

Northern Territory Board of Studies

Annual Report 2025



NTBOS
NORTHERN TERRITORY
BOARD OF STUDIES



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**
GOVERNMENT

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The Hon Jo Hersey MLA
Minister for Education and Training
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present the Northern Territory Board of Studies Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2025.

The report highlights the activities of the Northern Territory Board of Studies over the reporting year and has been prepared in accordance with Part 3 section 37 of the *Education Act 2015*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marion Guppy".

Marion Guppy
Chair

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1. Report from the Chair

The Northern Territory Board of Studies (the board) provides advice on curriculum, assessment, reporting and certification to all schools in the Northern Territory (NT), as well as annually recognising the achievements of students in government and non-government schools across the NT.

The board plays a critical role in providing the Minister for Education and Training and education sectors in the NT with advice on curriculum, assessment, reporting and certification. Nationally, and within the NT, there are major education reforms underway, for which the advice of the board is essential, particularly given the cross-sectoral perspective the board provides.

During 2025 the board analysed, discussed and considered reports and updates concerning: the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO), the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA); the Australasian Curriculum Assessment and Certification Authorities (ACACA); the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) and the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET).

The Indigenous Languages and Cultures Curriculum (ILC) review was progressed by the board in 2025. The ILC has been taught in schools since 2017 and the board notes that cultural knowledge is at the heart of teaching and learning ILC in the NT.

Subject experts provided significant updates and presentations to the board throughout the year which were well received.

The implementation of the Australian Curriculum version 9.0 continues to be monitored by the board, with vital input from all sectors.

The NT Board of Studies student awards ceremonies were held in Darwin and Alice Springs early in the school year, with students publicly recognised for their academic, leadership and vocational excellence. These ceremonies are annual highlights, and the board welcomes the opportunity to acknowledge the educators, schools and families who significantly support these students.

I would like to thank the 2025 board members for their expertise and genuine interest in the education of young Territorians and for the numerous pursuits to improve the educational opportunities for every student in the Northern Territory.

My sincere thanks go to the many people within the Department of Education and Training who provide invaluable assistance to the Northern Territory Board of Studies.

Regards



Marion Guppy
Chair

2. The Northern Territory Board of Studies (NTBOS)

NTBOS consists of 11 members, made up of both representatives of stakeholder groups, and of nationally recognised experts in education. This model brings a balance of views to the board and maintains the cooperative arrangement between the government and non-government school sectors in the Northern Territory (NT). Positions on the board include:

- 1 Department of Education and Training officer nominated by the Chief Executive
- 4 stakeholder representatives – parent, teacher, employer and Indigenous
- 2 expert members drawn from the Catholic Education Office NT (CENT) and the Association of Independent Schools of the NT (AISNT)
- 4 expert members nominated by the Minister for Education and Training.

The board can set up committees that allow the board to inform itself on specific matters and seek the views of stakeholder groups.

The structure of the board allows it to fulfil the remit of providing high-quality and expert advice to the Minister for Education and Training and the Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training on matters of curriculum, assessment, reporting and certification.

2.1. Members

Due to resignations, there were 7 out of 11 board members for the first half of 2025. The terms of 4 members expired on 30 June 2025. The below list are members who served on the board throughout the course of 2025:

- **Marion Guppy** – chair (term expired 30 June 2025)
- **Rachel Boyce** – Association of Independent Schools NT representative (term expired 30 June 2025)
- **Annalea McCurry** – Catholic Education NT representative
- **Nicole Thompson** – parent representative
- **Renez Lammon** – Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander representative (term expired 30 June 2025)
- **Kellie Opitz** – employer representative (term expired 30 June 2025)
- **Felicity McLure** – expert member
- **Kerry Hudson** – invited as a department observer

2.2. Meetings

Section 9(1) of the Education Act 2015 (*The Act*) states that the board must meet at least once per term, and section 9(1)(d) states that 6 members constitute a quorum at a meeting. The Minister for Education and Training may at any time direct the chairperson to call a meeting of the board. Due to the board vacancies from 1 July 2025, the board did not meet quorum and was unable to hold meetings in Term 3 and Term 4.

2.2.1. Date and duration

Table 1: 2025 meeting dates, duration and purpose are detailed in the table below

Meeting	Date	Duration	Purpose
1	22 March 2025	Full-day meeting	Regularly scheduled meeting
2	23 May 2025	Full-day meeting	Regularly scheduled meeting

2.2.2. Attendance

Table 2: Members attendance records

Members	22/03/25	23/05/25
Marion Guppy	✓	✓
Felicity McLure	✓	✓
Rachel Boyce	✓	✓
Nicole Thompson	AP	✓
Annalea McCurry	✓	✓
Kellie Opitz	✓	AP
Renez Lammon	✓	✓
Kerry Hudson	✓	✓

AP = Absent with apologies

3. 2025 Board Activity

3.1. Student Awards

The board hosts annual awards ceremonies in Darwin and Alice Springs to recognise outstanding achievement by students in the Northern Territory Certificate for Education and Training (NTCET). A working group was established to review the NTBOS sponsored awards.

The board examined data on student enrolments, academic rigour of the subject and subject results. This examination enabled the board to recognise student academic excellence in other subject areas and thus led to the creation of three new awards. The identified subjects consisted of high enrolments and significant A and A+ achievement.

The board is extremely grateful to the new sponsors; Association of Independent Schools Northern Territory (AISNT) and Northern Territory Christian Schools. Sponsors attend the ceremonies and personally present the awards at the respective ceremony. The new awards recognise academic excellence in the following Stage 2 subjects, Humanities (two new Humanities awards) and Visual Arts.

