### Board Meeting: Tuesday 30 March 2021

### Venue: Boardroom, 14th Floor, Mitchell Centre, Darwin

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| Item No | Agenda Item | Summary of discussions |
| 1 | **Attendance** |  |
| 1.1 | **Present – members** | Ralph Wiese, Rachel Boyce, Pauline Schober, Charles Richardson, Jacqui Langdon, Tabitha Fudge, Mary Ellen Venes, Roland Houareau, Gavin Morris |
| 1.2 | **Apologies - members** | Cheryl Salter |
| 1.3 | **Present – non-member participants** | Ms Sally Hodgson, General Manager Quality Teaching and Learning; Mrs Hazel Horne, Executive Officer to the board, Mr Trevor Read, NT SACE Board representative |
| 2 | **Opening remarks** | Meeting commenced at 8.40 am with Acknowledgement of Country provided by the Chair, Mr Ralph Wiese.  **Welcome:** Newly appointed board members – Mr Roland Houareau (employer representative) and Dr Gavin Morris (expert member) were welcomed to the board. Ms Cheryl Salter, Ms Jacqui Langdon, Mrs Tabitha Fudge and Mr Charles Richardson were congratulated on their re-appointments to the board. |
| 3 | **Minutes of the previous meeting** | The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2020 were circulated to members out of session and accepted as a true record of the meeting.  The confirmed minutes were noted by the Minister for Education and are now available on the NTBOS webpage link <https://education.nt.gov.au/committees,-regulators-and-advisory-groups/northern-territory-board-of-studies/ntbos-publications>. |
| 4 | **Business arising from previous minutes** | **Refer to Action Sheet 4/2020**  All items were either completed or were agenda items to be addressed at the meeting. |
| 5 | **Correspondence** | Correspondence in: noted  Correspondence out: noted |
| 6 | **NTBOS Governance** | Conflict of interest: Nil |
| 7 | **Presentations and discussion** |  |
| 7.1 | **Presentation:**  System Narrative | Mr John Cleary, General Manager, School and System Improvement, Department of Education provided a presentation on the ‘One Team, Territory Wide’ System Narrative.  In November 2020, the Department of Education launched ‘One Team, Territory Wide’, a system narrative. The narrative identified the seven system priorities that will support the department to achieve its goal of continuing to become the most improved education system in Australia.  Work continues in partnership with stakeholders across the NT to design and implement an agreed delivery structure as this narrative develops to become the Education NT strategy 2021-2025.  The department can strengthen instruction by taking a more systemic approach to curriculum and pedagogy and knowing learners, and achieving this in a culturally responsive manner to engage every student in learning throughout their journey from early childhood to beyond schooling.  Mr Cleary agreed to continue to share the system narrative journey with the board.  **Action:**  PowerPoint presentation to be distributed to members. |
| 7.2 | **Presentation:**  National Assessment Program | The National Assessment Program (NAP) provides the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes.  The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is the independent authority responsible for the overall management of NAP which includes NAPLAN and three NAP sample assessments. ACARA does not oversee the delivery of the international assessments, i.e. Programme for International Student Assessment, Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS).  Ms Sarah Belsham, Senior Manager National and Systemic Assessment; Ms Judith Nicolson, Senior Manager Reporting and Performance Capability; and Ms Kate Cook, National Assessment Numeracy Consultant Department of Education, provided an overview of TIMSS and PIRLS assessments.  **TIMSS**  TIMSS is an international sample study that assesses the mathematics and science achievement of Year 4 and Year 8 students every four years. Australia has participated in all cycles since it commenced in 1995. Rich data has been collected over the 24 year period about trends in mathematics and science achievement.  **PIRLS**  PIRLS is an international study of reading literacy. In Australia, PIRLS is implemented by the Australian Council for Educational Research, under the aegis of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement. PIRLS has been conducted internationally at Year 4 on a five-year cycle since 2001 with Australia participating for the first time in 2011.  PIRLS was scheduled to occur in Australia in November 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19. Australian schools, including 15 Northern Territory government and non-governments schools will participate in PIRLS from 11 October to 5 November 2021, with results published in December 2022.  **Action:** PowerPoint presentation to be provided. |
