

# Central Australia Plan: On-Country Learning

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT - EDUCATION AND SKILLS

<b>Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule</b>	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory
Duration	This Schedule will expire on the later of 31 December 2024, or completion of deliverables, including final performance report and processing of final payments against milestones.
Purpose	<p>The funding under this Schedule forms part of the Australian Government's <i>A Better, Safer Future for Central Australia</i> plan, specifically the On-Country Learning measure which will support improved student enrolment, engagement, wellbeing, and learning outcomes at schools in Central Australia through community driven responses supporting improved community engagement. A list of the schools in scope of this measure is included at <a href="#">Appendix A</a>.</p> <p>This additional funding will support the following types of activities within schools in Central Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive literacy and numeracy support;</li> <li>• Increased quality flexible learning for secondary students with a focus on students obtaining qualifications that align to jobs in the industries in their communities and regions and/or provide skills in industries that support community life (such as permaculture);</li> <li>• Increased employment of local Aboriginal staff in schools to support cultural wellbeing, music, art, language and identity;</li> <li>• Targeted engagement, re-engagement and attendance initiatives, which are culturally responsive;</li> <li>• On-Country Learning initiatives that support two-way learning opportunities, foster culturally responsive learning environments, and invite Indigenous language and culture (ILC) into the day-to-day delivery of curriculum, including through bilingual education programs (where community support exists);</li> <li>• Increased allied health services to deliver a selection of universal and targeted services to support inclusion of all students in learning.</li> </ul>

	<p>Funding provided through the On-Country Learning measure cannot be used for infrastructure initiatives.</p> <p>Where possible, the additional funding should be used to provide secure employment.</p> <p>School Action Plans (plans) will identify priorities, consistent with activities listed, to be delivered at each school and should outline how the initiatives align with broader School Improvement Plans.</p> <p>These plans will be developed in partnership with community, including First Nations families, staff, and students, and reflect community aspirations for education, and embody the partnership between schools and communities.</p> <p>The plans will clearly reflect the feedback provided through engagements undertaken by the Office of the Central Australia Regional Controller (OCARC) as part of the Central Australia response. These plans will require endorsement by the school principal, the school representative body where in place, and relevant community representatives for both government and non-government schools.</p> <p>All schools receiving the On-Country Learning measure are required to provide a plan. The allocation of funding to each of the identified schools under this Schedule is detailed at <a href="#">Appendix A</a>.</p>																
Estimated financial contributions	<p>The Commonwealth will provide a total financial contribution of \$40 million to the Northern Territory in respect of this Schedule.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Table 1</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>(\$ million)</b></th> <th><b>2023-24</b></th> <th><b>2024-25</b></th> <th><b>Total</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Estimated total budget</b></td> <td><b>30.0</b></td> <td><b>10.0</b></td> <td><b>40.0</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i></td> <td><i>30.0</i></td> <td><i>10.0</i></td> <td><i>40.0</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <hr/>	<b>(\$ million)</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Estimated total budget</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<i>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>40.0</i>	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0	0.0
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Additional terms	<i>Role of the Commonwealth</i>																

1. In addition to Clause 19 of the FFA (Role of the Commonwealth), the Commonwealth will be responsible for:
  - a. overseeing the Northern Territory's implementation of the measure and, where relevant, participating in planning discussions and community consultations.
  - b. allowing the Northern Territory to use \$4.9 million of the funding for the provision of regionally coordinated services for the benefit of government and non-government schools and students in the region. Agreed regionally coordinated services include expanding access to allied health professionals and additional teaching and learning supports, including intensive literacy and numeracy, Indigenous Languages and Culture (ILC) and English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) programs, as well as quality flexible learning pathways.
  - c. allowing the Northern Territory to use up to one per cent (1%) of total Schedule funding for the administration of the Schedule.
  - d. enabling information and data sharing between the Northern Territory Government, Commonwealth agencies, affected government and non-government schools and communities to support delivery of the measure.

*Role of the Northern Territory*

2. In addition to Clause 20 of the FFA (Role of the States and Territories), the Northern Territory will be responsible for:
  - a. distributing funding to schools in accordance with Appendix A of this Schedule, via exchange of letters, for use responsibly and in line with activities and priorities set out in the endorsed school action plan.
  - b. supporting On-Country Learning components, including outreach and engagement efforts in recognition of the importance of schools supporting connection to culture and Country.
  - c. supporting Government School Principals to manage increased school resourcing, whilst maintaining the autonomy of schools to respond to the local context.
  - d. supporting and monitoring government schools' compliance with appropriate governance accountability, and mechanisms for financial resource management and reporting, including but not limited to procurement,

contract management, financial and physical resources, and human resources.

- e. distributing the funding to all identified schools, or non-government representative bodies for distribution to relevant schools, in accordance with Appendix A of this Schedule.
- f. ensuring that the Northern Territory's total financial investment for Central Australian schools (i.e. those schools listed at Appendix A), increases in 2024 compared to a 2023 baseline, noting that the NT investment should not decrease year-on-year.
- g. notifying and requesting approval from the Commonwealth to include additional 'regionally coordinated services for the benefit of schools in the region' not identified at Additional Term 1(b).

