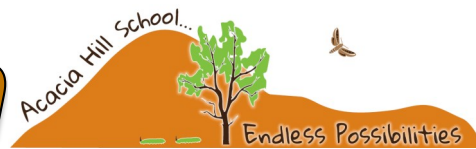


Acacia in Action



Confident

Community

Caring

Connected

DATE: 16 June 2023

Newsletter Week 9 Term 2 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

NCCD

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) occurs annually. All schools in Australia must count the number of students who receive assistance due to disability, and the level of assistance provided. At Acacia Hill School, every student is receiving assistance due to their disability – being enrolled at Acacia into a small class with a teacher and SESO is in itself one 'adjustment'. This means that every Acacia student is counted in the NCCD.

Data from the NCCD is used by the Australian Government to determine the amount of 'student with disability loading' for each state and territory. Data is collected within each school, but personal details of students is not provided to federal authorities.

There is a brochure attached to this newsletter with more information about the NCCD.

Positive Partnerships Free Webinars

Positive Partnerships is a national project offering a range of information webinars, workshops and resources to assist teachers, school staff and Parent/Carers who support school-aged students on the autism spectrum.

Workshops for parents/carers and educators:

An Introduction to Positive Partnerships - 1 June and 6 June

Communication Part 1 - 1 June and 15 June

Communication Part 2 - 27 June

For more information and to register click <https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/> or contact Grant Russell at grussell@positivepartnershiops.com.au.

Review to Inform a Better and Fairer Education System – Teacher, Parent and Student Survey

Teachers, parents and students are encouraged to take part in a national survey to help shape the future of school education. The survey was released as part of the Expert Panel Review into the next National School Reform Agreement. The survey ensures those who are directly involved in the education system get a say in how to make it better and fairer.

Survey participants can have their say on range of issues including:

- Improving education outcomes
- Supporting student health and wellbeing, and
- Supporting and retaining teachers.

The Expert Panel, led by Dr Lisa O'Brien AM, will report to Education Ministers at the end of October on the practical reforms that should be tied to funding in the next National School Reform Agreement.

The survey is available to complete <https://www.education.gov.au/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system/consultations/review-inform-better-and-fairer-education-system-consultation>

and will be open until **Friday 23 June**.

DATES COMING UP

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Term 2 Tuesday 18/04/2023 – Friday 23/06/2023 | • Monday 31 July school photos |
| • 8:30-9:15am Friday 23/06/2023 NAIDOC Week big breakfast at Acacia | • 11:30am-2:30pm Friday 4/08/2023 Acacia 40 th Birthday Open Day |
| • Term 3 Tuesday 18/07/2023 – Friday 22/09/2023 | • 10:00am Friday 18 August School Council meeting |
| • 10:00am Friday 20 July School Council meeting | |

Website: <https://www.acaciahill.nt.edu.au/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Acacia-Hill-School-101999724805228/>

Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions

Staff

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our Business Manager, Moin, left us last week and has moved interstate for family reasons. The position has been advertised. In the interim, there is a Business Manager from Darwin helping us out. Mel Insch was the successful applicant to continue in the Executive Officer position until the end of August.

NAIDOC Week

Acacia Hill School will celebrate NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginals and Islanders Day Observance Committee) on Friday 23rd June, starting with a big breakfast at 8:30-9:15am. We hope you can join us!



40th Birthday Event

The Acacia Hill School 40th Birthday Event will be held on Friday 4th August from 11:30am-2:30pm. The recent hall naming event recognised the contribution of Mrs Telka Williams to special education in Central Australia. The Birthday celebration on 4th August will commemorate the establishment of Acacia Hill School, originally as an annex of Sadadeen Primary School, at our current location in 1983. We hope that families can come to join us for this event. The celebration will commence with class activities

at 11:30am, followed by a sausage sizzle and fruit platters at 12:30pm, 1:15pm a Powerpoint of old photos, speech and big cake, then a disco at 1:45pm. We hope you can join us!

















School Attendance

Attendance at school is very important as everyday counts! We understand that starting your day on cold days can be challenging, but it's better to be late than not show up at all. Regular attendance is crucial for the education of all students. Regardless of how you perceive it, being present at school every day promotes optimal learning and progress for everyone. We eagerly anticipate seeing all of you throughout the term.



DOES ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTER?

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much, but...

If your child misses:	That equals:	Which is:	Over 13 years that's:
 1/2 day per week	 20 days per year	 1 month per year	 1.5 years of school
 1 day per week	 40 days per year	 2 months per year	 2.5 years of school
 2 days per week	 80 days per year	 4 months per year	 5 years of school
 3 days per week	 120 days per year	 Over half a school year	 8 years of school

Every day counts!

