

National School Reform Agreement

Northern Territory Bilateral Agreement: 2023 Progress Report

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Executive Summary

The Northern Territory (NT) remains committed to progressing all outstanding actions under the NT Bilateral Agreement. Implementation is being supported through the Education NT Strategy 2021–2025 and NT Education Engagement Strategy 2022-2031 with reform activities leading towards improving the educational outcomes of students and young people across the NT.

In 2023, the NT government, Catholic and Independent school sectors have successfully completed the 2023 activities under the Bilateral Agreement.

In 2023, all eligible NT schools participated in NAPLAN online with 42 of 188 schools utilising the low and no bandwidth solution.

The NT has continued the implementation of the Regional Strategic Improvement Agendas, which highlight the key improvement agendas and type of support required in each of the 6 regions. The Regional Strategic Improvement Agenda has been continually reviewed informing current processes and practices.

Progress Against Each Reform Direction

Reform Direction A - Support students, student learning and achievement

Implementation of NAPLAN Online

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Cohort of government and non-government schools implement NAPLAN Online	All sectors	May 2019	N/A - Completed in 2019
Improved data processes in place to increase integrity of NAPLAN assessment data across both government and non-government sectors.	All sectors	September 2019	N/A - Completed in 2019
All eligible government and non-government schools implement NAPLAN Online, noting that, at the date of signing this agreement, no tested no/low bandwidth solution has been delivered which may affect the Northern Territory's ability to implement in those affected schools.	All sectors	May 2020	<p>Completed in 2023</p> <p>Government</p> <p>All eligible NT schools participated in NAPLAN online in 2023. Testing took place from 15 March 2023 to 27 March 2023. In 2023, 42 of the 188 eligible schools used the national low and no bandwidth solution.</p>

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			<p>AISNT</p> <p>All independent schools have implemented NAPLAN Online.</p> <p>CENT</p> <p>From 2021, all CENT schools have been utilising the high bandwidth solution for students participating in NAPLAN Online.</p>
Growth data available for first cohort of matched students who have NAPLAN Online in 2020 and 2022 based pedagogy, quality teaching and leadership innovation	All sectors	Sept 2022	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>All sectors</p> <p>In 2023, the NAPLAN reforms introduced (replacing the 10 band structure with proficiency standards and levels and moving the annual testing window from May to March) have caused a break in the timeseries data. As a result, the next available growth data set will be 2023 to 2025.</p>

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Invest in pathways for remote and very remote students to provide opportunities and deliver workplace-specific skills and knowledge that is tailored to employment opportunities within communities			
Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Mobile and embedded trainers working with approximately 15 very remote schools in 2018	NTG	2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Up to 225 students are engaged in accredited training	NTG	2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Up to 250 students annually, and their communities, engaged in accredited training	NTG	2019-2022	N/A - completed in 2022

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Reform Direction B – Support teaching, school leadership and school improvement

Continued implementation of Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) with a focus on moderation and quality control measures

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Participation in two cross-sector moderation activities per annum	All sectors	2019-2023	<p>2023 activities completed</p> <p>NTG</p> <p>A minimum of 2 cross-sector moderation activities have occurred annually between 2019 to 2023. In 2023, 2 face-to-face and 2 online moderation sessions were run.</p> <p>AISNT</p> <p>AISNT schools participated moderation sessions with the AISNT Teaching and Learning Coordinator and inclusion support staff from independent schools.</p> <p>School based moderation sessions were by the AISNT Teaching and Learning Coordinator for inclusion support</p>

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			<p>staff and teachers. AISNT does not collect participation data for these activities.</p> <p>CENT</p> <p>Catholic Education NT urban secondary school teachers participated in 2 South Australian Certificate of Education moderation sessions for Personal Learning Plan, English and Numeracy for 2023.</p>
<p>Inclusion Support Coordinators in place and teachers trained to use the Learning with Diversity Integrated System</p>	<p>Catholic Education</p>	<p>2019-2023</p>	<p>2023 activities completed</p> <p>CENT</p> <p>Inclusion support coordinators (ISC's) remain in place in all schools.</p> <p>All NT Catholic schools report student with disability numbers using INSPIRE software. Training has been provided to ISC's and teachers to enhance their proficiency in the use of INSPIRE software. Internal Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School</p>

