

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Standing room only at COGSO forum

The Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations (NT COGSO) President, Gerard Reid congratulated the nearly 50 representatives of school councils who attended the NT COGSO forum on Saturday to discuss cuts to school budgets, and thanked Mr Ken Davies, Chief Executive, Department of Education for attending also.

Representatives from Senior School Councils all over the Territory, including:

- Darwin High School;
- Palmerston Senior College;
- Taminmin College;
- Casuarina Senior College;
- Centralian Senior College;

Middle School Councils, including:

- Rosebery Middle Schools;
- Sanderson Middle School;
- Darwin Middle School;
- Nightcliff Middle School;
- Dripstone Middle School;

Primary School Councils, including:

- Parap Primary School;
- Stuart Park Primary School;
- Nakara Primary School;
- Rosebery Primary School;
- Bees Creek Primary School;
- Girraween Primary School;
- Mataranka Primary School;
- Nhulunbuy Primary School ;
- Douglas Daly School;
- Durack Primary School;
- Jingili Primary School;
- Ludmilla Primary School;
- Nightcliff Primary School;
- Henbury School;
- Larrakeyah Primary School;
- Batchelor Area School;

and representatives from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) attended the forum to discuss the impact on Global School Budgets on their schools' financial situations.

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Mr Reid said “Affiliated schools have authorised and requested COGSO to continue to seek assurance that no school is worse off in 2015 as a result of the introduction of Global School Budgets.

NT COGSO has a 100% affiliation rate in schools with a school council, and a combined total of 75% affiliation rate for all schools across the Territory.

The forum passed the following motions:

**Motion 1**

That affiliated school councils authorise and request COGSO to continue to campaign on behalf of schools to hold Minister Chandler to account for his promise that no school will be worse off under Global School Budgets

**Motion 2**

That affiliated school councils authorise COGSO to request the release of the staffing impact of the global budget in comparing 2014 to 2015

**Motion 3**

That affiliated school councils in attendance at this meeting authorise COGSO to appropriately release publicly any information provided at this meeting, where it relates to Global School Budgets and their impact on schools in 2015.

The Chief Executive of the Department of Education, Mr Ken Davies, Deputy Chief Executives, Susan Bowden and Catherine Weber also attended to answer questions from School Councils.

Mr Reid said “Representatives from School Councils asked Mr Davies informed and well-thought-out questions. The real question, which we are still waiting to be answered, is ‘Why are Territory students being asked to shoulder the burden of an unfunded pay increase?’”

“This is about providing the best opportunities we can for our children. That is why people came to this meeting. We must do more to give our children the best education we can. We are asking our government to prioritise the education of our children throughout the Northern Territory” concluded Mr Reid.

**Further information:**

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