



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
12<sup>th</sup> Assembly

**Petition**

Registration No.	35
Title	NEW STATE-OF-ART HENBURY SCHOOL
Presented on	25 March 2014
Presented by	MS NICOLE MANISON (Member for Wanguri)
Referred to	Minister for Education (Mr Peter Chandler MLA)
Date referred	25 March 2014
Response due	20 August 2014
Response received	11 August 2014
Response presented	19 August 2014

**Petition**

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory.

We the undersigned respectfully showeth

As the Northern Territory's only secondary school for students with special needs; Henbury School is seriously overcrowded within all learning areas and offices, has completely inadequate outdoor play areas and no longer meets with national standards.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that

The Northern Territory Government builds a new Henbury School.

A new Henbury School should be custom designed incorporating state-of-the-art facilities to ensure that students receive the best education, training, support and care to which they are entitled. It is essential that it be built to meet the rapidly increasing demands for the future.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

**Response**

Government approved an item for \$10 million for special school infrastructure in the northern suburbs of Darwin, on the 2014-15 Design List. Government's support for Henbury School has enabled planning to commence in 2014-15, in preparation for a project proposed for the 2015-16 Capital Works Program.

Although the school community has welcomed the announcement of a \$10 million infrastructure investment, the school is experiencing continued student enrolment pressure and is seeking a short-term solution to increase capacity. An interim solution to supplement the existing school facilities with transportable classrooms is being investigated.

It should be noted that there is also a special education program and separate facility for secondary students in Palmerston, based at Palmerston Senior College and for rural students based at Taminmin College. Further, Henbury School manages a successful outreach network which provides for its students to attend a range of schools including Dripstone Middle School, Casuarina Senior College and Darwin High School on a regular basis. Although it is acknowledged that additional classroom space is needed at Henbury School, the current model of service delivery provides families with options and has reduced pressure at Henbury School as the hub school.

There are a number of options to invest \$10 million in additional infrastructure for Henbury School to provide greater long-term capacity and improved amenities for students and staff. A project development group (PDG) has been established, comprising key stakeholders and infrastructure experts to consider the best outcome for students.

The school principal and school council through the PDG are involved in consideration of the options before moving into a design phase. The PDG will provide further advice for my consideration.