| 7.3 | Chief Executive update | Ms Gillian Sharkey, General Manager Strategic Services, Department of Education attended the meeting on behalf of Ms Karen Weston, Chief Executive of the Department of Education, to provide members with an update on various matters that have occurred in the education sector both in the NT and nationally.   * The Hon Alan Tudge, Minister for Education and Youth, has outlined his key areas of reform which include: new teaching materials, new focus areas for the Australian Curriculum, standards for teaching and 2030 targets for reading, mathematics and science. * Australian Curriculum review is progressing. The public consultation document is available on the ACARA website at <https://www.acara.edu.au/curriculum/curriculum-review>. * NAPLAN Online will go ahead in 2021: all students are expected to participate in practice testing over the coming weeks so they become familiar with the process ahead of the NAPLAN testing period from 11-21 May 2021. The NT is committed to maximising participation. |
| 7.4 | **Presentation:**  Preschool to Year 3 | Ms Agnes McGrath, General Manager Early Childhood Education and Care and Ms Susan Edwards, Director Early Years Strategic Policy and Programs, Department of Education, provided a presentation to members about the development of three year old preschools.  The Department of Education is investigating the potential of expanding preschool to include all three year old children, and particularly those experiencing vulnerability. The investigative stage in 2021 includes: assessment of current preschool provision including infrastructure, workforce, governance and funding arrangements, consultation with key stakeholders, development of trial sites to assess the barriers/enablers for three year old preschool for vulnerable children; and alignment of NT preschool policy with policy in other Australian jurisdictions particularly in relation to the provision of early access to preschool for Aboriginal children and children known to child protection.  An updated report will be provided to the NT government by the Department of Education in December 2021.  **Action:** Members were requested to email their ideas/thoughts about three year old preschools to [agnes.mcgrath@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:agnes.mcgrath@education.nt.gov.au). |
| 7.5 | SACE Report | Mr Trevor Read is the NT representative on the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Board. Stage 2 Psychology Examinations was discussed at the November 2020 meeting.  Students completing the Stage 2 Psychology electronic examination experienced slowness and loss of connection across a range of school sites. A decision was made by the SACE Board to cancel the examination one hour into the scheduled time. All students received a derived result which used school assessment results and the predicted examination result from their teacher.  The SACE Board is currently undertaking a significant review into the situation and will implement any changes needed for 2021 and beyond.  **SACE Board meeting 2021 - Darwin**  Mr Ralph Wiese advised members that the SACE Board is looking into holding a meeting in Darwin in 2021. This would provide an opportunity for NT Board of Studies members to spend some time as a combined group to discuss the shared education agendas. |
| 7.6 | NTBOS brand/logo | In 2020, the Department of Education Communications and Media Unit proposed that a separate NTBOS brand be developed to help differentiate the NTBOS identity and role as an independent authority from that of the department. The NTBOS brand would be utilised on the NTBOS webpage, annual report, policies and guidelines, advertising, events and awards and other publications, templates and communication materials.  Two example logos were presented to members at the November 2020 board meeting, but were not accepted.  Three additional logo concepts have been developed for members’ consideration.  Concept 1: Banyan tree – common in the Territory, Tree of Knowledge.  Concept 2: Open book overlaid with a mortarboard and tassel.  Concept 3: Wizened owl – North Australian subspecies of the Masked Owl and represents wisdom.  **Recommendation:**  That the board approve the continued development of either: concept one; two; or three to be utilised as the NTBOS brand.  **Approved:**   * Concept 1 (primary horizontal – green/brown), but with the green colour as per the primary stacked concept. |
