Terry Mills
Leader of the Opposition

*Trade students hit with hefty increase to attend trade school*

26 February 2004

All trade students attending Charles Darwin University have been hit with a 1500 percent increase in the cost to attend trade school.

CLP Leader Terry Mills said neither employers nor apprentices/trainees were advised of new charges for Charles Darwin University amenities/subject fees as part of the 2004 call-up.

“This is just another impost on struggling Territory businesses and their apprentices and trainees,” Mr Mills said.

“The increase represents an extra cost of around $500 a year to employers for every apprentice/trainee they are sending to trade school.

“Previously apprentices were exempt from a subject fee, but without notice this exemption has been scrapped.

“There are already enough problems involving apprentices without this spanner being thrown into the works.

“It now remains to be seen whether the Minister for Education, Training and Employment will step in and do something to relieve the pressure created by these extra costs.”

Ends