

Northern Territory Board of Studies

Confirmed Minutes

Board Meeting: Friday 1 April 2022

Venue: Plummer Room, Level 14, Mitchell Centre, Darwin

Time: 8.30am-12:30pm

Item No	Agenda Item	Summary of board meeting discussions
1	Attendance	Combination of attendance via Microsoft Teams online, and in-person attendance (Plummer Room, Level 14, Mitchell Centre, Darwin).
1.1	Present – members	Ralph Wiese, Rachel Boyce, Jacqui Langdon, Charles Richardson, Mary Ellen Venes, Susan Bowden, Gavin Morris and Cheryl Salter
1.2	Apologies - members	Pauline Schober, Roland Houareau, Tabitha Fudge
1.3	Present – non-member participants	Sally Hodgson, General Manager Quality Teaching and Learning, Department of Education; and Jessica Redman, assisting Executive Officer to the board in absence
2	Opening remarks	Meeting commenced at level 14 Mitchell Centre at 8.40am with Acknowledgement of Country provided by the Chair, Mr Ralph Wiese.
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2021 were circulated to members out of session and accepted as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were noted by the Chief Executive and the Minister for Education. Minutes were uploaded to the Department of Education website (NTBOS section).
4	Business arising from previous minutes	All items were either completed or were agenda items to be addressed at the meeting. Ms Jackie Roberts, Principal Bakewell Primary School has been nominated as the Northern Territory representative on the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Board. Feedback received from ACARA Chief Executive Officer, Mr David de Carvalho, indicated Ms Roberts is a valued contributor to the group and that a school principal field voice at the ACARA table is appreciated. Ms Roberts was nominated due to range and balance of expertise and experience in jurisdiction principal roles. Ms Roberts is also a member of the School Improvement Committee, and the People and Culture Committee, and is an active member of the Northern Territory Principal's Association.

		<p>NTBOS members suggested and agreed to invite Ms Roberts to future NTBOS meetings as an observer, to assist with sharing of key information and messaging between NTBOS Board and ACARA Board.</p> <p>Terms of office for a number of NTBOS Board members cease on 30 June 2022. NTBOS Executive Officer has circulated member applications to relevant panel members for selection renewal process. Nominations will go through to Minister for Education, Cabinet and Executive Council for approval and official appointment accordingly.</p> <p>Ms Susan Bowden requested to speak with board members (without applicants Ralph Wiese and Rachel Boyce) after the meeting to further discuss applications process.</p> <p>Noted</p>
5	Correspondence	<p>Correspondence in: No items to raise.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Correspondence out: No items to raise.</p> <p>Noted</p>
6	NTBOS Governance – declaration of conflict or interest	<p>No items to raise.</p> <p>Noted</p>
7	Presentations and Discussion Items	
7.1	2021 NTCET Outcomes – overview of results	<p>Ms Ros France, Acting Director, Teaching and Learning 10-12, Quality Teaching and Learning joined the meeting to provide an overview of the NT Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) in 2021.</p> <p>The presentation provided an overview of data for NTCET 2021 completers, student pathways, student achievements, school celebrations, modified subject enrolment information, as well as an NTCET government schools data summary.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that SACE does not include VET qualifications unlike other Australian states.</p> <p>The board is interested in reviewing the NTCET and VET data for non-government schools, as well as a national comparison for NTECT and VET data sets.</p>

A rise in SACE modified subject enrolments in 2021 was noted. Henbury School has progressed from a small number of potential completers to placing every senior secondary student on this pathway in 2022.

The board acknowledged the high achievement of the 2021 NTBOS high achiever of the year, Olivia Anderson. This level of achievement has not occurred to the board's knowledge. The board agreed it would be suitable to invite the high achieving student to the 2022 NTBOS award ceremony to recognise the student's efforts.

Distance education statistics were raised and questioned. Ms Sally Hodgson advised there had been a substantial increase in Department of Education home education applications since 2020 and 2021. This is due to several reasons, including families opting to work from home and educate from home, cancelled employment due to COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in home education applications may have future implications for curriculum and learning outcomes in the future.