| 7.7 | **Presentation:**  NTCET 2020 outcomes (overview of results) | Ms Anne Donnelly, Director Teaching and Learning 10-12 in the Department of Education, provided an overview of 2020 Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) results which were released in December 2020.  Information was provided on:   * *NT students receiving an NTCET*: 1622 students – highest completion rate compared to potential completers * *NT Aboriginal students receiving an NTCET*: 281 students – highest number of Aboriginal completers; 41 students completed their NTCET at their local school in their own very remote community with 17 of those students completing their NTCET through the NT School of Distance Education in their own very remote community. * Completion and enrolment by gender. * NTCET completers who used modified subjects. * *Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR*): 856 NT students qualified for an ATAR. * *Vocational Education and Training (VET):* 764 of NTCET completers studied VET at some time during their senior secondary schooling; 444 students needed the VET credits from their study to complete their NTCET. * *Top 20 NTCET students*: there were 21 students in the top 20 in 2020 as two students both achieved a score of 84. The top 20 students were from six different schools. * *A+ merits awarded in the NT*: 49 A+ merits were awarded in 2020 compared to 47 in 2019. |
| 7.8 | Curriculum, Pedagogy, Assessment and Reporting policy development | Curriculum, Pedagogy, Assessment and Reporting (CPAR) T-12 *A Framework for Quality Education in Northern Territory Schools* published in 2018 was due for review at the end of 2020.  The Department of Education commenced reviewing the CPAR in 2020. The proposal to replace the CPAR with the *Curriculum, Assessment, Reporting and Certification Policy: Early Childhood to Year 12 (CARC)* was endorsed by NT Board of Studies at the 13 November 2020 board meeting.  Ms Meghan Smith, Director Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment in the Department of Education, provided members with an overview of the amended draft CARC policy.  The draft CARC policy is a succinct policy developed to identify jurisdictional and national requirements for NT government and non-government education and care providers. The policy would be supported by sets of specific sector guidelines to provide additional detail, focussed on supporting best practice and implementation aligned to individual sector priorities.  The refined policy document is now ready for cross sector consultation.  **Recommendation:**  It is recommended that the board   * accept the draft CARC document; * agree to cross sector representatives being sourced to consult on the CARC content in working groups to draft and finalise the CARC Policy: Early Childhood to Year 12 (to be published in 2021); and * agree to each sector creating its own set of supporting guidelines to align with its system priorities and key messages to support schools, leaders and educators to implement.   **Outcome:**  Members agreed with the recommendations.  **Action**  Ms Smith to contact sector head to source representatives for cross sector consultation working groups. |
| 7.9 | Australian Curriculum Review | Ms Meghan Smith, Director Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment in the Department of Education, provided an update on the Australian Curriculum Review.  In June 2020, Education Council tasked the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to undertake a review of the Australian Curriculum for Foundation to Year 10 (F-10). The review aims to improve the Australian Curriculum F-10 by refining, realigning and decluttering the content. This involves re-organising and revising content to improve coherency, presentation logic and accessibility for teachers.  The next version of the Australian Curriculum will be published on an improved website by early 2022.  Face to face Australian Curriculum Review workshops will be held in Term 2, 2021 in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs as well as an online option being provided. Schools will be advised of the Australian Curriculum website link so individual feedback can be provided.  Collation and submissions of written feedback will commence in June 2021. |
| 8 | Items for noting |  |
| 8.1 | ACACA report | Ms Susan Bowden, Acting Deputy Chief Executive in the Department of Education, is the Northern Territory representative for the Australasian Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Authorities (ACACA) Chief Executives meetings. Ms Anne Donnelly, Director Teaching and Learning 10-12 attended the 23 October 2020 meeting on behalf of Ms Bowden.  Key items discussed included: Jurisdiction updates – management of Years 11 and 12 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; National Evidence Institute; Work Pathways Project; Collaborative Curriculum and Assessment Framework for Languages; NSW Curriculum Reform; and Life and career skills development among Year 12 students.  Mr Tony Considine, Acting Executive Director Early Years and Education Services in the Department of Education, attended the ACACA Chief Executives meeting on 5 March 2021. The official minutes of the meeting have not as yet been released for distribution.