

## LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### Inquiry into Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

#### Answer to Question Taken on Notice

**Date:** 10/11/2025

**To:** Teacher Registration Board of the Northern Territory

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#### Question

Clause 8 of the Bill seeks to insert a new section providing the minister the power to give written directions to the Teacher Registration Board. Is that view supported by the Teacher Registration Board and how will it affect the operation and independence of the board?

#### Answer

During the recent inquiry into the Teacher Registration (Northern Territory) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 meeting the Member for Gwoja, Mr Paech asked the representatives of the Board, Ms Boyce and Ms Hirschausen the boards position on Clause 8 - which introduces a technical amendment clarifying that the Minister can direct the Board. This clause inserts a new section, 25B Ministerial directions to the Board, outlining the Minister's power to set policy, performance, and accountability expectations for the Board, while preserving its independence in regulating the teaching profession. Importantly, the Minister cannot issue directions concerning individual persons, applications for registration or re-registration, complaints, investigations, inquiries, or disciplinary actions under the Act.

Ms Boyce took the question on notice to further discuss with the Board.

Like many of the other amendments, the purpose of this clause is to provide clarification, and the Board is broadly supportive of its inclusion. There was some consideration around the types of performance and accountability measures that may be requested of the Board. The Board acknowledges that the Minister's authority is limited to directing the Board in relation to its powers and the performance of its functions under the Act, and not in relation to any individual person. This distinction supports and preserves the Board's independence.

The Board also wishes to note that, due to the manual nature of the current registration and authorisation processes, the scope of data that can be provided is extremely limited. Both the office and the Board are looking forward to the digitalisation of these processes, which will enable the Board to deliver high-quality, meaningful data to the Minister and other stakeholders.