

**Present:** As per list below

**Apologies:** As per list below

## WELCOME

The President, Tabby Fudge opened the meeting at 8:30am, formally welcomed those present and noted the apologies.

The President respectfully acknowledged past, present and emerging Traditional Custodians of this land on which we meet, the Larrakia people, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The President extended that respect to all Aboriginal people attending.

The President extended appreciation to Trent Bundirrik Lee, Didgeridoo player and Aboriginal artist for the cultural musical welcome for attendees.

Council *received* the Welcome to Country from Cyan Sue-Lee, Larrakia Elder at 8:40am.

The President officially opened the Annual Full Council Meeting at 8:50am.

## 1. PRESIDENT REPORT

### 1.1 Work of the Executive on Motions from 2022 Annual Full Council Meeting

Council *noted* the responses to the motions from 2022.

#### 1.1.2 Formal Correspondence

Council noted the formal correspondence.

#### 1.1.3 NTCOGSO Annual Report 2022/2023

Council *received* and *noted* the Report.

Tabby Fudge/Noel Carpenter/CARRIED

## 2. TREASURER FINANCE POSITION

Interim Finance report presented.

Richelle Kent/Tanya McKenna/CARRIED

### 3. MINUTES

#### 1.2 Minutes of the 2022 Full Council Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 Full Council Meeting held at the Mercure Darwin Airport Resort, Ansett Room, Saturday, 29 October were *confirmed* as a true and correct.

Richelle Kent/Natasha O'Keefe/CARRIED

#### 3.1 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Barkly Regional Report: Tabled

Wayne Green/Tanya McKenna/CARRIED

Big Rivers Regional Report: Tabled

Noela Anderson/Nikki Elliott/CARRIED

Central Regional Report: Tabled

Lauren Winter/Noel Carpenter/CARRIED

Darwin Regional Report: Tabled

Jacqueline O'Reilly/Noela Anderson/CARRIED

East Arnhem Regional Report Tabled

Noel Carpenter/Fred Richardson/CARRIED

Top End Regional Report: Tabled

Tanya McKenna/John Ronayne/CARRIED

Council *agreed* to suspend the Annual Full Council at 9:22am to hold the Annual General Meeting.

Council *resumed* at 9:40am.

Council *received* a presentation on the JTLeadLikeAGirl Program from Seranna Schutt, Johnathan Thurston Academy.

Council *received* an update from Michelle Ayres, on the work of the NT Australian Education Union.

Council *received* a presentation on School Based Policing from Acting Assistant Commissioner of Police, Janelle Tonkin.

Council *engaged* in a Round Table discussion with the Honourable Eva Lawler MLA and Karen Weston.

Council *received* the Minister's Address from the Honourable Eva Lawler MLA, Minister for Education.

Council *received* the Education Update from Karen Weston, Chief Executive, Department of Education.

Council temporarily adjourned the meeting for a lunch break at 1:00pm.

Council *resumed* after the lunch break at 2:09pm.

## 4. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

### 4.1. Review of the Extended Personal Leave policy

"THAT NTCOGSO advocate for a review of the Extended Personal Leave policy by the Department of Education NT to reduce the impact on global school cash budgets resulting from overspends which occur when high levels of accrued personal leave with DOE, cannot be compensated for periods under 16 days as per the Extended Personal Leave policy.

Jo Glennon / Allen Fanning / **CARRIED** -2023/1.1  
UNANIMOUS

### 4.2. Staffing in remote schools

"THAT NTCOGSO advocate for increased focus on staffing in remote schools. This would include improved policy for emergency redeployments in schools under staffing stress and improved remote teaching incentives in the Northern Territory."

Jacqueline O'Reilly / Rebecca Trimble / **CARRIED** -2023/1.2  
UNANIMOUS

### 4.3. School Refusal

"THAT NTCOGSO requests that the NT Department of Education establish distinct codes in the mandated student administration system to effectively record cases of 'School Refusal' to understand the prevalence and causes of school refusal. Furthermore, we request that the Department of Education undertake the following multi-tiered system of support:"

**Data Collection:** Establish an agreed definition of school refusal and develop strategies for effective intervention and support.

