

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Education:

#### School Capacities

1. Please list the details of the following enrolment information in regards to Darwin High School, Taminmin College, Casuarina Senior College, Darwin Middle School, Dripstone Middle School, Nightcliff Middle School, and Sanderson Middle School:
  - a. The number of students enrolled at the school and the maximum enrollment number.
  - b. The number of students enrolled by class, and the maximum student number by class.
  - c. The number of students enrolled at the school from outside of the school's catchment zone.

#### ANSWERS:

1. a. The number of students enrolled at each listed school and the schools 'notional capacity' is provided in the table below. Notional capacity is the practical capacity of a school and excludes non-teaching and utility areas such as cleaning closets and changing rooms.

School	2018 <sup>1</sup> enrolments	Notional <sup>2</sup> capacity
Casuarina Senior College	930	1213
Darwin High School <sup>3</sup>	1303	1672
Darwin Middle School	796	787
Dripstone Middle School	498	788
Nightcliff Middle School	283	576
Sanderson Middle School	401	932
Taminmin College	1067	1496

1. *Data has been sourced from the department's Age Grade Census dataset. The Age Grade Census occurs on the first Friday in August each year. Data is current at time of provision.*
2. *Notional capacity is the total number of students that can enrol at the school based on the school's available infrastructure and current usage of that infrastructure.*
3. *Darwin High School figures reflect the future capacity at the anticipated completion of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, Mathematics) building expected in June 2019.*

- b. Information on the number of students enrolled by class is not centrally held and is not available.

Clause 51.1 of the [Northern Territory \(NT\) Public Sector Teachers and Assistant Teachers' 2017-2021 Enterprise Agreement](#) states that no class in NT Government schools will exceed 27 students.

Clause 51.2 allows variation in some instances where classroom teachers work with more than 27 students.

- c. Schools are required to comply with the department's Enrolment Management and Priority Enrolment guidelines which state that:
- schools actively manage student enrolments to ensure sufficient operational capacity is reserved for students living in the school's priority enrolment area.
  - schools must ensure consistent, transparent and equitable decision-making, free from discrimination
  - no eligible child will be denied enrolment at their school, providing they reside within the school priority enrolment area
  - parents may apply to enrol their child in any school of their choice; however, a school can only accept an application for enrolment from a student residing outside of the priority enrolment area if the school has the operational capacity to accommodate that enrolment
  - a principal may decline an application for enrolment for a child living outside the school's priority enrolment area at any time provided that the decision is transparent and made without discrimination or prejudice.

School	Number of students enrolled at the school from outside school's PEA <sup>1</sup>	Number of students enrolled at the school from outside school's PEA <sup>1</sup> as a proportion of school's enrolment (%)
Casuarina Senior College	217	23%
Darwin High School	620	48%
Darwin Middle School	293	37%
Dripstone Middle School	141	28%
Nightcliff Middle School	99	35%
Sanderson Middle School	104	26%
Taminmin College	183	17%

<sup>1</sup> A school's Priority Enrolment Area is the residential area of a school's student enrolment catchment. Students residing within a Priority Enrolment Area will have priority placement within the school over children who reside outside of the enrolment area.

There are various school specific reasons for the out-of-priority area percentage, including families moving during the time a student is enrolled, or students being selected for specialised school programs such as the performing arts and the student of high performance programs.

Where a school is approaching or reached eighty-five per cent of its operational (or notional) capacity, an Enrolment Management Plan (EMP) must be developed, which includes criteria for assessing and management strategies of out-of-priority area enrolments.

EMPs, where applicable, are published on the relevant school website.