3 February 2010

Terry Mills has no answers on education

CLP Opposition Leader Terry Mills actions in talking down the Territory’s schools must be condemned said Education and Training Minister Chris Burns.

Terry Mills has demonstrated he has no answers to the challenges of improving educational outcomes across the Northern Territory.

“I’m shocked at the actions of Terry Mills and it is an insult to every school, our hardworking teachers and Territory families – particularly since he has offered no solutions,” Dr Burns said.

“The fact is the vast majority of Territory schools kids from urban areas meet national benchmarks for numeracy and literacy testing.

“In our Top End urban schools, 86% of our students are performing at or above national minimum standards based on the results from the NAPLAN in 2009.

“Terry Mills asserting that two thirds of our students are underperforming is completely wrong and misleading and must be condemned.

“Terry Mills has attacked every school and teacher in the Territory by calling them failures in his cheap effort to score political points.

“Children that attend school regularly and are well supported by their parents, perform just as well as other children from around the country.

“I’ll be writing to every school council in the Territory to show them that his simplistic analysis of our schools is wrong.

“We know we have many challenges in improving education outcomes for our students. We’re focused on recruiting quality teachers and building and upgrading more schools with half a billion dollars of infrastructure investment (Commonwealth and NT Government funding) in this term of government.

“The CLP has no plans for our schools except talking down our teachers and students.

“We recognise that there are challenges for our education system and through our review of the Territory education system last year we are implementing the strategies that will deliver better education outcomes for our students.

“The Territory Government is taking action to improve education for our students by working to deliver quality teachers, quality programs and quality infrastructure,” Dr Burns said.

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