

Northern Territory Schools

[INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRINCIPALS: Please copy the text below onto your school letterhead. The sections in brackets like [Insert School Name] should be filled in with your specific details before submitting to your Regional Director or School Council.]

Internal Briefing Note: Permanent Inclusive Sensory Infrastructure

TO: Regional Director / School Council / Finance Committee

FROM: Principal, [Insert School Name]

DATE: [Insert Date]

SUBJECT: Proposal for Capital Investment: Precision-Engineered Sensory Assets

Purpose

This briefing proposes the procurement and permanent installation of architectural-grade sensory infrastructure (The Explorer and The Composer). This project aims to fulfill the school's obligation to provide "Reasonable Adjustments" for students with diverse sensory needs while securing a high-durability asset for the school facility.

Strategic Alignment

This project directly supports the **Better Fairer Schools Agreement (BFSA) 2025–2029** and the **NT Education Strategy**, specifically focusing on:

- **Inclusive Environments:** Providing equitable access to outdoor learning for students with sensory processing sensitivities or disabilities.
- **Student Wellbeing:** Establishing dedicated "Regulation Zones" to support behavioral de-escalation and engagement.
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Investing in "fit-for-territory" assets that minimize long-term operational costs and material degradation.

Operational Justification

Unlike standard playground equipment, these precision-tuned acoustic instruments are engineered for the specific challenges of the Northern Territory environment:

- **Material Excellence:** Constructed from **316L Marine-Grade Stainless Steel**, providing maximum resistance to extreme UV, humidity, and monsoon conditions.
- **Vandal & High-Traffic Resistance:** The architectural-grade design is virtually indestructible, making it ideal for both high-population urban schools and remote community-hub environments.
- **Standardized Maintenance:** The instruments are designed for operational efficiency. Maintenance is limited to semi-regular safety inspections and basic cleaning, aligning with existing school grounds management routines.
- **Warranty Compliance:** Includes a 25-year structural warranty, provided the asset is maintained according to the provided periodic service schedule.

Educational & Behavioral Impact

Outdoor sensory regulation is a critical component of a modern inclusive curriculum. This installation provides:

- **Proactive Regulation:** A controlled auditory and tactile environment that allows students to self-regulate during transitions and break times.
- **Classroom Readiness:** Evidence suggests that students who can access sensory regulation tools during the day show improved focus and fewer behavioral incidents upon returning to the classroom.
- **Universal Design:** A "Barrier-Free" resource that benefits the entire student body, promoting social inclusion through shared, accessible play.

Financial Overview

Total Project Cost: \$13,450 (Ex. GST) This is a comprehensive "Turnkey" figure including procurement, regional freight, and professional permanent installation to **AS 4685** safety standards.

Identified Funding Pathways:

- **Student Wellbeing & Inclusion Allocation:** Utilizing annual weighted funding for inclusive facility adjustments.
- **Minor Capital Works (MCW):** For the enhancement of permanent school infrastructure.
- **Building Better Schools:** Utilizing residual capital allocations for facility upgrades.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the expenditure be approved as a priority facility upgrade. This project represents a high-value, durable solution that meets our departmental obligations for inclusion while providing a permanent, weather-resilient resource for our school community.

Technical Attachments

- **Customized Equipment Proposal:** A detailed quote based on the specific instrument selection and site requirements (to be finalized upon consultation).
- **Technical Specifications & Installation Brief:** Detailed engineering drawings and site preparation requirements for professional permanent installation.
- **Certification of Safety:** Documentation verifying that the equipment meets relevant safety standards for school and public environments (essential for Departmental risk assessment).
- **Manufacturer's Warranty & Periodic Maintenance Schedule:** Outlining the 25-year structural warranty and the standard, semi-regular inspection routine required to maintain the asset in peak condition.