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STUDENTS AND TEACHERS NEED TO BE IN CLASS

The Territory Opposition has released a remote education policy designed to drag all children into school and guarantee they have a qualified teacher when they get there.

“The statement made by the Minister for Education, Marion Scrymgour, is short on practical policy initiatives to overcome the crises in remote education,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“The Minister has announced $650,000 for a ‘school attendance team to campaign on the value of learning’.

“The Minister’s plan is a totally inadequate response to the fact thousands of Territory children regularly skip school.

“I would establish an Office of Truancy within the Education Department to work with schools to case manage families to send their children to school, but also prosecute parents who do not send their children to school.

“The Education Act has penalties for truancy related breaches; they will be enforced under a CLP Government.

“The Opposition will also work with the business community and local governments to support and extend a “no school, no service” policy. This means that school age children will be refused service at shops, at recreation venues, at entertainment venues etc during school hours unless they are part of a school excursion.

“Getting all Territory children to school is only half the equation.

“Many students currently attend classes in schools and home land learning centres that don’t have a qualified teacher out front.

“The Minister commits to an additional 10 teachers in her statement.

“I’m committing the CLP to providing a fully qualified teacher for every child attending school as a policy priority.

“Education is about rights and responsibility. The Government has a responsibility to provide quality education facilities and quality teachers for each class. Parents have a responsibility to send their kids to school. Kids have a right to an education.”

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