**Professional Development:** Teachers and school staff receive professional development, training, and support from the department to recognise the signs of school refusal, differentiate it from truancy, and implement strategies to support affected students.

**Early Identification and Assessment:** Implement a system for early identification of students at risk of school refusal. This includes screening programs to identify students at risk, particularly during key transition points (e.g., starting preschool or transitioning to middle or high school). Conduct thorough assessments to understand the underlying causes of refusal, such as anxiety disorders, bullying or academic challenges.

**Anti-Bullying Initiatives:** Implement anti-bullying programs and policies to create a safe and inclusive school environment. Address bullying incidents promptly and involve parents in resolution efforts.

**Trauma-Informed Practices:** Support schools through additional resourcing to implement trauma-informed practices to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for students, including those experiencing school refusal. These practices are to recognise the impact of trauma on students' behaviour and well-being and respond with empathy and appropriate support.

**Family-School Collaboration:** Support school staff to collaborate closely with parents and caregivers to understand and address the specific needs of students struggling with school refusal. Effective family-school engagement is crucial.

**Provide alternative learning pathways:** Provide and publicise widely, flexible education delivery models, interest-led learning, remote learning, or alternative school settings. These options must aim to accommodate students who find traditional schooling challenging.

**Mental Health Support:** Resource schools in mental health support for students. Provide access to early intervention school counselling for students experiencing anxiety or other mental health challenges related to school refusal. Ensure easy access to mental health resources for students and families.

**Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch an ongoing public awareness campaign to reduce stigma around school refusal and to educate parents, students and the community about available support services.

**Advocacy and Support Groups:** Identify advocacy groups and support networks for parents dealing with school refusal to provide information, resources and peer support.”

Nikki Elliot / Suzanne Lowry / **CARRIED** -2023/1.3  
ABSTAINED: 2

#### 4.4. Special Education Centres | Palmerston College

“THAT NTCOGSO request the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and Department of Education (DOE) urgently allocate capital works expenditure for the immediate construction for, a fit for purpose, Special Education Centres (SEC) for students in years 7-12, to be built for Palmerston College. Furthermore, when we say fit for purpose, we mean not breaching capacity, and cramped learning environment as we are currently experiencing.”

Nikki Elliott / Susan Lowry / **CARRIED** -2023/1.4  
ABSTAINED: 1

#### 4.5. Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Centre | Palmerston College

“THAT NTCOGSO request that the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and Department of Education urgently allocate capital works expenditure for the construction of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Centre to be funded by NTG in 2024.”

Nikki Elliott / Susan Lowry / **CARRIED** -2023/1.5  
ABSTAINED: 1

#### 4.6. Withdrawn by original proposer.

#### 4.7. Electronic smoking in schools | Target Funding

“THAT NTCOGSO request the Northern Territory government, through their responsible Ministers, resource and implement the strategies, programs, materials and services listed below to combat rapidly rising rates of students electronic smoking in schools. Targeted funding from the departments of Education and Health should be provided, ensuring no impact on current school budgets.

- Mandatory Vaping Prevention Education
- Intensive Year 6 Program
- Allocate Resourcing to Schools
- Teacher Training
- School-Based Police Officer Support
- Counselling Services
- Policy Development
- Awareness Campaigns
- Data Collection and Evaluation”

Tanya McKenna / Nikki Elliott / **CARRIED** -2023/1.6  
ABSTAINED: 1

#### 4.8. E Electronic smoking in schools funding | installation of tamper proof ‘state-of-the-art school safety and e-smoking sensors

“THAT NTCOGSO request the Northern Territory Government (NTG), through the Minister for Education and the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics, immediately allocate new funding for the installation of tamper proof ‘state-of-the-art school safety and e-smoking smart sensors’ specifically designed to detect smoking, bullying, violence or vandalism in Northern Territory government schools;

- o ablution blocks
- o bathroom areas
- o toilet cubicles and
- o all other areas of a school deemed necessary by the individual school.”