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			Students with Disability audits were conducted and showed a 100% compliance rate.
Project governance structure established through the network leaders within Education NT Strategy (coaches work under network leaders to work intensively with focus schools)	NTG	2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Identify focus schools based on school improvement data	NTG	2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Deliver intensive support to focus schools in 5-week sprints	NTG	2018-2023	<p>2023 activities completed</p> <p>NTG</p> <p>A Strategic Partnership Model was developed to ensure that each of the departments' service provision divisions can strategically prioritise targeted support for schools and regions.</p>

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Evaluate at end of each 5-week sprint – refine strategies where necessary	NTG	2018-2023	<p>2023 activities completed</p> <p>NTG</p> <p>Previous differentiated support strategies have been refined following a review of past implementation. The findings of this review have been addressed and current processes and practices reflect these findings. The strategic partnership agreements will be reviewed every 5 weeks. The model will be reviewed quarter 4, 2024.</p>

Strengthen local governance arrangements in remote and very remote school communities, ensuring decisions are community-led

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Develop Local Decision Making assessment continuum reflective of the Northern Territory Government Influence Model.	NTG	By Dec 2018	N/A - Completed in 2018

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Northern Territory Council of Government School Organisations Incorporated (NT COGSO) to develop governance training protocols and schedule of visits and workshops in remote and very remote communities.	NTG	By Dec 2020	N/A - Completed in 2019
Ongoing engagement with local communities to enhance school engagement and local governance across 50 per cent of remote and very remote government schools.	NTG	By Dec 2020	N/A - Completed in 2020

Assist schools to improve governance and financial management practices

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Provide leadership and school board professional development with an emphasis on roles and responsibilities and how to work effectively together	Independent Schools	2018-2023	N/A - Completed in 2020
Provide assistance and training for Independent schools to improve financial management	Independent Schools	2018-2023	N/A - Completed in 2021

Assist schools to improve governance practices

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
School leader and teacher recruitment and appointment processes reviewed and updated	Catholic Education	2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Review of operations, personnel and structures to ensure support for schools is in line with best practice	Catholic Education	2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Review and refocus the CENT School Improvement and Renewal Framework to ensure an ongoing, rigorous approach to school self-assessment and review	Catholic Education	2019	N/A - Completed in 2019
School Improvement Assessment, External Validation and Registration Renewal processes completed for all schools	Catholic Education	2019-2023	N/A - Completed in 2021
Professional development programs and appraisal processes implemented for middle and senior school	Catholic Education	2019-2023	N/A - Completed in 2021

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

and system leaders.			
---------------------	--	--	--

Reform Direction C – Enhancing the national evidence base

Implement a system wide, data driven, coherent school and system improvement framework. The reforms will drive evidence-based strategies that will deliver differentiated support for Territory schools and ensure a focus on continuous school improvement

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
Establish a School and System Improvement delivery unit to develop and implement a school and system improvement framework	NTG	Oct 2018	N/A - Completed in 2018
Develop standardised metrics for schools and system performance and improvement	NTG	2019	N/A - Completed in 2019
Develop resources identifying evidence-based school improvement strategies	NTG	By Dec 2020	N/A - Completed in 2020
Evaluate the school improvement framework	NTG	2021	NTG

National School Reform Agreement – Bilateral Agreement Report – NT – 2023

Actions	Sector(s)	Timing	Progress towards implementation of actions (including progress of non-government sector actions)
			<p>Completed June 2023.</p> <p>The NT Department of Education partnered with the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) on their research project 'Supporting continuous school improvement'.</p> <p>As part of this project, AERO provided a tailored exploration on the intricacies of school improvement in the NT, offering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities unique to the NT.</p>