



SPECIAL NEEDS

AIM: To maximise education options and outcomes for children with special needs, to include Gifted & Talented, and Disability students living in remote areas.

OBJECTIVES:

1. The continuing provision of Special Needs teachers, above standard staffing formula/ establishment for all Distance Education Centres.
2. Access to Special Needs teachers for small rural & remote schools and boarding facilities.
3. All Special Needs teachers be trained in the identification of and programming for children with special needs.
4. Early identification and intervention is a high priority.
5. Provision of mobile units, with a Guidance Officer and itinerant specialists to visit homes and small schools in remote areas to identify, assess and program for children with special needs and provide on-going support.
6. The provision of suitable accommodation where parents and children can stay for short periods to receive guidance and assessment and attend appropriate schools as a day student on a temporary basis.
7. Notification of and access to existing workshops/seminars held throughout the Northern Territory for parents of isolated children with special needs to meet each other, exchange problems and ideas, and receive specialist help.
8. Maintenance of regional centres to develop appropriate educational courses and prepare individual education programs to suit the needs of isolated children with special needs.
9. Co-ordination of the work of existing organisations at all levels, both Government and voluntary.
10. An equitable allocation of Commonwealth funds to the N T Education Department each year to be used specifically to assist with the provision of specialist services and facilities for isolated children with special needs.
11. Review of funding to ensure the provision of adequate financial assistance for geographically isolated families to gain access to special education and all necessary support services without undue hardship.
12. Provision of a liaison person or agency to advise isolated families on services available, and to assist with overcoming confusion caused by shared responsibilities of Education, Health, Social Security Department and Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education & Training.
13. Provision of ongoing counselling services to be offered to isolated parents and families of children with special needs.