Semester 1 Reports 2023

Semester 1 reports will be sent home next week, filled with exciting news about your child's progress and achievements. Inside these reports, you'll discover detailed insights into their academic performance, social development, and unique strengths.

Our dedicated teachers have poured their hearts into nurturing our young minds, and it's time to celebrate the remarkable growth your child has made this semester.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We're immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to embarking on an exciting new semester with them. Wishing you all a joyful and restful break!

Julie Permezel,
Principal

Sports day at Ross Park

Room 20 had heaps of fun on Sports day at Ross Park. One of our students bagged 3rd position in High Jump and Long Jump. "Way to Go!!!" Another child completed 400-meter race and the relay. We are so proud of you! Keira was so excited and participated in most events with a cheer on her face. Well done Kiera! Thanks to Julie-Anne for helping with music. Rosina enjoyed cheering for her friends on the day. What a fantastic day we had! Room 20 Rocks for sure!!!

Teacher: Kam Kaur

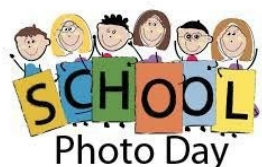


Photo Day

On 31 July, 2023, our talented photographers will be capturing timeless moments of our students' vibrant personalities. We look forward to creating beautiful memories with your children. Please return the photo envelope as soon as possible and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Dolly's Dream Support Line

Dolly's Dream Support Line is now available to families and students 24/7, providing them with access to qualified counselors for free and without a referral. To access this service, call or text 0488 881 033 or use this [webchat](#).

Resources are available to support families concerned about bullying and cyberbullying.

Schools should consider adding the Support Line to the key strategies in the wellbeing team. Supporting students to accessing the service is encouraged. You can distribute this information through usual communications such as newsletters, websites and social media.

Support for Families and contact details

Autism Advisory Line: 24/7; Run by families of children with autism; 1300 22 777

Autism NT: 8948 4424

FACES: 8:00AM-8:00PM Monday to Friday; parenting support, budgeting support; Referral for services; 1800 999 900

Parentline: Access to counsellors Monday to Friday 8:00am-10:00pm; 1300 301 300

Relationships Australia sometimes sees children if they have the capacity to cater for the individual. There is a phone intake process in which they determine if they have the capacity.

Family must pay for the service. The fee varies according to family income and can be quite low if income is very low. Contact number is 8950 4100.

Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions

Fun-filled Day at Acacia Hill School's Finke Desert Race Event!


Last week, Acacia Hill School held a thrilling event that left the children buzzing with excitement. The Finke Desert Race took center stage, offering an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. From the moment they arrived, the kids were treated to a world of motorsport wonder.

Imaginations ran wild as the children gleefully hopped onto the motorbikes, feeling the thrill of adventure as if they were seasoned racers themselves. The motorcycles became their trusty steeds, carrying them on imaginary journeys through the vast desert landscapes. Laughter echoed through the air as they imagined racing against the clock, pushing their limits and embracing the spirit of competition.

Enjoy the photos and be taken on an adventure.



Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions



TIO **CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

MULTICULTURAL ROUND

SUPER SKILLS CLINIC
LEARN ABOUT THE GAME
FROM LOCAL LEGENDS

VIP SEATING
TO TIO CAFL FOOTY

24 JUNE 2023
ALBRECHT OVAL
3PM-6PM

MORE INFO CONTACT AFLNT STAFF
THOMAS.DUTTON@AFL.COM.AU
DAVID.THOMAS@AFL.COM.AU

mcsca **Alice Springs TOWN COUNCIL**

2023 **CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN SHOW SOCIETY**

Alice Springs SHOW

7TH & 8TH JULY 2023 | BLATHERSKITE PARK



- FREE ENTERTAINMENT
- AGRICULTURAL DISPLAYS
- FOOD COURT
- RUMBALL HALL COMPETITIONS
- SHOW RIDES & FOOD
- LOCAL & INTERSTATE STALLS
- YELLOW BRICK ROAD

For everything Show related head to
www.alice-springs.com.au

Fireworks Saturday 7.00pm

08 8952 1651 | show@alice-springs.com.au | @Alice Springs Show

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FOOTBALL PROGRAM
ROSS PARK

OPEN FOR BOYS AND GIRLS 5 TO 11
REGISTRATION FEE \$175/WEEK

HAVE FUN MAKE FRIENDS LEARN NEW SKILLS IN A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

10.00am to 1.00pm
Week 1 - June 26 - 30
Week 2 - July 3 - 7
Week 3 - July 10 - 14

