

## Review of Secondary Education in the NT (the Review)

*This document has been developed to highlight key elements from the Review regarding this topic.*

### Boarding pathways

#### What does the Review recommend about boarding pathways?

The Review sets out a goal for a guaranteed standard of local secondary school provision for all students, regardless of geographic location.

A guaranteed standard of provision means that all students will have a pathway in their local community to complete the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) and achieve core literacy and numeracy skills, which forms the foundation of success beyond school.

This would see the NT Government move away from the current policy, set out through the *Indigenous Education Strategy (2015-24)* that relies on boarding as the primary means for students in remote and very remote communities to access senior secondary education providing more choice of secondary education pathways for students and families.

The model of delivery to achieve this standard is flexible, supporting students to pursue the pathway options that are most meaningful to them, based on their needs and aspirations for secondary schooling and beyond. This includes academic, vocational and cultural pathways to NTCET completion, that are built on core literacy and numeracy attainment.

To ensure that a meaningful choice is available to students and families, the review identifies that there is still a continued role for the system to play in facilitating boarding pathways. This is important as there will always be students who benefit from accessing mainstream education in urban settings and traditional boarding models, either within the NT or interstate, as well successful partnerships between school communities and boarding providers, some of which have resulted in successful boarding outcomes.

However, the Review recommends that the weight of investment in secondary education should be placed in strengthening access to high quality local provision rather than traditional boarding options. In doing so, the system can work towards creating meaningful choice of pathways for students and families, and reduce its reliance on boarding pathways.

In relation to boarding, the Review recommends working with the Commonwealth to improve visibility of student enrolments and explore opportunities for ABSTUDY funding for boarding (including for both traditional and innovative boarding models) to support improved outcomes, and where there is community aspiration.

#### What does this mean for school communities across the NT?

- There is no immediate change to the current secondary schooling structure of the Territory.
- Throughout 2024, the department will undertake further planning and consultation to prepare for implementation.
- The department will work with local school communities to identify aspirations for secondary education provision.
- The Review sets out a goal for a guaranteed standard of local secondary school provision for all students, regardless of geographic location.

- A guaranteed standard of provision means that all students will have a pathway in their local community to complete the NTCET and achieve core literacy and numeracy skills, which forms the foundation of success beyond school.
- While boarding is still viewed as an important part of the NT education system, as it offers students and their families a choice in secondary education, and pathways for students; the weight of evidence from stakeholder engagement and data suggests that the reliance on boarding should be reduced.
- Delivering on this goal requires considered engagement with local school communities, articulation and implementation of a guaranteed standard of provision, innovative delivery models and solutions, and access to infrastructure and system supports to enable delivery.
- To ensure that a meaningful choice is available to students and families, there is still a continued role for the NT to facilitate boarding pathways (in the NT and interstate).
- The department will work with the Commonwealth Government to improve visibility of student enrolments and explore opportunities for ABSTUDY funding for boarding (including for both traditional and innovative boarding models) to support improved outcomes, and where there is community aspiration.

For further information about this recommendation, including key findings, please refer to the [Final Report to the Review of Secondary Education in the Northern Territory](#) available on the [Education NT website](#).