

Gavin Morris, principal of Yipirinya School in Alice Springs, charged with aggravated assault of children

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Educational Institutions

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Several media outlets have named Yipirinya School principal Gavin Morris as the man arrested. (ABC News: Hamish Harty)

In short:

Yipirinya School principal Gavin Morris has reportedly been arrested and charged with aggravated assault, with police alleging he physically assaulted multiple children in 2023.

NT Police say the victims were aged between 8 and 13 at the time.

What's next?

The 46-year-old was charged on Thursday evening, and investigations are ongoing.

A senior employee of a prominent Alice Springs independent school has been arrested and charged over the alleged assaults of multiple children,

according to Northern Territory Police.

Several media outlets have named the employee as Gavin Morris, the principal of Yipirinya School, which specialises in educating Indigenous children.

An individual source with in-depth knowledge of the situation has confirmed to the ABC the individual is Dr Morris.

At a press conference this morning, NT Chief Minister Eva Lawler said she did not have the "full details" around his arrest but would monitor events closely.

In a statement released on Thursday evening, the NT Police Force police said a 46-year-old man has been charged with five counts of aggravated assault.

He has been bailed to appear in Alice Springs Local Court on August 13.

Earlier in the day, police said the man had been arrested that morning over historic aggravated assaults at a school in Alice Springs.

"On the 20 June 2024, police received reports of historic physical assaults on children at the school," the statement said.

"It is believed the alleged assaults occurred on multiple separate occasions in 2023."



The Yipirinya School in Alice Springs specialises in educating Indigenous children. (ABC Alice Springs: Emma Haskin)

Police are alleging there were six victims, who were aged between 8 and 13 at the time of the assaults.

In a statement, an NT government spokesperson said they had been advised that "a senior employee of an Alice Springs independent school" had been arrested.

Senator Jacinta Price, whose mother is an employee at Yipirinya School, said the revelations against Dr Morris were "surprising", but that the focus should be on the wellbeing and education of students

Dr Morris has served as principal of Yipirinya School since 2021.

He is also a councillor with the Alice Springs Town Council, a role he was elected to in 2022.

He has been outspoken on youth issues in the town and made calls for additional support for the community.

Yipirinya School and the Alice Springs Town Council declined to comment..

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