FOR MORE INFORMATION
paula.dacosta@footballnt.com.au

For Our Elders

NAIDOC Week
2-9 JULY 2023

ALLERGY ALERT
NO NUTS

For Our Elders, Bobbie Lockyer
When I was a young girl, I was told that our Elders are the keepers of our knowledge, our stories, and our traditions. They are the ones who have lived through the hardest times and have survived. They are the ones who have taught us how to be strong, how to be brave, and how to be proud of who we are. They are the ones who have given us the strength to overcome all our challenges. They are the ones who have given us the love and support that we need to move forward. They are the ones who have given us the hope that we need to believe in a better future. They are the ones who have given us the courage to face whatever comes our way. They are the ones who have given us the wisdom that we need to make the right choices. They are the ones who have given us the faith that we need to believe in ourselves. They are the ones who have given us the love that we need to live our lives to the fullest. They are the ones who have given us the strength to overcome all our challenges. They are the ones who have given us the love and support that we need to move forward. They are the ones who have given us the hope that we need to believe in a better future. They are the ones who have given us the courage to face whatever comes our way. They are the ones who have given us the wisdom that we need to make the right choices. They are the ones who have given us the faith that we need to believe in ourselves. They are the ones who have given us the love that we need to live our lives to the fullest.

ACADEMIC TUTORS
AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING



OUR TUTORS ARE HERE TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED

Are you looking for exceptional yet affordable Primary English and Mathematics tutoring for your child? We are here to provide the assistance you need! With a proven track record of school improvement, we are dedicated to extending this passion to your child.

\$45

Contact us to schedule an appointment for an initial assessment.
Reach us via email at academictutors.alice@gmail.com or call 0474 583 646 after hours.

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Allergy Alert: students at Acacia Hill have nut allergies and other serious eating conditions

FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS

WHAT IS THE NCCD?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD) takes place every year.

The NCCD is a collection that counts:

- the number of school students receiving an adjustment or 'help' due to disability
- the level of adjustment they are receiving to access education on the same basis as other students.

Students are counted in the NCCD if they receive ongoing adjustments at school due to disability. This 'help' allows them to access education on the same basis as a child without disability. The NCCD uses the definition of disability in the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992](#).

Schools provide this information to education authorities.

Go to *What is a reasonable adjustment?* below to learn about adjustments.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools in Australia must collect information about students with disability.

The NCCD:

- ensures that the information collected is transparent, consistent and reliable
- provides better information that improves understanding of students with disability
- allows parents, guardians, carers, teachers, principals, education authorities and government to better support students with disability.

Student with disability loading

Funding from the Australian Government for students with disability is based on the NCCD through the student with disability loading.

Students with disability who are counted in the top three levels of the NCCD (extensive, substantial and supplementary) attract the loading. Funding is based on a per-student amount at each of the three levels of additional support. The amount of the loading reflects the level of support students with disability need to participate fully in school, with higher funding for those who need higher levels of support.

Australian Government recurrent school funding is provided as a lump sum to school authorities including state and territory governments, which can then distribute the funding to their member schools according to their own needs-based arrangements.

The Government expects schools and school systems to consider their funding from all sources (ie Australian Government, state and territory and private) and prioritise their spending to meet the educational needs of all of their students, including students with disability.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NCCD FOR STUDENTS?

The information collected by the NCCD helps teachers, principals, education authorities and governments to better support students with disability at school.

The NCCD encourages schools to review their learning and support systems and processes. This helps schools to continually improve education outcomes for all students.

WHAT MUST SCHOOLS DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students have the right to a quality learning experience at school.

Students with disability must be able to take part in education without discrimination and on the same basis as other students. To ensure this, schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed for students with disability. Educators, students, parents, guardians, carers and others (eg health professionals) must work together to ensure that students with disability can take part in education.

The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* describe schools' responsibilities.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is an action to help a student with disability take part in education on the same basis as other students.

Adjustments can be made across the whole school (eg ramps into school buildings). They can be in the classroom (eg adapting teaching methods). They can also be for individual student need (eg providing personal care support).

The school assesses the needs of each student with disability. The school provides adjustments in consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers.

Schools must make reasonable adjustments if needed. The Disability Standards for Education 2005 define 'reasonable adjustment' as an adjustment that balances the interests of all parties affected.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NCCD?

The definition of disability for the NCCD is based on the broad definition under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

The following students are examples of those who may be included in the NCCD if they need monitoring and adjustments:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes).

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NCCD?

Schools identify which students will be counted in the NCCD. They base their decisions on the following:

- adjustments provided for the student (after consultation with the student and/or their parents, guardians and carers)
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnoses
- other relevant information.

