The Labor Opposition has continued its scaremongering campaign this time aimed at the Territory’s children.

Minister for Education John Elferink said the Labor Opposition is continuing to peddle untrue claims to scare Territorians, and its claims about education funding are just another example of this.

“In regards to the Special Education Support Program, including the one run at Leanyer School, the overall funding remains the same at $5.8 million each year. This is allocated on a student needs basis. It does not make sense to over allocate at some schools and under allocate at others,” Mr Elferink said.

“Providing quality education is a priority for the Mills Government. There have been no cuts to school funding. The distribution of funding to schools was revised and is allocated on an equitable basis. This process began in 2010. Funding is allocated per student with consideration given to location, phase of learning, and the school’s Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage.

“Claims that the Mills Government has caused subjects to be dropped at Casuarina Senior College are simply not true. The subjects offered by each school is dependent on the number of students and often those that cannot be offered at a specific school are available through other schools in the region. This is the case with Casuarina Secondary College with certain subjects available through the NT Open Education Centre.

“Michael Gunner could learn from the Country Liberals candidate for Wanguri, Rhianna Harker, who has sought several briefings to ensure she has the facts about education in the electorate. The Labor Opposition’s megaphone diplomacy is not in the best interests of Territory children.

“There have been no cuts to frontline educational services. In fact, the education department is now focussed on delivering frontline education, its core function. Since September 2012, 80 office-based teaching employees have returned to school-based roles.

“Our teachers have been given more job security, with 287 classroom teachers accepting permanent positions since September 2012. This in turn will lead to more stability in our schools.

“The Mills Government is committed to looking at better, more effective ways of doing things, rather than throwing money at the issue and hope it goes away as was the former Labor government’s approach,” Mr Elferink said.

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