Tanya McKenna / Nikki Elliott / **CARRIED** -2023/1.7

## MOTIONS ON URGENCY

That Council calls on the Department of Education to promptly reinstate Relief Teachers as employees of the Department, thereby ensuring that all costs associated with their employment are borne and managed by the Department and not School Councils.

Nikki Elliott / Allen Fanning / **CARRIED** -2023/U1.8  
UNANIMOUS

THAT NTCOGSO requests that the Department of Education provide information as to how the department will provide additional transparency regarding distribution of NCCD funding (for students with disabilities).

Noel Carpenter / John Ronanyne / **CARRIED** -2023/U1.9  
UNANIMOUS

## 4.1 POLICY

**School Based Police Program**

**School Based Mental Health Service**

**School Based Nurses**

Motion to 'Go Into Committee' for the purpose of discussing the three proposed Policies.

Jacqueline O'Reilly / Rebecca Trimble / **CARRIED**  
UNANIMOUS

Council went into Committee for 30 minutes.

Council came out of Committee and resumed business.

Life Member Peter Garrigan recommended the Executive consider their appointment to a Policy Review Committee.

## 5. LATE MOTIONS

### 5.1. Healthy Food and Drink in Schools | Promotion

"THAT NTCOGSO take a proactive stance in advocating for the promotion of healthy food in schools, in alignment with the 'Australian Dietary Guidelines' and the 'National Healthy School Canteens -Guidelines for healthy foods and drinks supplied in school canteens.'

Furthermore, we recommend that the Department of Education be directed by the NT government to ensure strict adherence to the existing Department of Education 'School nutrition and healthy eating' policy and guidelines within schools. Additionally, we call for the Department of Education to actively collaborate with schools, communities, and government bodies, promoting a shared commitment to prioritise the availability of healthy food and drinks in schools."

Tanya McKenna / Nikki Elliott / **CARRIED** -2023/1.10  
UNANOMOUS

## **5.2. Healthy School Canteens NT Forum**

"THAT NTCOGSO requests that the Northern Territory Government sponsor a territory wide forum called 'Healthy School Canteens for the NT' with a view to determine interest for a Northern Territory Canteen Association."

Tanya McKenna / Nikki Elliott / **CARRIED** -2023/1.11  
ABSTAINED: 3

## **5.3. School Reviews | Mandate active participation SRB and LEaD Committee Members**

"THAT NTCOGSO requests that the Department of Education revise and expand the scope of School Reviews to mandate the active participation of School Representative Body (SRB) and Local Engagement and Decision Making (LEaD) Committee members. Further, it is essential that these reviews comprehensively assess and consider SRB processes to ensure a holistic understanding of the school's functioning, stakeholder involvement, and to promote an inclusive approach to continuous school improvement."

Tabby Fudge / Nikki Elliott / **CARRIED** -2023/1.12  
UNANOMOUS

## **5.4. Student Laptops For Remote Schools | East Arnhem Region**

"That NT COGSO advocate that the DOE provide funding for student laptops for remote schools in the East Arnhem Region where in the school, there is no unallocated cash or reserve jobs in the preliminary and final budgets that could otherwise be used to fund these devices. The number of devices funded should be at a ratio of half that of the actual student enrolment for the year."

Friendly Amendment to the Motion. Made to include all remote and very remote schools.

## **5.5. Student laptops for remote and very remote schools**

"That NT COGSO advocate that the DOE provide funding for student laptops for remote and very remote schools where in the school, there is no unallocated cash or reserve jobs in the preliminary and final budgets that could otherwise be used to fund these devices. The number of devices funded should be at a ratio of half that of the actual student enrolment for the year."

