

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister – Casuarina Senior College is knocking on your door Will you answer?

In Parliament last Thursday 27 November, when asked why schools are having to cut teacher and support staff numbers and programs for 2015, Minister Chandler said *“Why do we not have every school across the Northern Territory knocking on my door saying, ‘We do not have the money we had’? It is an absolute fallacy”*.

Mr Gerard Reid, President of NT COGSO, said “Well Minister, Casuarina Senior College is knocking loudly on your door and we implore you to listen”

“COGSO congratulates Casuarina School Council on standing up after two straight years of savage school budget cuts and saying, enough is enough!”

“At an extraordinary school council meeting held last night, council unanimously rejected the Global School Budget. They stood up for their school education plan and the learning outcomes of their students by passing the following motions”;

Casuarina Senior College Council Incorporated rejects the Global School Budget because

- We will not accept the loss of 5.8 classroom teachers for 2015
- We will not accept funding based on 88.2% effective enrolment
- We will not accept the added cost shifting burden of 32 staff currently funded by the Department without allocation within the global school budget (these include HLO, AIEW, ESL, Learning Support, C4E and Careers Advisors)
- We will not accept our 5 leadership positions being funded for only 20 weeks
- We will not accept a budget in deficit to the tune of **\$672,000** which would include teacher and staff cuts
- We will not accept a budget that includes significant unfunded liabilities such as sick leave and the impact of a 2016 return of permanent staff to full time work.

This has a real effect on the learning outcomes for our children. If these cuts were to proceed we would lose Legal Studies and see reductions in Indonesian, Japanese, Tech Studies, English, Maths and Dance.

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Mr Reid continued “We have heard from schools who will have to cut staff - teachers, administration staff and education support workers, including tutors and Aboriginal and Islander Education Workers (AIEW).”

“We have heard from schools who will have to increase class sizes due to a reduction in teacher numbers. We have heard from schools that have had to cease contracts for their experienced teachers (CT9s) and replace them with inexperienced, newly graduated teachers.”

“This is an absolute outrage. Minister Chandler promised us that “no school will be worse off in 2015 as a result of the introduction of global school budgets”.

“For the Minister to refuse to accept the truth, and to have the audacity to call the shock and pain of his global school budgets a “fallacy” is not acceptable”

“COGSO is calling on NT school councils to write to Minister Chandler and advise him of their schools budgetary situation.”

“COGSO does not accept another year of cuts to NT schools. Our children have already suffered from the enormous cuts to our teaching staff we went through last year. To force schools onto a global school budget, thinly veiled disguise for yet another round of savage cuts, is disgraceful. ” concluded Mr Reid.

Further information:

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