



## YOUR VOICE FOR NT PUBLIC EDUCATION

The NT Annual Full Council Meeting is an annual event that allows School Councils and School Boards from NT Government Schools to come together and table motions for consideration and guide NTCOGSO's work for the following year.

Below is a list of the motions that were raised at the 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 NT Annual Full Council Meetings relating to Students with Additional Needs.

### 24 October 2015

#### 1. **Current Waiting Periods for Students**

NTCOGSO Executive take urgent action to request the current waiting periods for students to access;

- a) Occupational therapists,
- b) Speech therapists,
- c) Behavioural therapists

for the regions not previously advised: Southern, Barkly, East Arnhem, Katherine and Palmerston & Rural - rural schools not included in last information).

#### 2. **DoE Strategy for Students with Special Needs**

NTCOGSO Executive request from the Department of Education a report on the strategies for students with special education needs in each NT school including costings / funded amounts for staffing and future new facilities / resources.

Further, recently the Department worked on the Students with a Disability Policy and Guidelines. Have these been finalised? NTCOGSO is seeking to share information to families with a child with a disability in preparation for 2016 school year.

NTCOGSO is seeking the recommendations of the DoE requested Mercer assessment for regionalised and central services and the dates implemented.

### 12 November 2016

#### 3. **Counsellors in schools**

That NTCOGSO request the Territory government commit to assigning, to every primary school, a counsellor appropriately resourced in line with middle and senior schools in order to address rising mental health issues facing students today.

#### 4. **Smiling Mind Program in Schools**

That NTCOGSO request the Territory government commit to implementing the evidence-based Smiling Mind program (under their 2017 \$8M behavioural management allocation) from the start of 2017 to all schools in the Northern Territory in line with the Department of Education's Strategic Plan that every child is a successful learner.

#### 5. **Mental Health and Wellbeing Programs in Schools**

That NTCOGSO request the Department of Education supports all schools across the Northern Territory to implement a mental health and emotional wellbeing program for the whole of school community.

#### 6. **Resources for Children with Additional Needs**



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That NTCOGSO request the Territory Government provide adequate resources for regional & remote communities for children with additional needs.

### **7. Reducing Red Tape for effective Implementation of Recourses for our Children**

That NTCOGSO request the Minister for Education commit to addressing and resolving identified systemic barriers and red tape that prevent the effective implementation of resources for our children by the Departments of Education, Health, Disability, Youth Justice, Children & Families.

**18 November 2017**

### **8. Central Funding and Provision of Onsite Primary School Counsellors**

That NTCOGSO strongly campaign NT Government, the Department of Education, and Minister to provide and fund centrally 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.

### **9. Provision of Additional Support Staff in Early Years Primary**

That NTCOGSO request Department of Education (DoE) to provide extra support staff in early year's primary schools to assist teachers with behavioural management through the cementing of Social and Emotional Learning and Restorative and Reflective practices. This we feel will continue to improve behavioural pathways into middle and secondary schooling as students will have the tools they need and it will reduce the stress of behaviour management on all teachers.

**24 November 2018**

### **10. Remote Indigenous Student Access to Student Services**

That NTCOGSO request the Department of Education to refine the referral process for assessment to student services.

### **11. AMSANT Support of Remote Indigenous Student Assessment and Diagnosis**

That NTCOGSO requests AMSANT to provide detail on how their remote members are collaborating with schools in their regions to support students with additional needs through the assessment & diagnostic process and in the therapeutic supports available.

### **12. Trained Counsellors - Full Time Access for All Schools**

That NTCOGSO request the Minister for Education and the Minister for Health to work together to provide all schools with 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 issues.

### **13. Funding for Full Time Counsellors in Remote Indigenous Schools**

That NTCOGSO lobby both directly and through public awareness the Northern Territory & Federal Ministers for Health and the Federal Minister for Indigenous Health for the provision of full-time counsellors to assist our student's mental health needs. NTCOGSO lobby the above Ministers to fund these counsellors as we believe it is wrong to take away limited education funds for what is a necessary, health related expense.