

Committee: Economic  
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Signed: [Signature]

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why is the dual campus college model being implemented in Palmerston and Alice Springs?**

The purpose of the dual campus college model is to provide students and their families with continuity in the teaching and learning programs from Year 7 through to Year 12.

At present, there is a decline in student numbers in middle schools in Alice Springs and Palmerston. This model will assist in improving retention and engagement of students, whilst maintaining the benefits of dedicated learning spaces for middle and senior years.

### **Whose decision was it to introduce a dual campus model?**

The dual campus college model is a Department of Education initiative.

The primary objective is to improve student outcomes in Alice Springs and Palmerston through the development of a consistent and connected learning journey over a six year period.

### **What is the process to create a dual campus college?**

As per Section 96 of the 2015 *Education Act* (the Act), the Minister for Education may, on any terms and conditions that the Minister considers appropriate amalgamate two or more government schools

Section 97 of the Act state that the Minister must consult on the following matters:

- alternative arrangements for the enrolment of students affected by the proposal and the appropriateness of those arrangements;
- alternative arrangements for allocating to one or more other schools the principal and staff affected by the proposal;
- the provision of education or training services to students affected by the proposal;
- the disposal of any assets realised as a result of the proposal; and
- any other matter that the Minister considers appropriate.

Consultation must be undertaken with the following key stakeholders:

- the principal and the staff of the school or schools affected by the proposal;
- the students enrolled in the school or schools affected by the proposal and their parents; and any bodies that the Minister considers to be representative of the principal, staff, students or parents and/or the

community in which the school or schools affected by the proposal is located.

The Minister may consult in the manner that the Minister considers appropriate and the Minister's decision on the manner of consultation cannot be challenged, reviewed or called into question by a court or tribunal.

**When will the consultation process commence?**

The Minister has provided in-principle support for consultation to be undertaken in both Alice Springs and Palmerston.

Consultation will be undertaken in late May 2016, this will include information sessions available for all interested parties to attend.

During June 2016, all interested parties will be able to provide feedback to the respective college principals.

In late July 2016, targeted planning sessions will take place with teachers, staff, families and students of the relevant schools.

In August 2016, feedback from the information sessions, feedback provided directly to the college principals and the targeted planning sessions will be collated to develop an operational plan and timeline for the establishment of the dual campus college in Alice Springs and in Palmerston.

During Term 3 and Term 4, 2016, the college principals will work with their schools to prepare for the opening of the college in January 2017.

**Is the creation of the proposed Palmerston College going to be impacted by the outcome of the election?**

The dual campus college model is a Department of Education initiative.

There is bipartisan support for dual campus college model in Alice Springs and Palmerston which will mean irrespective of the outcome of the election the proposal will proceed.

**Will the dual campus college model be implemented across the Northern Territory?**

Not at this stage. The current enrolment data is showing a decline in student numbers in government middle schools in Alice Springs and Palmerston which indicates that work needs to be done to connect the middle schools in these regions with their neighbouring secondary schools to provide continuity and consistency in teaching and learning for the students and their families.

**Does the proposal to create a dual campus college model support the middle year's ideologies?**

Yes. The dual campus college model complements a key action of the *Work Like The Best – Teaching and Learning Strategy 2016-2018*, to increase the retention of students; from primary school through to middle school and onto secondary school.

**How will this impact on programs?**

It will assist in enhancing students' access to a wider range of curricular and extra-curricular programs that a larger college can offer. This includes increased subject choices, programs, resources, access to facilities across two campuses and increased access to specialist teachers.

Programs that are currently running in will continue to be maintained at all schools in the initial stages of the establishment of the colleges. The consultation process will provide the opportunity to discuss program alignment between both campuses with the focus being on creating a seamless pathway for students.

**Is this a cost saving measure?**

No, the primary objective is to improve student outcomes in Alice Springs and Palmerston through the development of a consistent and connected learning journey over a six year period.

There is in fact potential financial benefits through increased flexibility in the use of resources afforded by economies of scales, including the ability to share and fully utilise specialist staff across campuses, allowing for broader curriculum offerings.

**Will the dual campus college model result in an increase or a decrease to the overall budget for the schools?**

No as the global school budget model is based on student numbers, therefore budget increases or decreases are dependent on the total number of students attending the dual campus college.

There is however potential financial benefits through increased flexibility in the use of resources afforded by economies of scales, including the ability to share and fully utilise specialist staff across campuses, allowing for broader curriculum offerings.

**Is this a rebranding exercise?**

No, the primary objective is to improve student outcomes in Alice Springs and Palmerston through the development of a consistent and connected learning journey over a six year period.



### **What difference does a change in name make?**

The focus is not on the name change it is on establishing a dual campus college that provides continuity in the teaching and learning programs from Year 7 through to Year 12.

### **Will staff lose their jobs?**

No staff will lose their jobs; this not a cost saving measure.

The primary objective is to improve student outcomes in Alice Springs and Palmerston through the development of a consistent and connected learning journey over a six year period.

### **Who will be the principal of the dual campus college?**

Initially, the current principal of Palmerston Senior College will be appointed as the dual campus college principal and will assume this role from June 2016 to ensure that a dedicated employee is managing the transition to the dual campus college.

To ensure minimal disruption to Palmerston Senior College's current operation, an additional Assistant Principal has been appointed.

The principal of Rosebery Middle School Principal will continue their current role and following the transition to the dual campus college will....

### **What about the other questions that we have asked?**

The specific questions relating to the dual campus college in Palmerston have been directed to the relevant sub committees to be established.

### **How can I become involved in the planning process?**

In June 2016, planning sessions will be conducted with the school staff, school council, parents, students and school community to consult on certain elements of the college's operation.

Respective principals will issue expressions of interest for opportunities for you to be involved in the planning process by way of committee or any other means.

### **Where do I find further information and how do I provide further feedback?**

For more information including Frequently Asked Questions, visit [www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au)

To provide feedback on the dual campus college email your respective principals.