

## Public Education Election Q&A 2020

Q1

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### **AUSTRALIAN ACOUSTIC STANDARDS IN SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR ACOUSTIC UPGRADES**

If elected, will you commit to immediate funding to complete the school Master Plans for:

- Yuendumu School,
- Tennant Creek High School, and
- Katherine High School.

**Territory Alliance has committed to upgrading remote and regional schools to meet acoustics standards to ensure we support students with a hearing loss. The commitment you seek is well within our policy of acoustics upgrades and the education infrastructure fund of \$100million. Please refer to our Education Policy and Aboriginal Prosperity and Rights Policy.**

**[www.territoryalliance.org](http://www.territoryalliance.org)**

In addition, will your party commit to this immediate infrastructure funding to ensure all general learning areas are upgraded to Australian Acoustic Standards for:

- Yuendumu School,
- Tennant Creek High School, and
- Katherine High School.

Please refer to commitment above. Territory Alliance believes the Education Infrastructure Fund adequately provides the capacity to upgrade Yuendumu School, Tennant Creek High and Katherine High to meet acoustics standards for learning areas.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION  
11.10 NT FULL COUNCIL 2019  
MOTION 10.6

Q2

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## **SCHOOL BASED POLICING PROGRAM REINSTATEMENT**

If elected, will you *adequately resource* NT Police to reinstate the School Based Police Program and ensure School Based Police return and remain in schools?

Territory Alliance is committed to reinstating the School Based Police Program and ensuring Police return to our schools. We are committed to rolling recruitment programs for Police to return the force numbers required. This will ensure our schools can have Police back working proactively with our school communities.

Q3

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## **SCHOOL BASED POLICE PROGRAM EXPANSION IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

If elected, how much additional funding will you provide to NT Police for the expansion of the School Based Policing program for additional School Based Police for all primary and high schools across the NT? This additional funding must maintain School Based Police positions, in schools, 5 days a week.

In Government Territory Alliance would seek advice on the recurrent funding required to support our Police across schools in the NT. We are committed to the proactive and important work undertaken by School Based Police.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION  
11.5 NT FULL COUNCIL 2019  
MOTION 11.13 NT FULL COUNCIL  
2018 MOTION 6.4 NT FULL  
COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.7 NT  
FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION 6.11**

### **Q4. BARKLY REGION**

#### **BARKLY REGION STRATEGIC PLAN**

If elected, will you commit to work with all Barkly schools to develop a Strategic Plan for the region that includes, but is not limited to future needs; infrastructure; and individual school masterplans?

Territory Alliance would support a Regional Strategic Plan for schools in the Barkly that addresses infrastructure needs. We support individual school masterplans being developed.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2018  
MOTION 6.6**

### **Q5**

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#### **NTG FUNDED STUDENT TRANSPORT TO BOTH TENNANT CREEK HIGH AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

If elected, will you commit to providing free student public transport to both Tennant Creek Primary and High Schools?

Currently funded by Tennant Creek School budgets which has no provision for transport.

Territory Alliance in government would seek private and philanthropic partnerships to support a school bus service in Tennant Creek.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION  
5.10**

**Q6**

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**KATHERINE  
REGION**

**KATHERINE FLEXIBLE LEARNING  
EDUCATION CENTRE**

If elected, will you commit to *providing* ongoing funding to Katherine High School for the continued operation of the Katherine Flexible Learning Education Centre (KFLEC), to ensure that this campus and service is a permanent facility supporting students and families in the Katherine Region?

This funding must be in addition and separate to the school's global budget and within separate reporting.

Territory Alliance will provide ongoing funding support to Katherine High School to support the continued operation of the Katherine Flexible Learning Centre.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION  
10.7**

**Q7**

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**ADDITIONAL  
NEEDS**

**EQUITY OF FUNDING FOR HIGH NEEDS STUDENTS WITH NO ACCESS TO  
SPECIALIST SCHOOLS**

If elected, will you commit to equitable levels of funding for students with a disability who have to be in a mainstream school as they have no access to a special school?

As they have to attend a mainstream school, they do not receive the same level of funding as students who attend a specialist school.

Territory Alliance has a genuine commitment to provide students with special needs additional assistance with an investment in additional teacher aids across our schools. This policy initiative is contained within our Education Policy. In addition, we will address the need to better access allied health services for assessment of their needs.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2017  
MOTION 5.4

**Q8**

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## **FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

If elected, will you commit to funding government schools for every student with additional needs based on enrolment and not attendance.

