Peter Chandler
Minister for Education

Budget provides record investment in education of Territory children

24 May 2016

The Northern Territory Government has announced it will invest over $1 billion into education as part of the 2016 Budget.

Minister for Education Peter Chandler said students will be supported throughout their schooling lives and also assisted with job skills and employment pathways.

“The total record spend has been allocated across a wide variety of age groups, programs, locations and facilities to ensure our children have the best possible start in life,” Mr Chandler said.

“The Country Liberals Government understands an excellent education is one of the key factors in achieving prosperity for our Territory community.

“This budget will allow us to keep focusing on improving learning outcomes for young Territorians, through the implementation of evidence based practices including the Indigenous Education Strategy, Great Start Great Future Early Years Strategy, Work Like the Best Middle Years Strategy, Direct Instruction and Visible Learning.

“We are focussing on what we know works.”

Mr Chandler said the government will spend $970.2 million on education and $109.8 million on capital works projects to build new schools and grow and refurbish existing education facilities.

“All children deserve to receive an excellent education in the best learning environment possible and this record budget injection is delivering for Territorians,” Mr Chandler said.

“We have committed $388 million for global budgets in government schools plus a further $59 million to meet centralised school costs.

“Non-government schools across the Territory will receive $242 million in operational and capital subsidies, including $167 million in Commonwealth Students First funding.”

Highlights of the 2016-17 Education Budget include:

• $388 million for global budgets in government schools, with a further $59 million to meet centralised school costs.

• $242 million in operational and capital subsidies for non-government schools across the Territory, including $167 million Commonwealth Students First funding.
$43.7 million to implement the Indigenous Education Strategy, including $34.8 million in Commonwealth funding. Key initiatives include $11.1 million to continue and expand the Families as First Teachers program in remote communities and $4.9 million to support remote Indigenous students and their families to determine their secondary school pathways through the Transition Support Unit.

$33.1 million for the 2016-17 Repairs and Maintenance program.

$21.2 million contribution to construct a new Catholic primary school in Palmerston, where the site will be shared with a future government primary school.

$19 million for Great Start Great Future — Northern Territory Early Years Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The strategic plan focuses on improving services and outcomes for Territory children from birth to eight years of age, and their families, with a strategic approach to integrated service delivery. Key initiatives include $1 million to expand the Families as First Teachers program in urban centres (in addition to $11.1 million also included in the Indigenous Education Strategy), and $2.2 million to operate six child and family centres.

$11.6 million for various infrastructure upgrades for schools across the Territory.

$7 million to provide vocational education and training, job skills and employment pathways in Territory schools.

$6.7 million to continue the Back to School Payment scheme, providing $150 per student each year to assist parents and families with back-to-school expenses.

$6 million to continue the early childhood services subsidy for long day care, three year old kindergarten and family day care services to offset the cost of child care for parents and families.

$5.7 million to operate the new Henbury School for high support special needs secondary students.

$5.4 million to operate the new Northern Territory Open Education Centre, providing a world class, contemporary distance education service.

$5.4 million to continue to provide universal access to 15 hours a week of preschool education in schools, including non-government schools.

$2.1 million additional funding to establish and operate the new Palmerston special school for preschool and primary school high support special needs students.

$2 million to continue to support independent public schools to develop and trial innovative programs that enhance educational outcomes.

$1.4 million to establish operations of the new 40-place regional boarding facility at Nhulunbuy High School from January 2017.

$1.2 million to implement the key actions outlined in the Work Like the Best: Middle Years Teaching and Learning Strategy 2016-2018 to improve middle years schooling.
• $1 million to implement the 10-year Northern Territory International Education and Training Strategy to strengthen and grow the Territory’s international education and training sector.

• $1 million for the Centre for School Leadership at Charles Darwin University to work with teachers, principals and aspiring education leaders to deliver quality professional development across the Northern Territory.

• $4.5 million to replace fire damaged buildings at Angurugu School on Groote Eylandt.

• $4.5 million for a multi-purpose hall at Ramingining School that doubles as a cyclone shelter.

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