

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

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From: Mr Andrew Mackay

To: Hon Jo Hersey

Portfolio: Education and Training

Agency: Education and Training

Subject: Incidents breakdown by category for schools

QUESTION:

Can you please provide a breakdown by the number of incidents by category of early childhood centre, preschool, primary school and secondary school, as appropriate.

ANSWER:

Early childhood education and care services – 2025 calendar year published data

Incidents must be reported to Quality Education and Care NT (QECNT) as specified in section 174 of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010.

Incidents can be classified as:

- Serious incidents - defined as any incident involving serious illness of a child while being educated and cared for which the child attended or ought reasonable to have attended a hospital, any incident involving serious injury or trauma to a child being educated or cared for which a child attended or ought to have attended a hospital, or would require urgent attention from a medical practitioner, any incident which emergency services attended, a child appears missing or unaccounted for, a child is locked in or out of any part of the premises, or a death.
- Other Incidents - defined as any circumstance that is a risk to health, safety or wellbeing of the children attending the service, incident that requires a closure or reduction of number of children attending, incident where provider believes physical or sexual abuse of a child or children has occurred at the service, allegation of sexual or physical abuse of a child or children that has occurred at the service.

490 incidents were notified to QECNT from the following service types:

- Long Day Care: 243
- Outside School Hours Care: 231
- Family day care: 16

Preschools – 2025 calendar year published data

165 incidents were notified to QECNT from the Department of Education and Training (the department) operated preschools in the 2025 calendar year.

This includes:

- 54 serious incidents
- 111 other incidents.

Primary and Secondary Government School student incident reports

An incident is any occurrence which has, or has potential to, cause physical or mental harm, illness, disease, trauma, fatality, property or environmental damage. A Work Health and Safety (WHS) Incident report form must be completed within 24 hours of the incident occurring.

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, there were 689 student incident reports made to the department from NT Government schools.

Of the 689 student incident reports:

- 404 occurred in Primary schools
- 186 occurred in Secondary schools
- 77 occurred in Comprehensive schools
- 22 are not school specified.

Notifiable incidents

From 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026, there were 8 notifiable incidents in NT Government schools reported to NT WorkSafe.

The WHS law requires a 'notifiable incident' to be reported by phone to the regulator immediately after becoming aware it has happened.

A notifiable incident is:

- the death of a person
- a serious incident or illness, or
- a dangerous incident

arising out of the code of a business or undertaking at a workplace. Notifiable incidents may relate to any person, whether an employee, contractor, or member of the public.

Data has been sourced from online WHS incident reports. The data should be considered indicative only, based on reported incidents.