Noel Carpenter / May Martin/ **CARRIED** -2023/1.1  
UNANOMOUS

## 5.6. Lanyard duress alarm system | Namarluk School

“THAT NTCOGSO advocate to DoE and DIPL to fund the full cost of the installation of a ‘lanyard duress alarm system’ at the school. The current duress alarm system is not adequate and there are concerns for the safety and well-being of all staff and students, when there is an incident requiring additional staff/supports. Being able to respond more efficiently in an emergency/crisis situation is critical to ensuring quicker de-escalation and/or faster medical assistance being sought”.

Richelle Kent /Jacqueline O’Reilly / **CARRIED** -2023/1.14  
ABSTAINED:2

There being no further business the President thanked all delegates for attending a highly successful Full Council Meeting and declared the meeting closed at 5:05pm.

**Tabby Fudge**  
**President**

### ATTENDANCE:

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
Alice	Gawler	NTCOGSO
Allan	Fanning	Nightcliff Primary
Amila	Gunawardana	Casuarina Senior College
Anicet	Wall	Wulagi Primary
Benjamin	Bayliss	Borrooloola School
Cherisse	Buzzacott	Gillen Primary
Colleen	McTaggart	Katherine High
Desley	Keighran	Borrooloola School
Destiny	Pluto	Borrooloola School
Fred	Richardson	Invited Member & Public Officer
Jacqueline	O'Reilly	Henbury School
Jarryd	Sullivan	Wagaman Primary
Jane	Arnott	Borrooloola School
Jethro	Ngaijilla	Pine Creek School
Jo	Glennon	Nightcliff Primary
John	Ronayne	Alawa Primary
Kylie	Clime	Stuart Park Primary
Lance	Ashley	Pine Creek School
Larisa	Lee	Barunga School
Lauren	Winter	Centralian Senior College
Lorenzo	Siciliano	Taminmin College
Luke	Davis	NTCOGSO
Mary-Jay	Nepe-Fuamatu	NTCOGSO
May	Martin	Barunga School
Michelle	Parker	NTCOGSO
Natasha	O'Keefe	NT COGSO



Nikki	Elliott	Palmerston College
Noel	Carpenter	Nhulunbuy Primary and Nhulunbuy High Schools
Noela	Anderson	Borrooloola School
Penny	Seamer	Rosebery Primary
Peter	Garrigan	Life Member
Philip	Russel	McFarlane Primary
Rebecca	Trimble	Bakewell Primary
Richelle	Kent	Sanderson Middle and Casuarina Senior College
Samuel	Sailor	Nganambala School
Simon	Niblock	Darwin High
Susan	Lowry	Palmerston College
Tabby	Fudge	Taminmin College
Tahj	Schapel	NTCOGSO
Tanya	McKenna	Taminmin College
Tom	Pugh	Jingili Primary
Wayne	Green	Tennant Creek High
Wendy	Pelizzo	Life Member

#### **APOLOGIES:**

<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL/REGION/ORGANISATION</b>
Amius	Lennie	Centralian Senior College
Anita	Sams	Nganambala School
Bianca	Stevens	Middle Point Primary
Cherry	Chavez-Hopwood	Leanyer Primary
Chrysilla	Miler	Woolianna School
Danielle	James	Nganambala School
Elaine	Kungiung	Nganambala School
Fiona	Anderson	Nganambala School
Jarrod	Vague	Woolianna School
Kellyanne	Daly	Woolianna School
Melissa	Sams	Nganambala School
Nadine	Daly	Woolianna School
Nigel	Hector	Nganambala School
Norma	Sams	Nganambala School
Norman	Miller	Nganambala School
Penny	Frost	Jingili Primary School
Philip	Russell	Mac Farlane School
Ralph	Dein	Middle Point Primary
Rebecca	Moussa	Dripstone Middle
Rebecca	Wigg	Nightcliff Primary
Renee	Thomas	Nganambala School
Sevil	Aldas	Palmerston College
Sharon	Daly	Woolianna School