



BOARDING FACILITIES

AIM: Access to a boarding facility within the Northern Territory for all geographically isolated children who must board away from home for appropriate primary and/or secondary education:

OBJECTIVES:

1. That, institutions providing boarding facilities give special priority to the provision of pastoral care and access to appropriate in-service training for relevant staff. (See attachment A)
2. Boarding schools and hostels will be of an acceptable standard according to Government standards with particular attention paid to creating a 'homely' environment. (See attachment B)
3. Government and non-government boarding facilities that cater for isolated children, be eligible for equitable recurrent funding.
4. Counsellors be available to boarding students, particularly those living away from home for the first time.
5. Career advisors be available to boarding students. (See attachments A & B)
6. That the appropriate boarding staff, liaises with the relevant schools in relation to the particular needs of boarding students.
7. Where possible, preferential consideration be given to geographically isolated students when boarding places are being allocated.
8. Provision of suitable accommodation and services in boarding facilities for children with special needs.
9. That boarding facilities be aware of the inherent problems associated with compulsory exeat.
10. That provision be made by the Government for 'short- term' emergency financial assistance to all facilities that provide and cater for isolated students.
11. Access to Special Needs teachers for boarding facilities.
12. Supervision during Prep and homework times is essential, with individual tutoring accessible to students who require such.

BOARDING FACILITIES POLICY STATEMENT ATTACHMENT -A- PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care designates the physical, spiritual and psychological well being of students in a boarding hostel or other custodial care facilities. Pastoral care involves the whole person, and to some extent education falls into this category although it is not specifically discussed herein.

1. Physical Aspect - safety, medical, living/working/playing facilities, nutrition and leave.
2. Spiritual- morals, religion and life skills
3. Psychological- privacy, counselling and self discipline

Individual concerns re pastoral care involve many personal and detailed requirements that fall into the realm of consultation and agreement between parent and school. Individual requirements should be dealt with by the parents concerned and not infringe on the school society as a whole.

Physical

Safety: physical well-being cared for in the form of an appropriate boarding environment with suitable rules and regulations in place so that the students' whereabouts are known at all times. Adequate supervision to be provided constantly while students in residence.

Medical: access to fully qualified in-house nursing staff and medical facilities as well as outside doctors, dentists, etc.

Leave: to be based on the specific needs of students plus full weekend leave as per boarding facility policy with appropriate safeguards applying to all instances.

L/W/P: acceptable levels of supervision and safety at all living, working and playing times

Nutrition: meals must include well balanced nutritional foods with plenty of fresh fruit available. Students monitored to ensure they are eating sensibly and where there are concerns held by the staff, parents notified and consulted.

Spiritual

Morals: instil good moral standards in students with equal expectation of high moral standards in the staff. Develop a sense of integrity, initiative and personal responsibility.

Religion: suitable instruction in the faith of the school as deemed relevant and pertinent by the school and 'church'. Access to religions other than the schools. Be aware of differences in religions and cultures and understand and accept them,

Life Skills: topics would include life skills, study skills, conflict resolution, community living and awareness with courses designed and implemented to encourage and develop these skills. Recognise the need to live in harmony with and be tolerant of others.

Psychological

Privacy: need for suitable living and study areas with provision for a degree of privacy and individuality.

Counselling: guidance and advice readily available for those students experiencing difficulties in all or any areas be they academic, spiritual or psychological. Provision of career counselling. A knowledge and understanding of the individual student's family life to facilitate smooth adjustment to boarding school life. Fulfil the role of surrogate parenting.

Disciplines: acceptable levels of external discipline and provision for an environment where self discipline is encouraged and developed. A degree of self determination.

BOARDING FACILITIES POLICY STATEMENT ATTACHMENT -B- BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The grounds must be large enough to accommodate areas for both casual ball games and some quiet shady place for students who wish to just sit and talk or read. It is important that buildings have a homely feeling. All grounds and buildings must comply with Government set regulations.

Grounds

Safety: All recreational areas be appropriately fenced, eg. swimming pools, sports ground and practice areas, trampolines, etc. Easily identified and accessible fire extinguishers.

Security- A lockable shed or enclosure for bicycles and outdoor sports equipment.

Atmosphere: A pleasant, soothing garden with provision for some quiet areas for students to relax in.

Playing Areas: Space to allow for small team games to be played, e.g. hand ball or volley ball. Provision of a basketball net with sufficient space to enable several students' access to the play area.

Buildings

Safety: All buildings and rooms to be equipped with smoke detectors and ceiling extinguishers with hand held extinguishers placed in easily accessible positions. A well equipped and lockable first aid kit be provided in each house parent flat.

Living Areas: Each wing to have its own recreational room large enough for students to have easy viewing access to a television and video set. Furniture to be comfortable and homely. Some space and appropriate furniture to allow for board games to be played by groups.

Work/Study Areas: Where possible private practise areas be available for students studying music. Access to a separate area where computers and associated equipment are available for both pleasure and homework requirements.

Bedrooms: Large enough to hold a wardrobe, some drawer space, a desk for homework and a hand basin to encourage good health and hygiene practices. Preferably no more than two students per room. A lock to be provided on wardrobes to enable safety of students' belongings or some provision made for access to private lockable space per student.

Medical: At least one sick room per twenty students within easy access of ablution areas and close to house parent accommodations and where possible with attached small ensuite.

House Parents Flat: Each boarding wing of no more than twenty students should have at least one house parent flat. House parents' flats must be large enough to comfortably house a married couple with provision made to house children if necessary. Good accommodation goes a long way towards attracting and retaining good staff. Provision made for plenty of storage space as these people often make this their permanent place of living.