Review of Secondary Education in the NT (the Review)

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

Remote Secondary Provision

What does the Review recommend about remote secondary provision?

The Review sets out a goal for a guaranteed standard of local secondary school provision for all students, regardless of geographic location, that can drive improved engagement and outcomes for all students.

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.

Achieving this goal would see the NT Government move away from the current policy, set out through the Indigenous Education Strategy (2013), that relies on boarding as the primary means for students in remote and very remote communities to access senior secondary education.

The model of delivery to achieve this standard will be 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.

Local secondary education will be supported by additional modes of delivery accessed through the regional model and/or distance education, to provide choice of high-quality options that are tailored to and meet the needs of individual local communities.

The NT can provide choice to students and families through offering diverse pathways. As such, there is a continued role for the system facilitating boarding pathways (as there will always be students who benefit accessing mainstream education and traditional models of boarding, either within the NT as well as communities with long histories of successful boarding experiences and outcomes).

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

Communities that prefer boarding pathways should also be supported by the system to plan for and provide options that allow students to engage with secondary provision where they return to community from boarding. There should be additional accountability measures in place to ensure this occurs.

Delivery will be enabled by a resourcing and staffing model that is adequate and supports every school to provide secondary education, along with critical enablers and supports such as connectivity, technology solutions and workforce development.

What does this mean for school communities across the NT?

- There is no immediate change to the education services remote schools currently provide.

- Throughout 2024, the department will undertake further planning and consultation to prepare for implementation.
- The overarching direction for secondary education reform is for a guaranteed standard of local secondary school provision for all students, regardless of geographic location.
- The department will work with local school communities to identify aspirations for secondary education provision.
- The overarching reform direction is 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.

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](#).