The Territory Alliance Education policy provides for additional investment in teacher aids which we believe could adequately cover this request.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION  
11.9

**Q9**

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## **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

### **COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND PRIORITY CHANGE**

If elected, will you commit to changing the priorities of Community Benefit Funding from Infrastructure to addressing the mental health and wellbeing of Territorians?

This would recognise that Community Benefit Funding is generated through a 10% levy applied to electronic gaming machine losses, which have significant negative social consequences as a direct result of problem gambling.

Territory Alliance review of the Community Benefit Fund. In addition we will work with the Commonwealth to realise greater funding opportunities to address mental health and wellbeing needs through an increase in programs.

NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION  
11.6

### Q10

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#### **TRAINED COUNSELLORS - FULL TIME ACCESS FOR ALL SCHOOLS**

Will your party commit to providing all schools with *adequate* access to a trained counsellor/psychologist on a full-time basis to assist teachers to work with students who are facing adversity or are demonstrating mental health challenges?

Increased support from Commonwealth funded programs for Territory schools will be a genuine priority. We recognise much more must be done to assist teachers who work with students who face adversity and mental health challenges.

We will seek a report on the status of the existing supports and work with the Commonwealth to increase our capacity to provide far greater support.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION**

**6.3**

### Q11

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#### **FUNDING FOR FULL TIME COUNSELLORS IN REMOTE SCHOOLS**

If elected, will you commit to the provision of full-time counsellors to meet all remote student's mental health needs?

Please see response above. This would include remote schools.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION**

**6.12**

### Q12

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#### **CENTRAL FUNDING AND PROVISION OF ONSITE PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNSELLORS**

If elected, will you commit to providing centrally funded school counsellors onsite at all primary schools to enable early support to students, families and staff in developing positive mental health through trauma informed approaches/practices?

Territory Alliance will do a needs assessment of school-based counsellors and seek National Partnership funding opportunities with the Commonwealth.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2017 MOTION**

5.2

**Q13**

**DISCRIMINATION**

**DISCRIMINATION WITHIN FAITH-BASED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

If elected, will you commit to opposing exemptions in Territory and Commonwealth legislation which allow faith-based educational institutions to discriminate against students, teachers or staff on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status?

Territory Alliance does not have a position on this as we have not consulted with faith-based schools and have formed our Education Policy on addressing the public school system. We are opposed to discrimination.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION**

11.8

**Q14**

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**ALLIED HEALTH  
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST  
SUPPORT**

If elected, will you commit to *increasing* the number of Speech Pathologists working in schools, to increase the opportunity for early intervention and better outcomes for Territory children?

Territory Alliance is committed to increasing access to allied health professionals for our students, including speech pathologists.

**NT FULL COUNCIL 2019 MOTION**

10.10

**Q15. CASE  
MANAGEMENT**

**FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENTS**

## AT RISK

If elected, will you commit to the development of a collaborative framework for the Departments of Education, Families, Health and NT Police, supported by detailed service guidelines, to enable effective case management of at-risk students and their families?

Yes. Please refer to our Safe Children and Stronger Families policy at [www.territoryalliance.org](http://www.territoryalliance.org)

## NT FULL COUNCIL 2018 MOTION

6.9

### Q16. Question Supplied

#### REMOTE ABORIGINAL TEACHER EDUCATION (RATE)

If elected, will you commit to reinstating and retaining from Term 1 2021, the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education (RATE) program and if yes, how will you fund it to ensure adequate, on the ground support for those participating?

What steps would be taken to consult regarding design and implementation of a re-established RATE program?

Territory Alliance has a strong commitment to Growing Our Own in delivering education across remote and regional schools. We have committed to working with Aboriginal education experts to meet the needs of Aboriginal students, teachers and school communities. We would seek expert advice on RATE.

### Q17. Question Supplied

#### MOBILE PHONE USE IN SCHOOLS

Several Australian states, and democratically governed countries, have concluded from peer reviewed research that banning Mobile Phones in classrooms from first bell until last bell conveys academic, social and psychological advantages to the students. Further, such bans have been shown to reduce both the psychosocial and academic workloads of teachers.

If elected will you commit to commissioning an independent, professional survey of DoE staff,



parents and students as to whether they would support a ban on mobile phones in classrooms from first bell until last bell. If there is consensus for a ban, would you legislate or mandate for this?

Yes we would undertake the survey. We recognise this is currently a serious topic under consideration. We would commit to respecting the outcome of the survey and consider the wisest approach to implementing any recommendations.