



Petition

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| Registration No. | 30 |
| Title | Independent investigation on levels and impact of bullying and violence in all public schools |
| Presented on | 19 March 2024 |
| Presented by | Member for Katherine |
| Referred to | Minister for Education and Public Accounts Committee |
| Assembly debate | If the Committee recommends the Petition be debated it will appear on the Notice Paper |
| Date referred | 19 March 2024 |
| Response due | 20 June 2024 |
| Response received | 14 May 2024 |
| Response presented | 14 May 2024 |

Petition

To THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

Our children are at breaking point with increased levels of bullying and violence between students within our schools.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT

The Northern Territory Government:

Initiates a full independent investigation of the levels and impact of bullying and violence in all public primary, middle and high schools with the terms of reference including:

1. To obtain and consider submissions from students, parents, teaching staff and the Department of Education
2. To review complaints about bullying and violence
3. To identify the issues and concerns
4. To make recommendations to the Minister to create a safe, harmonious environment for teaching and learning.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, As IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

Response



MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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Mathew Bates
Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
Parliament House
Via email: Mathew.Bates@nt.gov.au

Dear Mr Bates

Thank you for your letter of 20 March 2024 regarding Petition No. 30, Independent investigation on levels and impact of bullying and violence in all public schools.

The petition highlights important issues that are priorities for the Northern Territory (NT) Government and the Department of Education (the department). The wellbeing and safety of students and staff across the Territory are of significant importance.


In April 2021, the department formed the Positive Behaviour and Occupational Violence in Schools Taskforce (the taskforce) to investigate occupational violence and aggression in NT government schools. The taskforce comprised of senior officials from the department, along with representatives from the NT Principals' Association; the NT Council of Government School Organisations; the Teacher Registration Board of the NT; the Australian Education Union – NT branch; and school principals. A full copy of the report can be found here (<https://education.nt.gov.au/reviews-and-consultations/report-on-occupational-violence-and-aggression-in-northern-territory-government-schools>).

The taskforce's investigation has led to valuable recommendations and initiatives. For instance, staff have received training in *Safe and Supportive De-Escalation of Behaviour* to minimise the risk of occupational violence and aggression in schools. Additionally, the department has partnered with Beyond Blue's *Be You* program to support whole-school approaches to wellbeing, aiming to create safer and more positive environments for students, parents and staff alike.

The department is committed to a comprehensive approach when addressing all complaints about bullying and violence in schools. It continues to actively implement recommendations and initiatives arising from the taskforce investigation, and takes all such complaints seriously.

The NT Government and department will continue to work closely with community leaders and members to develop effective solutions. By collaborating with our community partners, we strive to create a safer, more supportive school environment.

Yours sincerely



MARK MONAGHAN

14 MAY 2024