



## Introduction

This is a duty statement for elected members of the Darwin High School Board (the Board). It outlines the general duties of, and expected commitment by, Board members.

### Board Context:

In 2015 Darwin High School became one of the first Independent Public Schools (IPS) in the Northern Territory (NT). Through the IPS initiative, decision-making is being shifted from central office to the principal and there is stronger engagement between our school and the community.

A key part of supporting this change has been the role of the school council and its transition to a Board. Darwin High School Board members:

- have a strong focus on strategic planning, monitoring and reporting;
- work together with the principal to create and achieve the long-term vision for the school;
- involve the school community in the governance of the school to strengthen and support public education in the community; and
- maintain the autonomy of the Board at all stages of their dealings on behalf of parents, students, teachers and the wider school community.

### Board Member Duties:

- Undertake relevant induction and training procedures as provided by the Board.
- Comply with the Board's code of conduct at all times.
- Consider, debate, and vote on issues before the Board on the basis of the best interests of the school only.
- Endorse the school's Business Plan, and other consequential arrangements (e.g. annual plan, annual report).
- Regularly review and discuss the school's performance against the Business Plan ensuring that the school stays on track and is responsive to the needs of the community.
- Review and approve the school's annual budget and, where appropriate, systems for financial control and risk management.
- Promote the school in the community as opportunities arise.
- Support the school's community engagement activities.

### Requirements:

- To be eligible to stand for election:
  - *Parent members:* Must be a parent of a child currently enrolled at Darwin High School.
  - *Teacher members:* Must be a current teacher at Darwin High School.
  - *Student members:* Must be a current student at Darwin High School and an elected member of the Student Representative Council.
- High level of commitment to Darwin High School.
- Knowledge and skills in one or more of the following areas: education (including international education), networking and relationship building, governance, risk management, financial management, human resource management, fundraising, marketing and/or other areas relevant to the school and its strategic direction.
- Willingness to serve on at least one sub-committee and actively participate.
- Attendance at up to ten Board meetings per year, understanding that meetings are held outside of normal school hours, and usually on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except during school holidays).
- Preparation for, and participation in, the discussions and the deliberations of the Board.
- Being informed of Darwin High School's services and strategic goals and publicly supporting them.
- Being alert to, and avoiding, any conflict of interest.

**Term:** Two years, renewable for three further consecutive terms (a maximum of six years).

**Board Member Protections:** Provided members of the Board act in good faith they will be indemnified by section 71M of the *Education Act* (NT). From 1 April members will be protected from liability by section 184 of the new *Education Act 2015* (NT).