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BITTERSWEET END FOR SCHOOL YEAR

Leader of the Opposition, Delia Lawrie, said the last day of school is bittersweet for many Territory Schools, with CLP education cuts biting too deep, causing staff cuts.

“Territory school communities should be celebrating the end of year and looking forward to taking a well-earned break, but instead they are losing classroom teachers, ESL and special education support,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Every public school in my electorate of Karama is losing staff that are needed to support a quality education for our children. These cuts are hurting primary, middle and senior schools.

Ms Lawrie said the CLP Government’s failure to pass on funding of 3 per cent to cover the teachers’ EBAs had compounded the school budget woes.

“The CLP Government’s failure to properly fund teachers’ pay increases as per the new EBA is also adding extra strain to the already stretched school budgets,” Ms Lawrie said.

Ms Lawrie said the Education Minister, Peter Chandler, had failed to stand up for Territory students and the sooner he was replaced the better.

“Hopefully Territory students will get an early Christmas present in an announcement of a new Education Minister in the CLP’s upcoming cabinet reshuffle,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Territory students deserve a new Education Minister who will fight for Territory student’s right to a well-resourced education system in the Territory - Not scrooge-like cuts we’ve seen under Peter Chandler.”

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