Number of year 12 students are also completing some of their subjects virtually (for the subjects that are available for virtual studies).

Mr Charles Richardson commented on the relevance of technology data review possibilities that are currently being utilised for analysis and research purposes across the world. Interest in seeing education data undergoing a similar process at a future stage, in order to enhance student engagement, optimise education strategies and identify education gaps.

Ms Hodgson advised that she is a member of the department-led Information Management Committee that meets monthly, that there are data and reporting specialists who work within the department using manual processes and that the department also works alongside the Department of Corporate and Digital Development to collect, store, analyse and disseminate data as required.

Members acknowledged data.

ACARA has announced several items recently, including launch of MySchool, and the movement of NAPLAN Online will occur in term 1 in 2023, where traditionally NAPLAN has occurred in term 2, week 5. School leaders will be able to use the NAPLAN data to inform education gaps. Schools will be able to view data as individuals, classes, grades

7.3	NAPLAN Update	<p>and at school to school level. Board members noted NAPLAN data significance of identifying underperformance and administering of gap-solutions.</p> <p>Ms Sarah Belsham, Director Systemic Assessment, Performance and Reporting joined the meeting to provide a NAPLAN 2022 update.</p> <p>NAPLAN 2022 key messages, NAPLAN Writing Marking Panel and NAPLAN 2023, The Road to Reform were discussed.</p> <p>The focus for the Northern Territory in 2022 is ensuring that NAPLAN is a positive experience for schools and students.</p> <p>In 2022, schools will not receive paper 'back up' contingency materials but will be supported to complete testing online during the testing period. Ten percent of paper copies will be kept at the Mitchell Centre in case of emergency, only.</p> <p>Four new eligible non-government schools in the NT will be delivering the test online for the first time in 2022, joining the schools that successfully transitioned to the online test environment in 2019 and 2021.</p> <p>Key Numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 190 schools (government and non-government) expected to participate in NAPLAN 2022. • 146 high bandwidth schools (HBW) and 44 low bandwidth schools (LBW) (including 3 schools utilising the single device solution). • 32 schools moved from LBW in 2021, to HBW in 2022. • One school used the single device solution last year • 83 schools participated in the National Coordinated Practice Test on Thursday 24 March 2022. <p>Key Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Testing 21 March – 1 April 2022 • NAPLAN Testing 10 May – 20 May 2022 • Security Weeks 23 May – 3 June 2022 <p>Key School Activities:</p>
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- Information sessions
- Student readiness sessions
- Principals register for the platform
- NAPLAN coordinators register for the platform
- Check student details on the platform
- Submit exemption and withdrawal forms
- Complete practice testing
- Submit NAPLAN test schedule
- Jurisdictional Responsible Officer (JRO) – Readiness Statement 5 April 2022 (Sally Hodgson JRO)

Localised issues were felt in 2021, no major disruptions last year. Pause option is available should issues arise for students, no student or school will be disadvantaged.

Attempting to ensure exemption forms are completed properly and on time in 2022, as this affects participation advice. If a student is exempted, they wouldn't meet national minimum standard (language, disability) – they can still participate but not considered. If students are not properly marked as 'exempt', data will show the student as *absent* from the test.

Fortnightly meetings currently being held with different regional teams and sector leads to ensure everyone is informed about NAPLAN and related issues.

The marking panel is responsible for marking all Northern Territory NAPLAN writing tests. In 2022, all markers will be required to mark both handwritten and typed writing tests.

The marking panel for 2022 will require 80 teachers to assist in marking 11,000 to 13,000 scripts by a particular date. This will take place across Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs, as well as online for remote participants.

Key Dates:

- 23 - 31 May 2022 Darwin / Palmerston marking panels
- 26 - 3 June 2022 Alice Springs / Remote marking panels

Education ministers across Australia have agreed that from 2023, NAPLAN will be held in term 1 of the school year.