School principals must ensure that information for the NCCD is accurate.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

A student is counted in the NCCD if they receive reasonable adjustments at school due to disability.

Each year, schools collect the following information about the student, including:

- their year of schooling
- the level of adjustment received
- the broad type of disability.

For students who have more than one disability, the school uses professional judgement to choose one category of disability. They choose the category that most affects the student's access to education and for which adjustments are being provided.

A high level summary of the NCCD data is available to all Australian state and territory governments to improve policies and programs for students with disability.

HOW IS THIS DATA USED?

The NCCD data informs funding and work by schools and sectors. It ensures that support for students with disability becomes routine in the day-to-day practice of schools. The NCCD also supports students in the following ways.

- The NCCD helps schools better understand their legislative obligations and the Disability Standards for Education 2005.
- Schools focus on the individual adjustments that support students with disability. This encourages them to reflect on students' needs and to better support students.
- The NCCD facilitates a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting students with disability. It also encourages improvements in school documentation.
- The NCCD improves communication about students' needs between schools, parents, guardians, carers and the community.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) annually publishes high-level, non-identifying NCCD data.

WHEN DOES THE NCCD TAKE PLACE?

The NCCD takes place in August each year.

IS THE NCCD COMPULSORY?

Yes. All schools must collect and submit information each year for the NCCD. This is detailed in the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*. For more information, ask your school principal or the relevant education authority.

HOW IS STUDENTS' PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD.

Data is collected within each school. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities. Learn more about privacy in the [Public information notice](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your school if you have questions about the NCCD. You can also visit the [NCCD Portal](#).

There is also a free [e-learning resource](#) about the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

This document must be attributed as *Fact sheet for parents, guardians and carers*.

Introduction to FASD

For early childhood educators

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is estimated to affect 2-5% of Australian children, with much higher rates identified in some populations. FASD is a lifelong, brain-based disability which impacts learning, memory, behaviour, attention, communication, executive functioning, impulse control and other cognitive skills. Children with FASD have complex needs and require FASD-informed support in order to learn, communicate and thrive.

Thursday 6 July | 9am - 4pm
Double Tree Hilton, 82 Barrett Drive Alice Springs

FREE full day workshop

Strategies-focused introduction to FASD for early childhood educators

NOFASD's information session provides an overview of FASD and its challenges. In order to understand and support anyone that has FASD it is essential to understand how the brain has been affected. The workshop content includes:

- description of FASD
- prevalence of FASD
- brief description of the diagnostic process
- effects of FASD on the individual
- challenges for families living with FASD
- what are meltdowns
- sexualised behaviours - what is worrying?
- effectively responding to individuals with FASD
- strategies for support and learning



The National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (NOFASD) Australia is the oldest established FASD organisation in Australia. Founded and led by parents and carers for more than 20 years. NOFASD has been delivering workshops to community organisations for nearly 10 years. Feedback is consistently positive, with over 95% of participants who completed this workshop stating that they would recommend it.



Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided

Register here: [FASD for Educators](#) or contact Laura at Communities for Children Alice Springs on cfcalicingsprings@anglicare-nt.org.au or 8951 8000



Self-regulation strategies for parents and carers of children with FASD

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is estimated to affect 2-5% of Australian children, with much higher rates identified in some populations. FASD is a lifelong, brain-based disability which impacts learning, memory, behaviour, attention, communication, executive functioning, impulse control and other cognitive skills. Children with FASD have complex needs and require FASD-informed support in order to learn, communicate and thrive.

FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Friday 7 July | 9.30am - 2.30pm

Double Tree Hilton, 82 Barrett Drive Alice Springs

Self-Regulation Strategies is a practical training session based on a positive behaviour therapy program designed for children, families and educators. The program teaches participants about a child's alertness levels and provides strategies to help keep a child's alertness optimal. It focuses on improving a child's executive functioning and ability to self-regulate through understanding how a person's own internal self-regulation system works.

Concentration levels go up and down throughout the day, which can make it hard for children to pay attention, learn, play and do the things they like to do. Together, participants will learn about self-regulation to enable them to teach their child how to get their engine into an optimal state to pay attention. We explore different mediums to use to achieve this with exercise, food, looking, touching and listening.

The workshop content includes:

- description prevalence of FASD
- brief description of the diagnostic process
- why diagnosis is so important
- effects of FASD on the individual
- effectively responding to individuals with FASD
- sexualised behaviour
- strategies for regulation



The National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (NOFASD) Australia is the oldest established FASD organisation in Australia. Founded and led by parents and carers for more than 20 years. NOFASD has been delivering workshops to community organisations for nearly 10 years. Feedback is consistently positive, with over 95% of participants who completed this workshop stating that they would recommend it.



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