

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Hersey to the Minister for Education:

**Palmerston College Funding and Resources**

In 2017 the decision was taken by the Department of Education and the Minister for Education to amalgamate the Roseberry Middle School and Palmerston Senior College to form Palmerston College from January 2018. The primary objective of the dual campus college was to improve student outcomes and provide Palmerston families with a contemporary, competitive and high quality education service, including clear and continuous learning pathways and specialisation, consistently high expectations and experiences, and longer term relationships from Year 7 to Year 12.

On 1 January 2018, the newly combined Palmerston College was gazette, consisting of two campuses, Years 7 – 9 Campus and Years 10 -12 Campus.

**1. Please advise:**

**a) The total funding provided to Roseberry Middle School in the 2017-2018 financial year**

Schools operate on a calendar year and receive funds from a number of sources. The largest component of school funding comes from the School Resourcing Model (SRM). The SRM comprises of 3 funding components, facility funding, variable funding (linked to student numbers and needs profile) and targeted funding. Roseberry Middle School and Palmerston Senior College were operating as stand-alone schools in 2017 before merging to form Palmerston College in 2018.

In the 2017 calendar year, Roseberry Middle School was allocated \$7.533 million via the school resourcing model.

**b) The total funding provided to Roseberry Middle School in the 2018-2019 financial year**

In the 2018 calendar year, funding for Roseberry Middle School was provided to Palmerston College to operate the campus.

**c) The total funding provided to Palmerston Senior College in the 2017-2018 financial year**

In the 2017 calendar year, Palmerston Senior College was allocated \$8.508 million via the school resourcing model.

**d) The total funding provided to Palmerston Senior College for the 2018-2019 year**

In the 2018 calendar year, funding for Palmerston Senior College was provided to Palmerston College to operate the campus.

**e) The total funding provided to Palmerston College in the 2018-2019 financial year**

The Palmerston College began operations in the 2018 calendar year. In 2018 Palmerston College was allocated \$16.134 million via the school resourcing model.

**f) The total funding provided to Palmerston College in the 2019-2020 financial year**

In the 2019 calendar year Palmerston College was allocated \$16.457 million via the school resourcing model.

**2. Do the two campuses, namely the years 7-9 Campus and the Years 10-12 Campus receive separate funding, or is funding provided to management to be divided as it sees fit? If separate funding amounts are provided, please provide a breakdown of the responses to questions 3-6 showing the amounts provided to each campus.**

The college is provided a one-line budget and the school principal has the authority to allocate the funding based on the needs of the current cohort of students, in collaboration with the school representative body.

The school receives additional information that would permit the school to attribute funding to each campus based on student numbers at each campus if desired.

**3. Have administration or support staff numbers been reduced at either campus as a result of the amalgamation? If yes please provide details.**

Staffing numbers in schools are impacted each year based on the number of students enrolled and attending.

Based on the same period each year (May) the number of staff not in a teaching category reduced from 33.67 full-time equivalent (FTE) in 2017 to 31.10 FTE in 2018. The number of non-teaching staff increased to 34.06 FTE in 2019.

**4. Have teacher or teaching support staff numbers been reduced at either campus as a result of the amalgamation? If yes please provide details.**

Based on the same period each year (May) the number of staff in a teaching category increased from 82.92 FTE in 2017 to 91.17 FTE in 2018. The number of teaching staff increased to 92.79 FTE in 2019.

**5. What services, teaching staff and support staff are shared between the campuses and what is the sharing model?**

The Palmerston College leadership structure has the following sharing model:

- All college executive members work and locate across both campuses.
- Curriculum leaders (6 x ST1 positions) are campus based and spend 100% of their time at their allocated campus.
- Approximately 10% of teaching staff work across the two campuses.
- There are a number of administration positions that are shared across the college which includes but is not limited to: Aboriginal Islander Education Worker, Home Liaison Officer, Defence Mentor, Business Manager, School Operations Manager, IT Manager.