

# Overview of Needs-Based Funding

## Distribution Principles

NT Christian Schools is the approved system authority for seven NT Christian Schools located in metropolitan and regional areas across the Northern Territory. These seven schools are operated as:

1. Araluen Christian College
2. Gäwa Christian School
3. Marrara Christian College
4. NT Christian College
5. Nhulunbuy Christian College
6. Palmerston Christian School
7. Sattler Christian School

These schools come under the control of the NT Christian Schools Board and form part of the Christian Education National (CEN) National Network. These schools are operated as Early Learning Centres, Transition-12 schools of which 1 provide indigenous boarding. There are approximately 1500 students enrolled in NT Christian Schools.



### **Proposed Needs-Based Funding Distribution Arrangements**

It is proposed that NT Christian Schools will apply the following needs-based system funding distribution principals for NT Christian Schools:

1. Public funding will be distributed to NT Christian Schools within the system in compliance with the Australian Education Act 2013 and Australian Education Regulations 2013
2. NT Christian Schools will recognise a needs-based funding arrangement that takes into account the specific circumstances of students in order to assist with the minimization of educational disadvantage and facilitate a high quality education for every student in NT Christian Schools. Schools will receive per capita grants for each

student that takes into account each school's community's capacity to financially contribute to the school. The capacity to contribute will be based on each schools individual Socioeconomic Score (SES)

3. Publicly funded loadings that are received on account of NT Christian Schools due to school and student characteristics will be distributed in full to schools based on their individual SES scores and individual transition group and transitional paths.
4. NT Christian Schools allocates Commonwealth recurrent funding directly to schools in accordance with notional Commonwealth allocations which include the various needs based loadings. The System office levies each school on a pro rata basis, with adjustments according to particular management requirements, to arrive at a consolidated administrative cost.
5. NT Christian Schools has a mechanism to allocate any shortfalls in system administration costs through a system levy. The levy will be based on a per student basis using enrolments as per the Commonwealth August Census.



**Compliance with Australian Education Act**

<p><b>NT Christian Schools: Needs-Based Funding Distribution Principals</b></p>	<p><b>Australian Education Act Section 78(5)</b></p>
<p>NT Christian Schools will receive a per capita amount for each student which provides resources to support students with minimal educational disadvantage.</p>	<p><b>(a)(i)</b> Represents the recurrent resources required to support a student with minimal education disadvantage to achieve expected educational outcomes</p>

<p>The amount funded per student takes into account each school communities capacity to contribute financially to the school. The capacity to contribute has been based on a schools individual SES score.</p> <p>From 2018, per capital amounts will be based on each schools individual starting Commonwealth share calculated as:  Actual 2017 recurrent funding paid using schools individual SES  The adjusted SRS amount for the individual school</p>	
<p>With consistent systemic governance, financial and management processes the maximum benefit from the use of funds is ensured for improving educational outcomes.</p>	<p><b>(a)(ii)</b> takes account of efficiencies that can be realised while improving educational outcomes</p>
<p>Publically funded loadings will be distributed to NT Christian Schools in full after calculating the loadings using the schools individual SES score and Transition Group.</p> <p>From 2018, loadings will be paid in full using each schools individual starting Commonwealth share and transitional path.</p>	<p><b>(b)</b> In addition to amount per student mentioned in paragraph (a), provides loadings to students and schools with additional needs in order to support student achievement including:  <b>(i)</b> students with disabilities  <b>(ii)</b> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students  <b>(iii)</b> students with socio-educational disadvantage  <b>(iv)</b> students with low English proficiency  <b>(v)</b> schools based on location  <b>(vi)</b> schools based on sized</p>
<p>Public funding to be distributed according to needs based funding formulas outlined in the Australian Education Act Regulations 2013.</p> <p>A copy of this funding arrangement is available on the NT Christian Schools website and Office.</p>	<p><b>c)</b> Is publically available and transparent</p>