

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Education:

Urban / Rural / Remote Definitions

1. Please advise the definition of 'urban', 'rural' and 'remote' for schools in the Northern Territory.
 2. What is this based on?
 3. Are staff employment conditions classified the same as the schools where they are employed?
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Response:

1. and 2.

Northern Territory (NT) geolocations are defined in a number of different ways, depending on the purpose.

For reporting purposes, and for national consistency, schools are classified by geolocation utilising the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) remoteness classification.

The department has not formally utilised the definitions of 'urban', 'rural' and 'remote' for some time and, since 2016, the five categories of geographic location utilised are:

- Major Cities
- Inner Regional
- Outer Regional
- Remote
- Very Remote.

Using the ABS classifications, the NT only has schools in Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote geographic locations.

3. Due to their purposes, the classifications utilised for reporting and for employment differ.

Staff employment conditions are in accordance with enterprise agreements and, to provide consistency for all Northern Territory Public Sector staff, remote locality provisions are set by the Commissioner for Public Employment's [Determination 8 of 2015](#).

This determination defines a remote location as follows:

A remote location is defined as a town, place, community or locality, outside the environs of Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, where access to health, education, social, financial, emergency, communication and professional support services are limited. The correlation of these factors, including the costs of goods and services, shall be considered when determining categories of remoteness.

It further lists categories of remoteness and the localities contained within each.