*Shared Roles and Responsibilities*

- 3. In addition to Clause 21 of the FFA (Shared roles and responsibilities), the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory agree to cooperate to fulfil the requirements of this Schedule.
- 4. Engage in shared governance arrangements that bring together agreed education and Central Australia Aboriginal stakeholders. This may be achieved through establishing a specific forum or utilising an existing forum and inviting additional stakeholders as required (e.g. the Office of the Central Australia Regional Controller, and the Central Australia Aboriginal Leadership Group).

*Funding*

- 5. The allocation of funding to each of the identified schools under this Schedule is detailed at Appendix A.

**Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary**

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
1. Confirmation of agreed activities	<p>The Northern Territory provides a summary report of progress including copies of approved school action plans (as at 17 November 2023) to the Commonwealth, including an outline of the range of activities to be undertaken across the identified schools.</p> <p>In recognition of the need for community agreement to school action plans, the Northern Territory will distribute payments to schools as and when individual school action plans are ready and approved.</p> <p>Each school action plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• articulate the themes of community aspirations for education,</li> <li>• set out the activities to be delivered,</li> <li>• be endorsed by an appropriate community representative and the school principal.</li> </ul>	17/11/2023	\$30.00m
2. Initial Report	<p>The Northern Territory provides the initial Report to the Commonwealth as outlined under <i>Reporting Arrangements</i>. At a minimum, the initial Report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• outcomes of the community, student and staff consultations on school action plans,</li> <li>• the final allocation of funding against the identified schools, detailing the activities that will be funded in each site,</li> <li>• implementation updates of activities funded at each site,</li> <li>• implementation updates of centrally delivered supports,</li> <li>• student enrolment and attendance (baseline in 2023 and updates in 2024) at the commencement of the measure,</li> <li>• number and proportion of First Nations students enrolled at each school,</li> <li>• total recurrent funding provided to each school in Central Australia (per Appendix A) in the 2023 school year.</li> <li>• summary of community feedback and involvement at the commencement of the measure.</li> </ul>	31/07/2024	\$8.0m

3. Final Report	<p>The Northern Territory provides the final Report to the Commonwealth as outlined under <i>Reporting Arrangements</i>. At a minimum, the final Report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of activities funded at each site, including details of community involvement.</li> <li>• implementation of centrally delivered supports.</li> <li>• student enrolment and attendance (baseline in 2023 and updates in 2024) at the commencement and completion of the measure,</li> <li>• number and proportion of First Nations students enrolled at each school,</li> <li>• total recurrent funding provided to each school in Central Australia (per Appendix A) in the 2024 school year, and</li> <li>• summary of community feedback and involvement at the commencement and completion of the measure.</li> </ul>	31/03/2025 or completion of deliverables.	\$2.0m
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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by**

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Clare', written over the text below.

**The Honourable Jason Clare MP**  
Minister for Education

28 September 2023

**Signed for and on behalf of the Northern  
Territory by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eva Lawler', written in a cursive style.

**The Honourable Eva Lawler MLA**  
Minister for Education

28 September 2023

## Schools in scope of measure

**Central Australia Plan: Estimated 2024 funding**

School	Sector	Total funding
Centralian Middle School	G	3,120,070
Centralian Senior College	G	2,919,423
Bradshaw Primary School	G	2,354,585
Yuendumu School	G	1,952,461
Ross Park Primary School	G	1,881,527
Ntaria School	G	1,734,553
Gillen Primary School	G	1,695,930
Larapinta Primary School	G	1,683,095
Braitling Primary School	G	1,394,517
Acacia Hill School	G	1,371,566
Papunya School	G	1,220,421
Willowra School	G	1,205,141
Sadadeen Primary School	G	989,280
Walungurru School	G	730,119
Ti Tree School	G	685,347
Nyirripi School	G	665,500
Mount Allan School	G	661,444
Finke School	G	574,146
Harts Range School	G	573,758
Laramba School	G	572,718
Mutitjulu School	G	570,239
Alice Springs School of the Air	G	283,750
Watiyanu School	G	507,543
Areyonga School	G	438,222
Alcoota School	G	414,442
Titjikala School	G	397,432
Yulara School	G	372,241
Haasts Bluff School	G	268,208
Wallace Rockhole School	G	242,848
Mbungbara School	G	241,241
Mulga Bore School	G	223,990
Bonya School	G	192,624
Stirling School	G	180,790
Amoonguna School	G	155,584
Imanpa School*	G	40,743
Watarrka School^	G	-
OLSH - Traeger Avenue Campus	C	388,645
St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre	C	201,561



School	Sector	Total funding
Ltyentye Apurte CEC	C	183,769
Yipirinya School	I	329,535
Yirara College	I	328,513
St Philip's College	I	314,899
Nyangatjatjara College	I	120,064
Living Waters Lutheran School	I	116,647
Araluen Christian College	I	88,270
The Alice Springs Steiner School	I	85,320
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>34,672,721</b>

^: Watarrka School has been closed since 2021 and is expected to remain closed in 2024.

\*: Imanpa School has been calculated as a non-government school in anticipation of a potential transition in 2024.