

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Make it work Minister

Mr Gerard Reid, President NT COGSO said today “Our schools are not better off under the Global budget allocations, as promised by the Minister of Education Peter Chandler.”

“The Minister has not been able to give a clear answer about how the EBA pay increases will be funded. The claim is that the increases have been included in the allocated budgets.”

“Principals (not Councils) received their budget allocations in September.

The EBA agreement was settled in October with no subsequent announcement of and increase to the budget allocations provided. This does not add up! How can the school have already had funding for an increase in Teacher wages before that increase was agreed to?”

“The Ministers Department has been working with Principals all term and together they have left it to the last couple of weeks in the year to share the information with Councils. Minister, was this deliberate so that we would not have a clear picture of the situation to allow a reasonable debate?”

“Minister we do not need you and your department telling Principals to give a positive spin on a bad situation. We do not need you and your department telling Principals to reign in their school councils. These school councils have the people that will make Autonomous Schools and Independent Public Schools work. We are people with ideas and skills to offer in the development of our schools, we are not sheep to be herded!”

These are but some of the questions school councils are putting to COGSO to ask you Minister;

- “Why did we lose money from our budgets when we couldn’t fill a position last year? We still need that position. Why are we being penalised?”
- “Why are senior vacancies only being advertised for term 1? How will that attract quality leadership?”
- “Which classes do we drop to meet your budget cuts?”

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“Minister Chandler, collectively COGSO Executive and Staff are on a total of 11 school councils. We speak from experience. We are seeing the cuts to our own schools. We know it; the Principals know it; the staff know it; the school councils now know it; the Department of Education know it. “

“Minister, we don’t need any more spin. We need our schools to be funded to allow our children to reach their full potential. School autonomy is not workable if it is not funded properly.” concluded Mr Reid.

**Further information:**

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