



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 148

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Uibo to the Minister for Police, Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA:

Wanding in Schools

1. For the period 1 September 2024 to 1 September 2025:

- a. How many reported incidents involving edged weapons in or around schools occurred?**

The terminology in the question of 'around schools' is not a specific location. The Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) SerPro system uses geospatial locations and data cannot be searched based on the proximity to other locations.

There were six recorded incidents involving edged weapons at specific school locations in the NT.

- b. How many lockdowns were recorded at NT schools as a result of incidents involving edged weapons?**

There are approximately 215 Schools in the NT, with 153 of these public schools. The NTPF do not specifically report on school lockdowns and the question should be referred to the Department of Education and Training.

- c. How many wanding exercises have occurred just outside school grounds?**

An accurate figure cannot be provided as the terminology in the question 'outside school grounds' is too broad and data cannot be searched based on the proximity to other locations.

2. Since the commencement of Declan's Law:

- a. How many wanding operations have been conducted by NT Police in or around Northern Territory schools using hand-held scanners?**

There were two wanding operations executed at NT schools during the reporting period.

Refer to Question 1 regarding the terminology of 'around schools'.

- b. Of these wandering operations, please provide a breakdown of how many occurred in or around primary schools, middle schools and senior schools**

The two wandering operations were conducted at high schools.

- c. What was the result of each operation ie number, if any, of edged weapons discovered?**

There were 146 persons subject to wandering during the two operations. Four students were found to be in possession of scissors, however, all had legitimate reasons for their possession.

- d. How many of the wandering operations in or around schools over this period were preventative and how many were in response to an incident involving an edged weapon?**

The two wandering operations were implemented as a result of incidents that occurred at schools, both involved edged weapons.

- 3. Of the wandering operations conducted in or around schools since the commencement of Declan's Law, how many were conducted in consultation with the relevant school principal and how many were conducted without the relevant school's prior knowledge?**

Both wandering operations were authorised by the School Principal prior to their execution, in accordance with S116KD(5) of the *Police Administration Act 1978*.

- 4. In the period 1 September 2024 to 1 September 2025, how many times have NT Police been called to intervene or investigate an incident between students on school grounds and at which schools?**

During this period, the NTPF were called to intervene or investigate 143 incidents involving students on school grounds.

Schools involved:

- Ali Curung School
- Woodroffe Primary School
- Yuendumu Community School
- Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School
- Dundee Beach School
- Ngukurr School
- Darwin High School
- Rosebery Primary School
- Millner Primary School
- Moulden Primary School
- Clyde Fenton Primary School
- Woodroffe Primary School
- Our Lady Sacred Heart Thumarrur School (Wadeye Community)
- Wadeye Olsh School
- Dripstone Middle School

- Ti Tree School
- Titjikala School
- Darwin Middle School
- Tennant Creek Primary School
- Tennant Creek High School
- Stuart Park Primary School
- Rosebery Middle School
- Essington School
- Nightcliff Middle School
- Ramingining School
- Nganmariyanga School (Palumpa)
- Nhulunbuy High School
- Moil Primary School
- Palmerston Christian School (Marlow Lagoon)
- Maningrida Community School
- Top End School of Flexible Learning (Malak)
- Sanderson Middle School
- Malak Primary School
- Ludmilla Primary School
- Larrakeyah Primary School
- Wulungurru (Kintore) Primary School
- Katherine South Primary School
- Katherine High School
- MacFarlane Primary School (Katherine)
- Clyde Fenton Pre-School
- Jabiru Area School
- Taminmin High School
- Ntaria Community School
- Centralian Middle School (Alice Springs)
- Gapuwiyak Primary and Pre School
- Dhalinybuy School (East Arnhem Land)
- Durack Primary School
- Palmerston Middle School
- St Francis Xavier Catholic School (Daly River)
- Holy Spirit Catholic College
- Canteen Creek School
- Beswick (Wugularr) School
- Berry Springs Primary School
- Batchelor Area School
- Barunga School
- Alyangula Area School

5. What is the average cost of a wanding operation conducted in or around a school?

There are no additional financial costings for wanding operations, however, each operation may vary in size, duration, numbers of police deployed and if there are any resulting arrests.

There is no ability to track any of these individual costs.