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.2 | ACARA report | Ms Sally Hodgson, General Manager Quality Teaching and Learning in the Department of Education provided a report on the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) Board. There has been one ACARA Board meeting since November 2020.  Key issues from that meeting were the Australian Curriculum Review – progress report and NAPLAN 2021.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.3 | 2020 NTBOS student awards report | The Northern Territory Board of Studies manages award presentation ceremonies that are held each year in Alice Springs and Darwin. These ceremonies publicly recognise the achievements of the year’s outstanding students. The events are hosted by the Minister for Education.  The ceremonies formally recognised academic excellence among those students who completed Stage 2 Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) SACE Board accredited subjects. Awards were presented to the Top 20 achieving NTCET students, the Top 10 Australian Tertiary Admission Rank students, students who received an A+ with merit and industry sponsored awards.  A list of all awards presented and the costs incurred to hold the ceremonies was provided.  **Paper noted** |
| 8.4 | Larrakia history resources update | Ms Christine Collins, Quality Teaching and Learning in the Department of Education, attended the November 2020 meeting and provided a presentation about the Larrakia history resources. The resources comprise seven books of Larrakia history and culture, and associated teacher guides. The books have been written for teachers of Transition to Year 9 students in Darwin and Palmerston schools. Copies of the resources were provided to the Chair NT Board of Studies.  The current situation is as follows:   * the resources are now available online at [Larrakia history resources | eLearn (ntschools.net)](https://elearn.ntschools.net/building-educator-capability/curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/larrakia-history-resources) * the Department of Education, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) and the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will publicly launch the resources during Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June 2021) * formal agreement about intellectual property is currently under negotiation between the Department of Education and LNAC * Discussions to expand the project to the Alice Springs region have commenced.   **Paper noted** |

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| 9 | General Business |  |
| 9.1 | School term dates: NTBOS submission | On 8 March 2021, Mr Shane Dexter, General Manager, Quality School System and Support, Department of Education provided members with a briefing about changes to term dates. Members agreed to further discuss the issue of proposed term (and holiday) dates for 2023 to 2027at the 30 March 2021 board meeting.  **Outcome of discussions:**   * Members confirmed their support of the four by 10 week term structure for the period 2023 to 2027. * Members voted (not unanimously) to support a holiday structure of 1:3:2 weeks. (Some members were not confident to push for a return to an alternative holiday structure since they did not feel that any compelling evidence for either alternative had been advanced.)   **Action**  Chair to email the outcome to Mr Dexter. |
| 9.2 | Board endorsed curriculum | In response to a question seeking clarification about the ceasing of the board endorsed curriculum, Employment Pathways, the following advice was provided.   * The board endorsed curriculum Employment Pathways is currently being reviewed/mapped to align with the Australian Curriculum, the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training and Vocational education and training. * This is as a result of the Secondary Education Review. * The department is looking at writing specific curriculum for remote schools.   Ms Sally Hodgson, General Manager, Quality Teaching and Learning, Department of Education, advised that the department would be happy to share any material with the board as it is developed.  *Clarification was sought about what material/documents should be provided for board endorsement:*  The Northern Territory Board of Studies provides high quality advice on curriculum, assessment, reporting and certification for all students in the NT to the Minister for Education and the Chief Executive of the Department of Education. The operational business of the board is carried out by the relevant operational sections of the department.  Documents that are provided to the board for endorsement, as a general rule, are relevant to all sectors, and input to the documents has been provided by all sectors. |
|  | **Meeting closed** | 2.00 pm |
|  | **Next meeting date** | 28 May 2021 |