New Learning Resources for Families in the Bush

The Territory Government today launched new resources to help support the early development of children in remote communities as part of the Families As First Teachers program.

Minister for Education and Training Chris Burns said the Territory Government has invested $123,000 to develop and create new the materials for 73 remote communities.

“The Territory Government’s $11.7 million Families As First Teachers program is an important part of the Smart Territory strategy to help build early learning development for Indigenous children in remote areas,” Dr Burns said.

“Families As First Teachers is an election commitment of the Henderson Government to help deliver improved education outcomes for remote Indigenous students.

“The Learning with Family materials are one part of the program and will provide Indigenous families in remote areas important learning, health and parenting information to support their child’s development.

“These materials will provide support and assistance to families as their children’s first teachers.

“The Territory Government is committed to improving educational outcomes in the bush with programs like Families As First Teachers.

“If we are going to make a difference to education outcomes then we must work together with families in these vital early years,” Dr Burns said.

The Learning with Family materials have been developed in collaboration with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

The materials include a handbook, posters, pamphlets and CDs that will be distributed to health clinics, child care centres, preschools and women’s centres in 73 remote communities.

Additional materials under the Families As First Teachers program will be developed later in 2010 to build the foundations of literacy and numeracy.

The Learning with Family materials are also available to service providers that work with children and families in remote areas. To obtain a copy, call (08) 8999 3542. Copies can also be downloaded from the DET website www.det.nt.gov.au

Contact: Nicole Manison 0448 693 279