



Positive Learning Team

Wagaba E¹

¹Parr Positive Learning Team Dept of Ed NT

Occasionally referred to as the A-Team of behaviour, the Palmerston and Rural Region (PaRR) Positive Learning Team (PLT) in the Northern Territory work across 12 schools to deliver various Social and Emotional programs for students, teachers and schools. The Response To Intervention (RTI) is the underpinning structure of our service delivery design.

On a daily basis, we can find ourselves working with students who have a history of trauma, diagnoses of ODD, ASD, ADHD, anxiety, history of physical assaults against students and teachers, disengaged students and perpetrators and victims of bullying.

At the whole school level, we deliver face to face de-escalation training, online behavioural courses, teacher support to build capacity to manage challenging behaviours in the classroom, and deliver individualised professional development to schools at their request. We also provide follow up response to incidents of high level behaviour escalations.

At the class level, we deliver whole class programs such as Play is the Way and an original program called Team Challenge to assist students to build their capacity for conflict resolution, resilience, collaboration and problem solving strategies.

We work with students in small groups to focus on specific behaviours using programs such as Rock and Water, Rhythm2Recovery, Live It Up, SenseAbility, R.A.G.E as well as programs designed by the PLT to meet the needs of the students. These original programs include Food/Garden Technology programs, Young Men Time and Young Women groups.

Where students are presenting with extreme and challenging behaviours, it may be necessary to develop a 1:1 program where staff work with students to explicitly teach self regulation strategies and support students to implement these strategies back into the classroom context.

The PLT is a comprehensive approach to behaviour and social and emotional learning that addresses the needs of all stakeholders and could be replicated within any school that has the drive and foresight to look at the long term, big picture. The emphasis with the PLT model is being proactive in creating schools, classrooms and students that are focused on social and emotional wellbeing, rather than being places that reactively use band aid measures as a quick fix.