

Northern Territory Outline of School Support.



The following summary was compiled by AFA in discussion with Vision Support Unit staff, 2020.

The Vision Support Unit within the Department of Education in the NT provides support to students, schools and parents across the NT.

Your child is eligible for support from the vision resource centre if they are blind or their corrected distance vision is worse than 6/18 and/or they have a visual field reduction to less than 20 degrees, or their near vision requires significant support for the production of alternate format materials.

Support is offered from birth, or as soon as your child is identified as having a vision impairment and continues through preschool, primary and secondary school.

The Vision Support Unit consists of 2 Education Advisors and 2 production staff based in Darwin, who support students throughout the territory. The production staff produce all braille, tactile and active learning resources.

They also have support from Guide Dogs SA/NT and Vision Australia. Both of these NGOs apply for funding from the NT Education Department every 2 years to support the unit and students. Guide Dogs have one Orientation and Mobility Instructor based in Darwin who works with students. Vision Australia provides an OT, Assistive Technology Consultant and an orthoptist who come to the NT from other states and assess students at the unit's request.

How to get support

Talk to your child's teacher or contact school support services by either:

- phone: 08 8963 5580
- email: sesupport.det@nt.gov.au.

<https://nt.gov.au/learning/special-education/vision-services>