

Media Release – 14 December 2012

Mums and Dads can't afford to pay the bills for NT Government Infrastructure on top of their household bills

Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (COGSO) President Adam Walding advised that "School Councils are conveying to COGSO their considerable angst and outrage about the prospect of having to cover Government expenses out of hard earned fundraising dollars or allocated funding for the provision of quality education".

Parents are already hurting from being hit in the hip pocket with the increases to their household bills, the increased costs to schools that aren't being fully covered will hit the parents a second time. The funds for the increases will have to come from hard earned fundraising money or a drop in resources and programs which provide a quality education to their children. "This is totally unacceptable and the current Government does not want to make time to talk about this issue with the peak parents body. I can't understand the lack of consultation and engagement this Government has taken on key education issues for our children" stated Adam.

COGSO has requested meetings with the current Government to discuss school issues such as these and as yet have not been able to secure an appointment. "It is disappointing in these times of fiscal change, where the effects are so far reaching and hurting families that the Government is not able to make the time to hear the concerns of public school parents".

Mr Walding reiterated COGSO's previous requests that "the NT Government must provide funding to schools to cover the full increase of electricity, water and sewerage so that educational orientated funding is not used."

The contributions parents make via book fees and fundraising should not be expected to cover the costs of essential services needed to make our public schools operational.

Parents should not be expected to support paying the costs of running Government owned infrastructure such as public schools.

Further information:

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