

## School Attendance Policy

Reference Number: P21  
Organisational Unit: All  
Responsible Position: Manager, Youth and Communities  
Relevant Delegations: Nil  
Date Adopted: 25 January 2017  
Review Date: Every two years

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### Introduction

School attendance and education results in the Central Desert Regional Council are among the poorest in Australia.

The Central Desert Regional Council needs well educated local workers to achieve its vision and to carry out its mission. The Council recognises that improving school attendance and educational achievement for children in the Central Desert Region is vital to achieve this goal.

Improving educational achievement amongst Indigenous children has been identified as a key objective of National Integrated Strategy for Closing the Gap which has been supported both the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. School attendance has been prioritised by the Commonwealth Government adding this to the Key Performance Indicators for Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage.

Many school children in the Central Desert region, future employees, miss out on school for weeks at a time because sports carnivals are held during the school term. At other times, school attendance is affected because activities and community events are organised without regard to the impact the event might have on children's school attendance.

### Objectives

- To help improve school attendance in the Central Desert region
- To provide clear guidance on the conditions under which the Council will provide support to community events, celebrations and sporting carnivals

### Legislation

- Stronger Futures legislation
- National Integrated Strategy for Closing the Gap

### Scope

This policy applies to all communities within the Central Desert Regional Council where Council employs Youth Sport and Recreation Officers and or Community Safety Patrol Officers.



two ways :: one outcome

## Policy

The Central Desert Regional Council is committed to the principle that every school-aged child should attend school every school day where possible.

The council emphasises that the primary responsibility for school attendance rests with parents and guardians but acknowledges that Council can assist by providing a supportive environment.

To this end, the council commits to:

1. Ensuring that normal youth, sport and recreation activities for school aged children organised by Council employees on nights preceding school days, will conclude by **no later than 8.30pm**.
2. That a primary focus of Community Safety Patrol will be on the safety of school aged children and Community Safety Patrollers will assist in providing support to activity, event organisers and parents to convey children home safely at the conclusion of the event;
3. That Community Safety Patrol will be responsive to individual community need and Community Safety Patrol resources will be deployed at appropriate times and in an appropriate manner to minimise the number of school aged children on the streets after 8.30pm on night proceeding school days and maximise the number of children going to school each day.
4. That community sanctioned events, celebrations and sporting events, in particular where they are to be held on a night preceding a school day, will be planned well in advance and will have the endorsement of the Local Authority where Council resources are to be used.
5. That Sporting Carnivals will only be supported by Council where they are being held on long weekends or during school holidays and;
6. That the Local Authority has been consulted on the organisation of the sporting carnival and there is evidence of appropriate scheduling & time management of the carnival to ensure timely completion of competitions and;
7. That the support provided by Council will cease at 8.30pm on any night prior to a school day.
8. That Council staff are directed to provide support by Council line of management only and that elected members of Council and Local Authorities use appropriate lines of communication, at the appropriate time, to seek support.

The Central Desert Regional Council will advocate to other Youth, Sport and Recreation Service Providers in the CDRC Region to take similar action and support this School Attendance Policy.

## Approval and Review History

Date	Comment
4 April 2014	Adopted during Ordinary Council Meeting (061/2014) Replaces Sporting Carnival Policy
25 January 2017	Revised policy adopted by Council (CRN: OC011/2017)

## Related Documents

Council Plan