A list of the NTBOS 2025 award recipients can be found here: [NTBOS 2025 Awardees](#)

3.2. Monitoring Implementation of v9 of the Australian Curriculum

The board identified reporting as a valuable area of focus, particularly as it relates to all NT government and non-government schools. The cross-sectoral perspective of the board is unique and highly beneficial for all students in the NT.

The board established a curriculum working group consisting of members from all sectors to monitor the implementation of the Australian Curriculum Version 9 (Ac v9). The working group reviewed requested information from all sectors on progress on the implementation and identified options for sectors to work together and support each other through the implementation.

3.3. Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training

The NTCET qualification is designed to recognise the knowledge and skills that have been acquired through formal education and training. The NTCET is awarded to students who have completed the required number of credits gained throughout years 10, 11, and 12.

Providing high-quality advice on curriculum, assessment and reporting is one of the primary functions of the board. The board sought and considered presentations on data to better understand NTCET trends. The data obtained can inform necessary changes to the NTCET and its delivery, resulting in better support for students and improvements in NTCET completion rates, which fulfills one of the government's priorities.

2025 NTCET completion data can be found here: [2025 NTCET data](#)

3.4. National Assessment Plan Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

NAPLAN is one of the primary diagnostic tools for education agencies in measuring the literacy and numeracy of students. It is a set of tests in reading, writing, language conventions, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

Providing high-quality advice on curriculum, assessment and reporting is of great interest to the board, as is the analysis of results to better understand student achievement in the NT. The board sought and analysed NAPLAN data presentations to inform system level education improvement activities across all sectors.

Detailed information on the knowledge and skills being measured in each NAPLAN assessment is made available on the [NAP website](#)

Information around school performance is published in summary and national reports as well as being available on the [MySchool website](#)

3.5. Australasian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities (ACACA)

ACACA is the body for the chief executives of the statutory bodies in the Australian states and territories and in New Zealand responsible for curriculum, assessment and certification in education. ACACA routinely provides reports to the board, either in the form of a written report or through updates provided by Teaching and Learning Services within the department.

The board is keen to consider and understand ACACA's national priorities which are dedicated to fostering excellence in senior secondary education, in all states and territories within Australia, to ensure that issues relevant to the NT can be considered in advice provided by the board.

3.6. Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)

ACARA develops and refines the Australian Curriculum, national assessment including NAPLAN, and reports on key education indicators through the national report on schooling. A report on ACARA priorities is provided to the board through the NT ACARA representative.

The board's association with ACARA enables its members to stay informed of relevant issues regarding curriculum and assessment, and these are strong areas of focus for the board.

3.7. Indigenous Languages and Cultures (ILC) Curriculum review

The Keeping Indigenous Languages and Cultures Strong plan was developed in response to the commitment by the NT Government to implement the Australian Curriculum, specifically the Framework for Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages.

Target 16 of Closing the Gap identifies that by 2031, there is a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken. A key measure is the number of Aboriginal languages being taught in early learning, primary and secondary schools.

In 2025, the board arranged for presentations from across the three sectors on how the ILC curriculum is implemented in the sector or schools. The presentations were insightful and the practices were highly innovative. Educators, traditional owners and elders were boosting the ILC curriculum through their own lived experience and expertise.

As a result of these presentations, the board agreed to progress the ILC review. The objective of the review is to strengthen implementation of the ILC curriculum. A survey was developed and sent to all schools, to identify the level of knowledge of the ILC within schools.

The board considered survey responses which enabled members to investigate the successes of, and barriers to, the implementation of the ILC curriculum at both sector and school levels, in both urban and remote locations. Strengthening the delivery of the ILC across all regions is key to achieving the goal of embedding the languages of First Nations people as languages to be taught within the Australian Curriculum.

3.8. Partnerships

The board acknowledges strong partnerships between the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) and Charles Darwin University (CDU) and is incredibly grateful for outstanding presentations delivered to the board in 2025. The board requests such presentations so that members are consistently updated in current research and practice.

Of particular note were the 'NT learning and teaching model', 'Multi-tiered system of supports' (MTSS) and 'Phonics study partnership 24/7 with training' presentations from AERO, and 'Training the indigenous workforce for the classroom' from CDU.

4. Awards

Each year the NTBOS is privileged to be able to recognise students who attain excellent academic achievement through their multiple awards.

4.1. NTBOS awards ceremonies



Figure 1: NTBOS award recipients at the DoubleTree by Hilton on Friday 30 January 2026.

The board was delighted to hold presentation ceremonies for its 2025 NTCET awards. The Darwin awards ceremony took place on Friday 30 January 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton. The Alice Springs awards ceremony took place on Friday 6 February 2026 at the Alice Springs Desert Park.

Awards are given to the top 20 NTCET completers, students who receive A+ Merit grades for Stage 2 subjects, and various industry-sponsored awards.

These events were attended by the Hon. Chief Justice Michael Grant AO, Acting Administrator of the Northern Territory, the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Jo Hersey MLA, the Hon. Bill Yan, Treasurer of the Northern Territory, the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin, the Hon. Peter Styles, the Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training, Ms. Susan Bowden, and many other distinguished guests, including board members.

These events are very special, and board members feel privileged to recognise and help celebrate the fantastic achievements of NT students.



Figure 2: Methuli Kulasekara receives the Chief Minister's Award from the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Jo Hersey MLA, at the DoubleTree by Hilton on Friday 30 January 2026.

4.2. Academic excellence awards

NTBOS offers Academic Excellence Awards to government and non-government students in their final years of primary, middle and senior schooling. The top Aboriginal achiever in year 12, and the top personal learning achievers in year 12 are also awarded.

The winners are nominated by their school with presentations made at end-of year school functions. Each winner receives a certificate and \$50.00 prize money.



Figure 3: NTBOS award recipients at the Alice Springs Desert Park on Friday 6 February 2026.