Supporting Territory families with record $930M for education

Education Minister Dr Chris Burns announced today that budget 2011 will deliver record spending for education with $930 million allocated to improving education outcomes across the Territory.

“The Territory Government is committed to improving the education opportunities for all Territory students and ensuring every child across the Territory attends school every day,” Dr Burns said.

“Quality, affordable Education is a key priority for this Government and that is why we have committed $930 million to supporting schools, teachers and students in Budget 2011.”

To improve education outcomes for all students budget 2011 will include significant investment in the following programs;

- $2.28 million to continue enrolment and attendance initiatives under the Every Child Every Day strategy.
- $3.18 million to continue and expand student engagement programs like Clontarf and Sporting Chance.
- $3.5 million to continue expanding ‘virtual’ very remote early childhood integrated service hubs and Families as first Teachers programs.
- $0.75 million for wraparound services for Alice Springs and the Alice Springs Youth Action plan.

“With over 3000 teaching staff there are now more teachers, assistant teachers and principals in the Territory than ever before, with an additional 407 employees since 2002,” Mr Burns said.

"To support all Territory teachers, Budget 2011 provides additional funding to improve teacher salaries and conditions."

This includes;

- $1.2 million to establish 50 specialist teacher positions
- $1.18 million for classroom support officers for all transition classrooms
- $0.63 million for improved principal salaries
“The Territory Government is also investing in school infrastructure across the Territory and Budget 2011 includes $33.9 million for repairs and maintenance to school buildings and grounds”

“We are also investing in facilities for students with special needs and disabilities with a new capital works program of $7.5 million focussing on upgrading facilities for special education students across the Territory,” said Dr Burns.

“An additional $11.9 million is also provided to upgrade and relocate Nemarluk school to Alawa”

*Media Contact: Bethaney Maley 0488 593 999*