		<p>In 2023, NAPLAN will be held from 15 – 27 March 2023.</p> <p>Bringing the test forward provides teachers with data to assess students and inform teaching and learning to best support students to improve and strengthen their literacy and numeracy skills.</p> <p>The department will support schools to prepare for the change to NAPLAN testing period from 2023.</p> <p>In addition, from 2023, the existing triennial National Assessment Program sample assessments for year 6 and year 10 Science, Civics and Citizenship and Digital Literacy will move from October to term 2.</p> <p>These assessments will be phased in over 3 years, starting with Science in 2024, Civics and Citizenship in 2025 and Digital Literacy in 2026.</p> <p>The new annual assessments will be available as opt-in assessments to participating schools to support their teaching and learning programs, but will not be reported publicly by ACARA. This gives schools and our system more information about student and school performance in these domains.</p>
7.4	NTBOS Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027	<p>Board member, Ms Rachel Boyce, provided an overview of suggested updates to the NTBOS Strategic Plan (which was last presented to the board in November 2021). Feedback since the original presentation has been taken into account and relayed in Ms Boyce's presentation today.</p> <p>Items for consideration included :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - title page image update - first Nations terminology throughout the document - Chief Executive feedback on remit of the strategic plan - wording in the following sections; <i>Background, About Us, Our Aspirations and Goals,</i> - additional <i>Our Focus Areas</i> points - changes to <i>Growth Initiatives</i> diagram (wording changes) - changes to Appendix 2 – <i>Strengthening the Strategy</i>

		<p>The board thanks Ms Boyce, Mr Roland Houareau and Dr Gavin Morris for their dedicated time and work on the NTBOS Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027.</p> <p>Process for the strategic plan sign-off, includes edits made following today's discussion, by Ms Boyce. Ms Boyce to request further final feedback / approval to proceed with updated version from the NTBOS out of session (two-week timeframe for this request will be applied). Once the plan is in final draft, it will be submitted to the Chief Executive and the Minister for Education for review and approval. The strategic plan will be published on the website once finalised. The 27 May 2022 NTBOS meeting will be able to provide a status update (if not finalised by this stage).</p>
7.5	Indigenous Language and Culture Review	Considerations for review. Item deferred to May NTBOS Meeting.
8	Items for noting	
8.1	ACACA Report	<p>Paper reviewed. No comments or queries.</p> <p>Noted</p>
8.2	ACARA Report	<p>Paper reviewed.</p> <p>ACARA Board representatives have been updated. Ms Jackie Roberts, Principal Bakewell Primary School has been nominated as the Northern Territory representative on the ACARA Board. Appointment information now published on the ACARA website.</p> <p>Acting Minister Robert MP and Minister Ellery had raised concerns regarding Mathematics and Humanities and Social Science (Australian histories in particular). A workshop was undertaken to address these concerns. Health and Physical Education curriculum refinements and appropriate consultation are currently being undertaken.</p> <p>Illustrations of practice video series has been released by the Australian Education Research Organisation in hand with Ochre Education. Over 80 videos and 350 resources are available to educators in order to increase learning outcomes for students.</p> <p>Computational thinking in practice cards have also been released by ACARA for F-2 students.</p> <p>Noted</p>

8.3	NTBOS Policy and Document Review	<p>Paper reviewed.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Action Recommendation NTBOS Chair write to Tony Considine on behalf of the board, requesting a review of the policies that NTBOS has responsibility.</p>
9	General Business	<p>South Australia daily COVID cases are increasing, with Darwin cases also fluctuating. The SACE Board is currently responding to the increases by reviewing parameters / expectations of assessment tasks required to be completed by flexibly students. This will consequently ease strain on school staff. Communications regarding this is expected to be shared with NTBOS shortly.</p> <p>The requirement for confidentiality protection for board members raised. When reports are received from SACE, ACACA and ACARA, or similar bodies, retain these documents as confidential.</p> <p>The requirement for a director identification number (director ID) for NTBOS members was raised. Some members advised they require a director ID for alternate boards to which they belong.</p> <p>Action Confirm the requirement for a director identification number for NTBOS members. Secretariat to confirm after consultation with relevant body.</p>
10	Meeting Concludes	
10.1	Meeting closed	12.30 pm
10.2	Next meeting date	27 May 2022.