
Presentation to
The Northern Institute
16th February 2016

www.education.nt.gov.au
Indigenous Education Review findings

- Many Indigenous children suffer from disadvantage before they reach school.
- By Year 3, Indigenous students who attend remote schools in the Northern Territory are two years of schooling behind Indigenous students in very remote schools in the rest of Australia.
- By Year 9 the gap in writing is about five years; NAPLAN literacy rates in very remote schools at about 10%.
- Attendance rates continue to decline and enrolments drop off dramatically in secondary school.
The Raw Data
At age 5 - Indigenous kids are already behind
# NAPLAN Results

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Students attending less than 4 days per week

- Provincial: 1145
- Remote: 1405
- Very Remote: 6726
- Total: 9276

- Indigenous
- Non Indigenous

Source: www.education.nt.gov.au
The relationship between attendance and achievement

At or above national minimum standard
Tracking enrolment patterns

Number of Students

Age

Total
Very Remote
Remote
Provincial

www.education.nt.gov.au
Raw Number of Very remote NT government schools
Indigenous NTCE-NTCET completions
(not including TC and Nhulunbuy)
How to respond
5 key elements

• Element 1: Foundations (Early Childhood)
• Element 2: Essentials (Primary Years)
• Element 3: Pathways (Secondary years)
• Element 4: Engagement (Wanting to go to school each day)
• Element 5: Workforce (The best people)
Key Actions 2015-17
Early Childhood

What we are doing

✓ Expanding the reach of our Families as First Teachers Program (FaFT) from the current 21 remote Indigenous communities, into 32 communities by the end of 2017

✓ Introducing a new preschool curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy

✓ Placing managers in each Child and Family Centre (CFC) to coordinate services across health, education and family support that works to meet the needs of family and children accessing the CFCs located at Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ngukurr, Palmerston and Yuendumu

✓ Ensuring all schools have a planned timeline of events and activities that prepare children and their parents for the changes from Families as First Teachers to preschool and from preschool to year one.

Allocation - $24.75M
What we are doing

- Implementing mandated curriculum and assessment framework in all remote schools, that provides a consistent approach to the teaching of literacy and numeracy

- Introduce the Direct Instruction method into selected remote primary schools

- Establish Northern Territory wide age testing twice per year for numeracy, writing, reading, phonemic awareness and sight words

- Ensure our principal performance plans and school plans to reflect all mandated elements of our strategy

- Introduce policy to guide the delivery of Aboriginal Languages and Culture programs in Northern Territory schools.

Allocation - $47.60M
Secondary Years

✓ Establish a Transition Support Unit with a presence in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Darwin to support students and their families to make choices about their secondary education and assist them to overcome barriers to attend boarding school.

✓ Build the first of our new boarding facilities at Nhulunbuy High School to provide residential places to access secondary education for students for kids in Arnhem Land.

✓ Develop the employment pathways curriculum to engage young people in learning relevant to their career pathways.

Allocation - $59.78M
What we are doing

- Expanding a consistent girls’ engagement program into 7 more secondary schools that has a main focus on the completing the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training, health, well-being and employment options beyond school

- Better engaging with communities, families and students and formalising this through the development of a community engagement charter to set the expectations for the relationship between schools and the communities

- Implement a whole system approach to behaviour management and well-being in all schools.

Allocation - $19.34M
Getting the best people working in our schools

What we are doing

✓ Develop a workforce plan with a focus on ensuring educators in remote schools are well equipped to deliver improved student outcomes

✓ Mentoring our young principals in remote schools, to strengthen the academic performance of their schools and develop their cultural competency for working with their community

✓ Implement a coordinated accredited professional development program in partnership with BIITE for 320 Indigenous educators to improve capacity to support teaching and learning programs in schools.

✓ Undertake a remote teacher housing refurbishment program so our staff can go home to a comfortable and safe lifestyle.

Allocation - $29.81M