

Nominee Michael Duffy (Elected unopposed)

**4.3 Election of Treasurer**

Nominee Julie Donohue (Elected unopposed)

**4.4 Regional Chairs**

Council was advised that the Regional Chairs and representatives to Executive for 2009 are:

Barkly	Jo Rush
Darwin	Lisa Rothwell
East Arnhem	Vacant
Katherine	Bill Russell
Palmerston & Rural	Wendy Pelizzo
Southern	Matt Skoss

**5. AUDITOR**

**5.1 Nomination of Auditor for 2007 - 2008**

Council *agreed* to retain Lowry and Associates as its Auditors for 2008 - 2009.

Julie Donohue/Wendy Pelizzo  
CARRIED

There being no further business the President thanked members for their attendance at the Annual General Meeting and declared the meeting closed at 11.45a.m.