



THE VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NTCOGSO Welcomes Government's Commitment to School-Based Mental Health Support

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO) congratulates the NT Government on its national recruitment campaign to attract qualified school counsellors and social workers to Territory schools.

This renewed focus on student wellbeing follows a clear commitment made by the Country Liberal Party before the last election, and we are pleased to see it now being delivered.

Expanding eligibility through the Northern Territory Public Sector Qualifications Handbook to include professional counselling memberships, not just traditional social work qualifications, is a welcome and strategic improvement. It broadens the pool of skilled professionals able to support students and their families within schools.

Every student should be able to knock on a door at school and have help available immediately. This initiative brings us one step closer to making that a reality.

NTCOGSO has long advocated for greater mental health support in schools. A motion calling for school-based counsellors was first raised by our members in 2016. Since then, we have consistently pursued this issue through multiple governments and across multiple policies and iterations, including our School-Based Mental Health Services Policy.

This announcement represents important progress. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with the Department and the NT Government.

Dr Ruth Mirams  
President

### ABOUT NTCOGSO

*The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NTCOGSO) is the parent representative body that advocates for the interests of government students and schools across the Northern Territory. NTCOGSO works collaboratively with education stakeholders to support the delivery of high-quality education and ensure the well-being and success of NT students.*

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MEDIA RELEASE