Schools Prepare for National Testing

The Northern Territory Education Minister Paul Henderson today visited Year 3 and 5 students at Jingili Primary School as they prepared for tomorrow’s National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test.

Mr Henderson said the annual test for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 is an important measure of writing, reading and numeracy levels of students in the Territory.

“The test identifies how individual students are progressing, and how they compare with other students locally and nationally,” he said.

“This allows schools to identify areas where students are having difficulties and modify or target teaching programs accordingly. It also gives parents an indication of how their child is doing.

“The first NAPLAN testing was conducted last year. The results showed the majority of children in urban and regional areas achieved the minimum national standard. But it also showed students in our very remote schools, where English is a second language, were not achieving at required levels.”

Mr Henderson said the Government is committed to lifting those rates through a number of fresh initiatives including:

- National Partnerships to Close the Gap by improving teacher quality, targeting low socio-economic schools and focusing on literacy and numeracy;
- $246 million to upgrade schools over four years;
- $80.5 million on transforming Indigenous education under Closing the Gap;
- introducing four hours of English in remote schools;
- a target of 90% attendance rate in all schools;
- a $300,000 upgrade to all large primary schools;
- working with the Federal Government to install 200 extra teachers in the bush – 45 of the 200 have already been employed; and
- implementing the Federal Government’s economic stimulus package that will result in $200 million to Territory schools.

“Every Territory child must have the chance to make the most of the many opportunities the NT has to offer,” Mr Henderson said.

“The NAPLAN results will give parents, schools and the government clear information on student performance.”

For more information about NAPLAN, visit:

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